



THE INFLUENCE OF THE MONGOLIAN LANGUAGE ON OTHER
LANGUAGES IN THE 18th-20th CENTURIES

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Хураангуй: Торгоны зам болон Цайны замын судлалд үндэстэн угсаатны бүлгийн соёл хоорондын харилцаа үүсэх, соёл нэвчих, уусах боломжийг бий болгодог нийгэм соёлын өргөн хүрээний ойлголт багтана. Монгол хүн Алтайн хязгаар, Байгаль орчмын Сибирийн хэсэг, Шинжаан, Хойд Хятадын олон угсаатан, ястантай хэл соёлоор нягт харилцан, аж төрсөөр иржээ. Ялангуяа хязгаар нутгийн харуул хийгээд суурьшигчдын хооронд бие биеийнхээ хэлийг сурч, Хиагт, Маймаачин, Хаалган зэрэг хил орчмын худалдааны төвлөрсөн суурин газарт олон үндэстний худалдаачдын дундын хэл үүсэхэд монгол хэл ихээхэн нөлөөтэй байв. Олон угсаатны дундын холимог хэл (пиджин хэл) үүсэхэд монгол хэл ямар үүрэг нөлөөтэй байсан талаар энэ өгүүлэлд дурдан, монгол хэлний үгийн сан, өгүүлбэрзүйн түвшиний онцлог нь уг дундын холимог хэлд яаж туссан тухай товч авч үзлээ.

Key words: Mongolian language, pidgin, Tea Road, Kyakhta trade pidgin

Tea Road was a flourishing trade route that span around 10,000 kilometers from China through the Mongolian Steppe, the Far East, Siberia, and the Urals to St. Petersburg of Russia in the 18th to 20th centuries. The Tea Road is a multi-national trade route similar to the Silk Road, provided an opportunity for cultural exchanges between different nationals and ethnic groups that habited along the route, as well as formed new multi-national trade hubs. The cultural exchanges along the route were so extensive, that even in places where one ethnic group was dominant, the influence of other cultures on that group were clearly evident. One of these nations were the Mongols.

Mongolian language development has been passed down through the proto mongolian, the ancient mongolian, the middle mongolian and the modern mongolian language². It is clear from the written records and the works of mongolian and foreign mongolists who have studied the mongolian language, it has coexisted among the mongolian dialects for the last 500 years, thus the mongolian language has remained stable³ in its nature.

The Mongols have been nomadic pastoralists for centuries⁴. Mongols are one of the few ethnic groups in the world that still maintain a nomadic lifestyle to date. Despite being nomadic, throughout

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² Б.Түвшинтөгс, О.Шинэбаяр 2012, Монгол хэлний түүхийн судалгааны тойм, Монгол хэл ба монгол хэлүүд, Хэл шинжлэл Соёмбо нэвтэрхий толь, Соёмбо Пресс хэвлэлийн газар, Улаанбаатар, 316-312 тал.

³ Kalmÿckisches Wÿrterbuch von G.J.Ramstedt, Helsinki, 1935.

Ш.Лувсанвандан 1959, Монгол хэл аялгууны учир, Studia Mongolica, Том I, Улаанбаатар, 26-27 тал.

Б.Ринчен 1969, Монгол Ард Улсын хамниган аялгуу, ШУА-ийн хэвлэх үйлдвэр, Улаанбаатар хот.

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Roberte N.Hamayon, M.L. Beffa 1984, Les Langues Mongoles, Ltudes mongoles et sibliennes, 14, pp.121-169

⁴ Jeong, Su-il. 2019. SILK ROAD The Photographic Silk Road-Steppe Road, Seoul: Gyeongangbuk-Do, Korea Institute of Civilizational Exchanges.

its history Mongolians have adapted to various forms of government and economic systems. In the Middle Ages, the Mongols had a warlike military system, with units based on a principle of Ten. Even the civilians had a semi-military organization and advanced administrative functions⁵.

During the second revival of the Silk Road in the Middle Ages, the Mongols set up guards along the Silk Road, perfected the horse relay station economy, and developed expedited long-distance messaging system. Later, when the Mongols came under Manchu rule in the 18th to 20th centuries they were divided into small administrative units, scattered throughout the country and engaged in livestock husbandry. During this period, the Russian Empire commissioned many expeditions to conduct various geographic and ethnographic studies as part of their strategy to conquer Siberia⁶ and further expand its territory to the east. As a result, they have reached the borders of Mongols.

Mongols have always had close ethnic and linguistic ties with the many ethnic groups living in Siberia, which enabled them to form easy communications and relationships with the Russians⁷. The Mongols were also one of the five major ethnic groups in the Manchu dynasty, and as an early ally of the Manchus, they lived for almost two hundred years with the privilege of preserving their native way of life.

In fact, it was at this time that there was a historic opportunity to move from north to south, south to north, to run a transportation business to carry large loads of weight of commodities for merchants. In the Mongolian Gobi Desert and steppes, only Mongols could load camels and carry weights, and only Mongol herders knew the state of the Mongolian land⁸. In connection with all this, the use of the mongolian language, especially the vocabulary, has undergone certain changes. Mongolian language has also begun to influence other languages. Many historical records can be found that noted the fluency of northwestern Mongols in Russian language. The advantage of language enabled Mongols to receive Russian ambassadors, exchange goods of Mongol origin, and act as middleman in introducing Chinese goods to Russia from the middle of the 17th century.

“In 1618 the Golden Khan of Khotgoid⁹ invited Russian envoys to Uvs Lake and served them tea for the first time; and sent 200 packets of tea as a gift to the Russian tsar, an introduction of tea to Russian elite. At that time, the Russians were looking for ways to establish relations with China (the Manchus) and gathered information about China through their good neighbors, the Mongols. China which were under Manchu rule and Russia, did not know each other; and were geographically distant without direct route.”¹⁰

There are reports that Mongols carrying heavy loads of weight along the Tea Road reach the Kalgan to the south, and even right up to the Great Wall and Peking; to the north via Kyakhta, or through western Mongolia, through Khovd to Tsagaan Nuur Tashant, and even further to Biysk. The movement

⁵ Concerning the city of Cambaluc, and its great traffic and population, Excerpt from The Book of Ser Marco Polo: The Venetian Concerning Kingdoms and Marvels of the East Volume1, Book Second, part 1, chapter XXII. translated and edited by Colonel Sir Henry Yule (London: John Murray, 1903) p.2.

Chinggis khan's four great legacies, Key figures in Mongol history, The Mongols in World history. http://afc.casia.columbia.edu/mongols/figures/figu_geng_legacy.htm

⁶ Gibson, J. 1980. Russian Expansion in Siberia and America. *Geographical Review*, 70 (2), pp.127-136.

⁷ Д.О.Лоевский 2005, Русско-Китайские отношения в XVII в.: Отечественная историография, Документ, Архив, История, Современность. Выпуск 5, Издательство Уральского Федерального Университета, Екатеринбург, ст 277-286.

В.С.Мясников, Н.В.Шепелева 1980, Империя Цин и Русское государство в XVII в. Москва

⁸ Эгшиг Ш, Гэрэлтөв Д, Сүхбаатар О, Бадрал Ё. 2016. Цайны зам, Улаанбаатар: Мөнхийн үсэг.

⁹ Ш.Б.Чимитдоржиев, *Взаимоотношения Монголии и России в XYII-XYIII вв.*, Издательство «Наука» Москва, 1978, стр.36.

¹⁰ Ш.Эгшиг “Ази Европыг холбосон “Цайны зам” ба Монгол” Euroasian network, Past, Present and Future, 2014 Korea-Mongolia International Conference, 2014.10.10, Ulaanbaatar, pp.91-107.

of goods by the Mongols brought them to the crossroads of many cultures. The Mongols were well versed in the eastern Manchu, Chinese, and Tibetan languages, and were in constant contact with the people of the northern region around Lake Baikal, listening to and conversing in their many dialects. At the time, there were few Chinese-Manchu speakers in Russia. Official relations between the Russian Empire and the Manchu Dynasty began only in the 18th century. In 1727, the Bura Protocol established the Russian-Manchu border, and in 1728 the Kyakhta Treaty was established, after of which the trade relations started between the Russians and Manchus.

Kyakhta and Tsurkhait were designated as trading points, but at the time Kyakhta flourished as the world's largest trading city¹¹. Guards were deployed along the Mongolian Khalkha border, which required border guards to communicate with other ethnic groups that lived along the border. This led to learning each other's languages between the guards and settlers, and trade expansions in border settlements such as Kyakhta along with development of merchants' 'pidgin language'.

According to some scholars, the Bura Protocol and Kyakhta treaty facilitated trade between Tsarist Russia and the Manchus, transporting goods such as tea, silk, and porcelain from the depths of Manchu-dominated southern China to Europe, and the trade route was later renamed as the Tea Road. As a result, a form of pidgin language of the merchants appeared at every node of the Tea Road station¹² such as the Kyakhta merchant pidgin, the Maimaachin merchant pidgin, Urga merchant pidgin and the Kalgan merchant pidgin. In Siberia, many new settlements sprang up from this trade route, and many dialects flourished. There is historical evidence that the pidgin language of the merchant, which was formed at the national border station of the Tea Road, was used not only as a spoken language but also as a sign language. However, there is currently no evidence that the tea trader's 'pidgin' has evolved into a 'creole' language¹³.

The location of Mongolia as a gasket between Russian-occupied and Manchu territories often served as a common language in Russian-Manchu relations. Envoys from Russia were allowed to the Manchu government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia.

There are many reports where the Manchu envoys passing through Mongolia on their way to Russia, recorded various Mongolian words of respect and the eloquent speech forms used to address kings and officials from foreign countries. There are several examples of this in the research works¹⁴ supervised by Sayana Namsaraeva, a Buryat scholar at Cambridge University. The Manchu king was called the "Bogd Khan" by the Russians, the Russian king as "White Khan", the Great Wall as "Wall", Kalgan (Zhangjiakou) as "Door". The border node city between China and Mongolia is called "Khaalgan" (Kalgan). The names of the Mongolian places such as Tagna Uriankhai, Il Tarvagatai were spelled as per Mongolian pronunciation. In addition to using the Mongolian word in its full pronunciation, it was also used in conjunction with words in other languages. Examples of conjunctions were: Tsar Bogdoi/Prince Bogdoi, and sentences were: Адали иностранец? (Adali inostranets?) (Are you a foreigner?)¹⁵.

In general, a structure, consisting of a mixture of Russian and Mongolian words, tended to be predominant in the pidgin language of the Kyakhta merchant. The example of Sayana Namsarayeva also

¹¹ Александр Жиров 2000, Чайный путь и Кяхта, Журнал "Земля Иркутская", стр.67.

¹² Sayana Namsaraeva 2014, Border Language/Chinese Pidgin Russian with a Mongolian 'Accent', Inner Asia 16, Koninklijke Brill NV, Leiden, University of Cambridge 122 p.
Dieter Stern 2005, Myths and facts about the Kyakhta trade pidgin, Journal of Pidgin and Creole languages, Volume 20, Issue 1, pp.175-187.

¹³ Sarah G.Thomason 1997, Contact languages I. Pidgins and Creoles, Chapt.7, Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

¹⁴ Also see there, pp.116-138.

¹⁵ Also see there, 124 p.

shows that it was common for Mongolian verbs to be formed by suffixes on the basis of Russian verbs. *Пить-пиху (drink), кушать-кушаху (eat) спать-спиху (sleep)*¹⁶.

It is evident that there are words of the Buryat dialect of the Mongolian language, such as “шипкошанга”- “shipkoshanga” (very loud, louder) that combine Russian and Mongolian words to form a single word. According to Russian scholars, this combined language is the dialect of Transbaikalia. For example, the following Mongolian words are included in the vocabulary of this dialect Аршан (mineral water), Архихахит (drink alcohol), Ганзушка (pipe for tobacco), Затуран (pulp tea), Обмалахаться (to marry *малаха*- hat in Mongolian)¹⁷. Examples from the research of Russian scholars Sayana Namsaraeva, S. Cherepanov, A. Y. Musorin¹⁸ and K. Federova¹⁹ show that the Mongolian word plays an important role in the formation of the Russian-Mongolian border dialect or merchant pidgin. However, it is common for Russian and Mongolian words to be used in conjunction with Russian, Mongolian, Manchu, and Chinese words in a single sentence. Many dialects of the Mongolian language, such as Khalkha (Mongolian central dialect) and Buryat dialects (Buryat dialect, one of the Mongolian dialects of the Baikal Basin), are predominantly used in Kyakhta merchants' pidgin language. Also, in Kyakhta merchants' pidgin it has been observed that words such as Russian, Mongolian, and Chinese are often used in the form of Mongolian verbs.

The use of predominant number of Russian-Mongolian and relatively smaller proportion of Chinese and Manchu words, which are mostly nouns indicate this that the merchants' pidgins may be based on the Mongolian language.

The position of the members of a sentence tends to be dominated by SOV-structured sentences. In other words, it follows the sentence structure of the Altaic root languages, or more precisely, the position of the member of the Mongolian sentence, and preserved by the Chinese-Russian pidgin language. In Chinese and Russian languages, the position of the members of the sentence is usually according to SVO and OVS- structured sentences.

Between the 18th and 20th centuries, the Mongolian language had a significant influence on the pidgin language of merchants, which was formed in Kyakhta, the border node city (and other similar trade stations such as Kalgan, Khuree, Khovd, Uliastai, Bugat and Huhhot which were centralized in the depths of Mongolia) located on the Tea Road. The lexicon and grammar of the Mongolian language have greatly influenced this format, which makes the subject matter interesting. There is a need for further research of the notes of scholars that recorded the use of Mongolian verbs formed by suffixes, and the position of sentence members that preserve the structure of Mongolian sentences in these common languages.

It is concluded that during the historical period of the Tea Road trade in the 18th and 20th centuries, a Mongolian-based derivative pidgin language was formed. Here we only discuss the Kyakhta merchants' pidgin, and there is an example of a Mongolian-based Chinese pidgin at another station on the Tea Road in the modern Chinese city of Kalgan to the south of Mongolia. Scholars who have studied pidgin and the Atlas of Pidgin and Creole Language Structures (APiCS: The Atlas of Pidgin and Creole Language Structures) have written "Chinese pidgin Russian" and "Chinese pidgin Russian with Mongolian 'accent'." Since the verb is formed by the verb structure of the Mongolian language, we

¹⁶ Also see there, 124 p.

¹⁷ Sayana Namsaraeva 2014, Border Language/Chinese Pidgin Russian with a Mongolian 'Accent', Inner Asia 16, Koninklijke Brill NV, Leiden, University of Cambridge 125 p.

¹⁸ А.Ю.Мусорин 2004, Лексика Кяхтинского пиджина, Функциональный анализ языковых единиц, Новосибирск. ст. 79-86.

¹⁹ Kapitolina Federova Language Contacts on the Russian-Chinese Border: The 'Second birth' of Russian-Chinese Trade Pidgin Chapter 7, pp.72-84.

suggest that another pidgin language called “mongolian pidgin Russian” should co-exist. We consider studying next whether "mongolian pidgin Chinese" existed.

In the 1990s, Mongolia transitioned to a market economy. Free trade began to flourish. At that time, not only mongolian but also russian and chinese traders were involved in trade, and mongolian traders traded wherever possible to obtain goods in high demand through border crossings. Re-formation of a common language among traders began again. This is a study field to clarify the features of the common language (pidgin) of modern traders and to study the influence of the Mongolian language as well.

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