On Some Evidences of the affinity of

Turkic and Korean

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In the past century, there have been a lot of endeavor to find common elements or common glossaries among Altaic languages, i.e., Turkic, Mongolian, Manchu-Tungus, and Korean. In addition to the findings of both Ramstedt and Poppe, followers such as Aalto, Räsänen, Menges, Miller, etc found more additional evidences and by this way strengthened the Altaic theory. During the last two decades, researchers contented merely to cite or repeat the evidences which had been founded by these senior scholars in the past, rather than to propose new evidences in discussions of the Altaic theory.

In this circumstance, many scholars tend to spend their times in interpreting these evidences in relation with the Altaic theory or Altaic affinity, while some scholars are engaged in reviewing methodologies applied until now.

However, in order to come to any conclusion regarding the problem of the affinity of Altaic languages, we need not only to exert more intensive researches of individual languages, but also continue to purse comparative studies concentrating on finding cognates or common elements among the related languages.

Recently I wrote several articles in which suffixes or endings such as case forms, denominal suffixes, deverval suffixes and plural suffixes of Korean and Altaic languages were compared. In these articles, many new evidences were presented, which not only increased the probability of the Altaic affinity of Korean but also strengthen the Altaic theory.

In this article, I would like to present additional evidences to relate Korean with Turkic by comparing particles of Korean and Turkic.
1. Trk. ân // Ko. an (negative)

In Chuvash which is regard as a descendant of the pre-Turkic, Volga Bulgarian, there is a particle an meaning negation. This particle is used only in imperative sentences: an yula "don't read!", an yulâr "let's not read", an yulâtâr "let him not read", etc.

This particle is also found in the form of äng in the Kashgarli Mahmud's dictionary in the 12th century. According to the dictionary, the word äng meaning "no, not" was used in Oğuz dialect: äng äng "no!, no!" (MK I: ), ang "no" (MK32, Dankoff)

In Middle Korean, there are two forms, ani and ani- which are supposed to be derived from the morphem *an meaning negation. The former one ani meaning "no" which is an adverb is made of *an and the denominal adverb suffix -i, an suffix rendering an adverb: ani hâr "not to do". The latter one ani- which is an adjective consists of *an and the designative verb i- meaning "to be". This designative suffix i- is one and the same as the Turkic verb i- "to be". On the other hand, in both Modern Korean and dialects the original form an is widely used; an ka- "not to go", an ka-ni? "not to go?"

2. Trk. γu // Ko. ko (interrogative)

In Orkhon Turkic there is an interrogative particle γu ~ gû. This particle is used only two times in the Orkhon inscriptions: azu bu sabîmda igid bar γu "or, is there any falsehood in these words of mine?" (KT S 10), bôdkâ kôrûgmâ bâglâr gû yangîltâçî siz "you lords, you who have so far been obedient to the throne, are you going to betray?" (KT S 11). As is seen in these examples, the particle γu has an emphatical aspect of interrogation. In this respect there is a difference between this particle and the other interrogative particle mu ~ mû which was widely used in the ancient Turkic.

This Turkic particle probably has the same origin of the Korean word ko. In Korean there are two interrogative particles ko and ka which are similar to each other in terms of both its form and function. However, they are slightly different in use: The particle ko is always used together
with interrogative pronouns such as anı "which", nugu "who", muas "what", etc., while the particle ka is alone used without any interrogative pronoun.

3. Trk. gu / Ko. ku (interrogative)

In Ancient Turkic the interrogative pronoun nāgū appears. This consists of two morphemes, nā and gū. The former one meaning "what" is an interrogative pronoun which is very common in both historical and modern Turkic languages. The latter one is used here in the function of an denominal noun suffix. This suffix occurs in the interrogative suffix nāgūl "how". This consists of three different morphemes, nā, gū, and l. The suffix -l which is never found in other places, is an denominal noun suffix. The morpheme gū also occurs in the word nāgūlük "how, why" which consists of three morphemes, nā, gū, and lük. The morphene -lük is a very productive denominal noun suffix in Turkic languages. Besides these, another interrogative suffix nāgūdā "why" appears in an Uygur script. In the word, -dā is locative-ablative suffix. This is compared to the word nādā in the same meaning.

On the other hand, this morpheme appears too in Mongolian in the form of gūn, in the pronouns such as kegūn "who" < *ke + gūn, yagun "what" < *ya + gūn, kegūme "anything" < *ke + gūn + me. In Buriat, there is the word yūme meaning "thing". This came out from the process of development, yūme < *ye + gū + me < *ye + gūn + me.

From the examples in Turkic, we can see the fact that the morpheme gū is always used with the interrogative pronoun nā meaning "what". In Mongolian, the variant form of gū also is always used with pronoun or the like. This fact gives us a hint that the morpheme gū has something with interrogatory form of word. In my opinion, this suffix is originally developed from the Altaic interrogative particle *gu~ku.

From this point of view, the Korean pronoun nuku "who" is very interesting. This consists of two morphemes, the interrogative pronoun nu "who" and ku. In this word, the morpheme ku is used as a denominal noun suffix. The morpheme ku which is unknown so far, in my opinion, is
one and the same as the Turkic suffix gu. Being originally an interrogative particle, it remains fossilized only in the pronoun nuku.

4. Trk. kôk // Ko. kok (intensive)

In the Orkhon inscription, there is kôk which is the particle expressing intensiveness: ol bizni ölürtâči kôk "he will definitely kill us" (TI N6), yolta yâmâ ölti kôk "he certainly died on the road too" (TI S8), ölürtâči kôk tir mân "I say, he will kill definitely" (TI S3-4).

Interestingly, in Korean there is the adverb kkok meaning "absolutely". I think this has the same origin with the Turkic word.

5. Trk. mu // Ko. mu (interrogative particle)

The most popular interrogative particle in Turkic is mu or its variants. In Ancient Turkic, the two forms mu and mû are used according to the rule of vowel harmony. In Middle Turkic the forms such as mu, mû, mî, and mi is used. In Chuvash which is considered as Pre-Turkic, there are interrogative pronouns such as mën "what", miše "how much", mëšên "why". The word miše goes to the Common Turkic *mičä, for Chuvash /š/ corresponds to Common Turkic /č/. The reconstructed form mičä consists of two morphemes, *mi and -čä. The former one is an interrogative particle and the latter one is a commitative suffix. The word mëšên "for what, why" consists of *mi "what" and ičün "for". I think that the two morphemes mu and *mi go to the same origin.

On the other hand, according to Ramstedt, -m and -mâ which occurs in some pronouns of Ancient Turkic such as kâm and nâmâ probably have something with the particle mu.

In Korean, there are interrogative pronouns which have the syllable *mu : muæs "what" < *mu + æs, musæs "what" < *mu + ñæs, and musîk "what" < *mu + ñîk. In addition to these, there are another interrogative pronouns meaning "which" in Modern Korean : musîn < *mu + ñîn.

Besides this, in Modern Korean the word muæ "what" is found. From this
form, we can extract the morpheme *mu in the above examples. In my opinion, *mu in these pronouns has the same origin with the interrogative particle mu in Turkic.

References

Ramstedt, G., Einführung in die altaische Sprachwissenschaft Formenlehre. 1952.