

**Dravidian and Altaic parts of the body**  
**2. Hair, feather**

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0. This paper is another contribution to the Dravidian and Altaic lexical parallels. The questions of the phonetic form of the lexemes have been discussed in several of my latest papers on the subject and may be consulted there (Vacek 2001ff., especially 2004b or 2006a) and in the book on ‘water – viscosity – cold’ (Vacek 2002). More details about the phonological relationship on the basis of phonetic ‘models’ as a part of a continuum may be referred to in those publications. Further related questions may also be consulted in some works of K. V. Zvelebil (especially 1990, 1991, both with further references).

This is the second paper discussing the etyma concerning the ‘body’ (cf. Vacek 2005c, which contains some further remarks on the parts of the body mentioned on previous occasions). The following two etyma display an interesting semantic variation. Originally I had intended to separate the lexemes designating ‘feather’ from those designating ‘hair’, but it became obvious that this is almost a regular semantic extension not only in Dravidian but also in some Altaic etyma.

1.

Go. *kel* hair, feather

Konḡa *kelu* feather

Pe. *kel* id.

Kui *kelu, keḡu* large feather, quill

Kuwi *kellū* feather

Kur. *kalḡā* plumes (DEDR 1973)

Ta. *kāl* lock of hair in plaiting

Ka. *kāl* a strand or lock of hair in plaiting, any of the tie-ropes (used in tethering cattle), any string of the rope network in which pots, etc., are suspended from a beam or from a carrier’s pole (DEDR 1482)

For 'feather' cf. further:

Ko. *kerngl, kergl* feather, wing

Tu. *kedī* feather

*kedūrikè, kedarikè* tip of a bird's wing; thin layer

Go. (Ko.) *gerŋ(g)* feather

(Koya T.) *girru* id.

Koṇḍa *gurgil(i)* id. (DEDR 1983)<sup>1</sup>

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Mo. *kilyasu(n)* hair of the mane and tail, horse hair

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MT. *XĒRIKU* tuft of hair under the hoof of the deer (Orok.) (MTD I,482)

*KIL* (horse) hair (Evenk.) (MTD I,392)<sup>2</sup>

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OT. *kil* a hair, esp. a horse hair or bristle (Cl.614)

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Further cf.

FU *kalke*<sup>1</sup> Haar (Rédei II,644)

2. The following group of etyma displays the variation of the medial labials and velars in Dravidian and possibly also in Manchu-Tungus.<sup>3</sup>

Ta. *kavari* chowrie

Ma. *kavaram* hair-plait

*kavari* id., woman with fine hair; yak; yak's tail, chowrie

Ka. *kabari, kavari* braid of hair, knot of braided hair

Tu. *kabari* tufted hair of females (DEDR 1327)<sup>4</sup>

Te. *kuṅkaṭi, kūūkaṭi* a lock or tuft of hair; crest of peacock

Go. *kukur(i), kukur* cock's comb

*kūkōḍ, kokkōr* id.

*kookooree* crest on a bird's head

Koṇḍa *kukuṭi* hair (DEDR 1634)

<sup>1</sup> The DEDR further refers to Ta. *cīrai, irai* wing (DEDR 2591).

<sup>2</sup> According to MTD, the word is borrowed from Mongolian. As for the MT. parallel proposed by Starostin et alia (2003, p. 788, s.v. \**k'ila*), they take MT. *INIŃAKTA* 'hair' (var. Orok. *sinakta* 'hair, wool') (MTD I,317) and reconstruct proto-MT. \**xiñ-ŋa* 'hair'. I am not quite sure that this lexeme should be included into the etymon above. The above Mongolian and Turkic forms are also mentioned by them and they also mention PKor. \**kār(h)*- 'hair, horse's mane' (Starostin et alia, 2003, p. 789).

<sup>3</sup> For more discussion of this variation cf. Vacek 2004a, p. 427ff., Nos. 25a, 25b; repr. Vacek 2006a, p. 69ff.

<sup>4</sup> The DEDR refers further to Skt. *kavara-, kabara-, kavaṛī, kabaṛī* 'braid of hair'. Mayrhofer (KEWA I,186) takes *kavara-* to be possibly Dravidian. He says: 'Vielleicht dravidisch', and refers to the above Dravidian lexemes. However, he also mentions F. B. J. Kuiper, who related the Sanskrit word to Munda \**bar, baṛ* 'winden, flechten, drehen'.

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Mo. *kökül, kökel* long hair, braid; forelock of a horse; crest of a bird; flowing mane or tail of a horse<sup>5</sup>

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MT. *ŊŌVKA* tuft of hair between the hoofs of the deer (Even.) (MTD I,664)<sup>6</sup>  
var. *ŋōvūka*

*ŊAPO-ŊAPO* hairy, hirsute (MTD I,658)<sup>7</sup>

Nan. *ŋapo-ŋapo* hairy, hirsute

*ŋapo-ŋapo ǰǰaktakū* bearded

*ŊOKPOKTO* eyebrows (Orok.) (MTD I,469)

var. *ŋoppokto*

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There does not seem to be a representation of this etymon in Turkic.

### 3. Conclusion

The above two etyma are another small sample of the lexemes referring to the 'body'. Typical appears to be a feature, which I would call semantic 'oscillation'. Besides various types of 'hair' the semantic range also includes 'feather', which is confirmed in both language groups. In MT. the meanings of the both etyma may vary and also include specific hairy parts of the body (eyebrows; tuft of hair under the hoof or between the hoofs of the deer).

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<sup>5</sup> This word is not mentioned by Starostin et alia (p. 760, s.v. *k'aŋa* 'hair, long hair'). Instead they include Mo. *xongyurcaŋ* 'cluster, bunch; icicle; stalactite' into this etymon and point to the phrase *xongyurcaŋ üsü* 'long hair, mane'. But this may be semantically improbable. However, they mention Jap. *kami*, OJap. *kamji* 'hair' (reconstructed as *\*kâmi* by them), which might represent an interesting parallel to the above Dravidian medial labial. Further cf. some of the MT. forms below.

<sup>6</sup> The MT. velar nasal can be a parallel of the velar stop. For the variation of initial velar stop and nasal in Manchu-Tungus cf. Poppe 1964, pp. 24–5:

Ma. *ǰala* vs. other languages *ŋala* 'hand' (cf. MTD I,356: *ŊĀLE* hand); Mo. *yar* id.; *kari*: 2 'the forearm' (Cl.644–5); ?cf. also OT. *ko:l* 'the upper arm' (Cl. 614–5).

Ma. *gele-*, Evenk. *ŋēle-* 'sich fürchten' (cf. MTD I,667: *ŊĒLE* fear); Mo. *gelme-* 'to become frightened or terrified'; further cf. the Dravidian parallel in Ta. *kili* 'fear, fright' (DEDR 1572) (cf. Vacek 2004b, No. 15, p. 408–9; repr. 2006a, p. 51–2; at that time I mentioned the form with a velar nasal with a question-mark).

Ma. *gere-* 'hell werden', Evenk. *ŋērīn* 'Licht' (cf. MTD I,671: *ŊĒRĪ* light); this last form with initial velar nasal may have to be added to the Dravidian and Altaic parallels mentioned by me earlier (Vacek 2001a, p. 194–7), viz. the MT. lexemes *KILBELDĪ-* 'to glitter' (MTD I,393); *GILBE-* I, 'to glitter' (MTD I,149–50); *GILTANA-* 'to glitter' (MTD I,151–2), etc.; Ta. *kiŋar* 'to shine, be conspicuous, exalted; light' (DEDR 1583b), Ta. *keŋu* 2. 'brightness, luminosity, brilliancy' (Tamil Lexicon s.v., not in DEDR). There these words were introduced as a part of a broader etymological continuum, both formal and semantic, which, however, also allows for direct word-to-word parallels like this last one.

Further cf. e.g. Olcha *gemuri-* to mumble, mutter; speak to oneself (s.v. *ŊEMŪLĪ* silence, tranquility; MTD I,669) (cf. also Vacek 2004c, p. 200).

<sup>7</sup> With this etymon the MTD refers to *labū-labū* (MTD I,485), which, however, means 'soft', and the initial dental liquid may not be related to the initial velar nasal of the above etymon.

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