

The Inclusive and the Exclusive in Mongolian

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A phenomena of the inclusive was first introduced to the Altaic linguistics when a famous turkologist O. Böhtlink¹ had considered the structure of the first-personal plural pronoun in Yakut *biz* "we" as consisting of the components *bi* + *si* "I + you".

As it is known, the two distinguishing stem forms *ba* and *bida* for the first-personal plural pronouns are fixed in the sources of Ancient Mongolian. It was claimed by Prof. Ramstedt² in his article "*The Mongolian pronouns*" that the former of the above-mentioned two stems is exclusive and the latter in inclusive. In other words, according to him, the stem *ba* contains a plural element 'a' originating from the ancient Mongolian from **ma*, whereas the another stem *bida* was formed as a combination of the two roots as *bi* + *ta* "I + you". Later, the suggestion was supported by N. Poppe³, E. Schutz⁴, and R. A. Miller⁵. As well as Prof. N. A. Baskakov⁶ agrees that the Mongolian pronoun *bida* can be consisted of *bi* + *ti* "I + you" accepting in principle the inclusive in this case. Also a special article by Prof. Sh. Hattori⁷ deals with the inclusive and the exclusive for the first personal plural pronouns in Manchu, but their detailed morphological analysis were not taken place in there.

However, the scholars such as W. Schott⁸, Munkásci⁹, W. Bang¹⁰, L. Ligeti¹¹, consider the first-personal plural pronoun stem in Turkish *biz* "we" as consisting of *bi* + *z* (plural suffix). As

¹ . Böhtlink. Über die Sprache der Jakuten I. (Jakutische Grammatik), St. Pbg. 1851. S. 264

² G. J. Ramstedt, Über mongolische Prononima. JSFOu 23:3. 1904. S. 2-4

³ Poppe. N., Introduction to Mongolian Comparative Studies. (= MSFOu 110). Helsinki. 1955. p 215

⁴ E. Schutz. Remarks on Altaic Personal Pronouns, AOH 28. 1974. p. 142

⁵ R. A. Miller. Japanese and Other Altaic Languages. The University of Chicago Press. 1975. 176-178:

⁶ Baskakov. N. A. . On the Common Origin of the Categories of Person and Personal Possession in the Altaic Languages. "*Researches in Altaic Languages*" [= Bibliotheca Orientalis Hungarica XX]. Budapest. 1975. p.10

⁷ Sh. Hattori, The First Person Plural Pronoun in Manchu. GK 28. 1955. 19-29

⁸ W. Schott. Versuch über die tatarischen Sprache. Berlin. 1836. S. 60

⁹ Munkásci. Az altaji nyelvek számképzése, "*Budenz - Album*". 1884. S. 305

¹⁰ W. Bang. Beiträge zur türkischen Wortforschung I. *Turan* I. 1918. S. 307; idem. Das negative Verbum der Türkspachen, SBAW. 1923, XVII. S. 114

¹¹ L. Ligeti, Die Herkunft des Volknamens Kirgis. KcsA I. 1935. 381-383

well as Prof. Wl. Kotwicz¹² gives an extensive comparisons of pronouns in Turkish, Mongolian and Tungus in his research on the pronouns in the Altaic languages and agrees that the first-personal plural pronoun stem in mongolian *bida* has a plural suffix *-da* in its structure.

This dispute on the internal structure of the first-personal plural pronoun in Mongolian *bida* is being stayed unsolved up to now.

In this paper I intend to answer the question whether the first-personal plural pronouns in Mongolian have an inclusive form or not.

First of all, our attention was attached to the fact that the inflectional stem for the particular pronoun in Mongolian is registered in written sources of Mongolian as only *bidan*, but not *bida*. If the original form of the pronoun were *bida* [*< bi + ta*] it would be declined consequently as *bida-yin*, *bida-dur*, *bida-yi*, *bida-bar* and so on. But the old written sources of Mongolian fixed in the Mongolian, Chinese, Arabian and 'Phags-pa scripts have registered the inflectional forms like *bidan-u*, *bidan-dur*, *bidan-i*, *bidan-iyar* and etc. Moreover, in modern Mongolian languages and dialects the inflectional stems for the pronoun are as *bidan* (Kha., Ord., Mog., Bao.), *biden* (Kha., Oir., Bur.), *beden* (Dag., Bur.), *budan* (SY) and so on. All of these allow us to conclude that the derivative form of the first-personal plural pronoun was formatted through the way of neither *bi + ta* nor *bi + da*, but of *bi + dan*.

What are the structural and functional distinguishing of the suffix *-dan* used in the pronoun *bidan*?

It is undoubted that the derived morpheme *bi-* within the formations *bidan* / *biden* fixed in both written sources of Mongolian and contemporary alive Mongolian languages and dialects is presented originally as a root for the first-personal singular pronoun. For the derivational morpheme *-dan/-den*, it has no other meaning apart from plurality. This suffix bearing a plural meaning is kept permanently in the stem forms *eden* / *teden* for the demonstrative pronoun roots **e-* / **te-*. So, the stem form *bidan* (*< bi + dan*) for the first-personal plural pronoun has no element referring to the second-person in its structure, which allow us to state that Mongolian has no inclusive for the first-personal plural pronoun.

Then, what is the distinguishing between the forms *ba* and *bida* which refer to the same person and quantity?

The two forms of the first-personal plural pronouns *ba* and *bida* present the equivalent forms replacing one another for different periods of the Mongolian language evolution, but used in parallel for a comparatively short lapse of time, when the replacement was taking place. In other words, the first-personal plural pronoun in Proto-Mongolian *ba* [*< *ban < *man*] started to lose the plural meaning since the end of Ancient Mongolian and was replaced by the newly appeared derivative pronoun *bida* [*< bi + dan*]. So, the difference is actually in that one is original and another is derived.

But in modern Mongolian languages and dialects the pronouns *bida/bide* have widened their semantic frames and obtained a new function to express the inclusive by the way.

¹² Wl. Kotwicz. Les pronoms dans les Langues altaïques, *Mémoires de la commission orientaliste*, Kraków, 1936, p. 8, 10