Altaic Affinities



PROCEEDINGS OF THE
40th MEETING OF THE
Permanent International
Altaistic Conference (PIAC)
PROVO, UTAH (1997)

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PROVO, UTAH (1997)

EDITED BY

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A Computer Database of West Middle Mongolian

Yoshio Saitô
Tokyo

Introduction

This paper briefly outlines the author's database of West Middle Mongolian words on the computer.

The database is being created on *FileMaker Pro*, a Macintosh database program with tremendous flexibility in managing data. The Mongolian words entered so far are those contained in *Muqaddimat al-Adab*, *Glossary of Ibn Muhanna*, and *Leiden Glossary* appearing in printed form in the following publications:

Poppe (1927–1928) Das mongolische Sprachmaterial einer Leidener Handschrift. *Известия Академии Наук СССР.*

Поппе (1938) Монгольско-тюркий словарь, *Монгольский словарь Мукаддимат ал-Адаб*, АНСССР.

Поппе (1938) Список монгольских слов из глоссария Ибн-Муханны по изданию Мухалима Риф'ата (Истамбул 1921), *Монгольский словарь Мукаддимат ал-Адаб*, АНСССР.

1. Fields

A record of each word consists of nine fields with the following names:

(1) Form in Roman Transliteration
(2) Form in Roman "Transcription"
(3) Corresponding Written Mongol / Turkic / Persian / Arabic Form in Roman Transcription
(4) English Equivalent
(5) Page Number in Poppe's Edition
(6) Column in Poppe's Edition
(7) Line Number in Poppe's Edition
(8) Position of a Word in Sentence
(9) Page Number in the Original Manuscript

The browse screen of a record is shown in Figure 1.

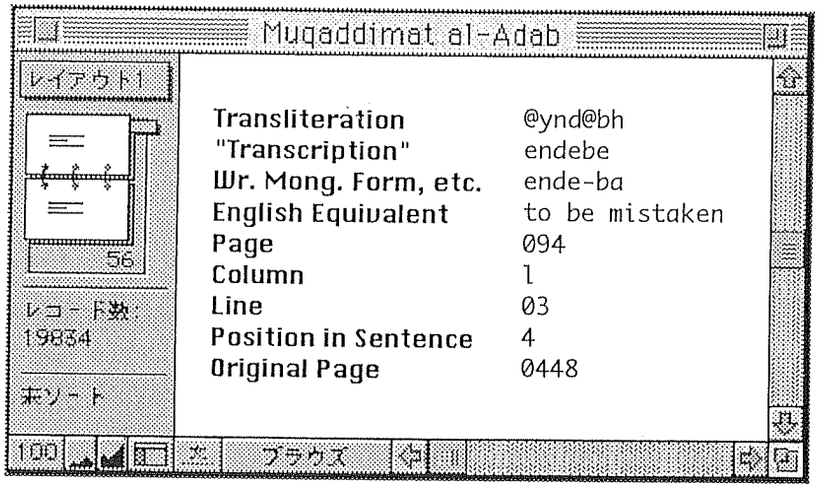


Figure 1

1.1. Form in Roman Transliteration

This field contains West Middle Mongolian words transliterated according to the transliteration system[1] shown in the appendix below.

In this system, an apostrophe < ' > is used for *hamza* and a commercial *a* <@> for *'alif*.

The letters for pharyngeal(ized), dental, and postalveolar sounds are followed by an exclamation mark < ! >, a hyphen < - >, and a circumflex < ^ > respectively. E.g.:

[1] To represent Roman alphabet symbols with diacritics in a standard data interchange format, Oliver Corff proposed a very systematic transliteration making the best use of operator signs. The transliteration system adopted here is not as systematic as the one proposed by Corff in that it is based in part on the Arabic sounds the symbols represent. But, it is perfect in the sense that the original forms can be restored from transliterated forms.

ح	(ḥ)	<h!>			
ص	(ṣ)	<s!>	ض	(ḍ)	<d!>
ط	(ṭ)	<t!>	ظ	(ẓ)	<z!>
ع	(ʿ)	<o!>	غ	(ğ)	<g!>
ث	(ṯ)	<t->			
ذ	(ḏ)	<d->			
ژ	(ž)	<z^>			
ش	(š)	<s^>			

A final form of a letter appearing in word-medial position is indicated by a sharp <#> immediately following the symbol. E.g.:[2]

ایبه سون <@yb**h**#swn> äbäsün

1.2. Form in Roman "Transcription"

We cannot at the present stage of research make linguistically adequate transcriptions of West Middle Mongolian. (This is why the author put the word "transcription" in quotation marks.) But, he entered the Roman-transcribed forms of Poppe's with some modifications since they are, in spite some inaccuracy, useful as cues to identify words.

In the "transcription," Umlaut letters are represented by a plain letter plus <z>. E.g.:

ozgbe (ögbä)
uzsuzn (üsün)

As this system causes a problem with the original "z"s, which appear in non-Mongol words, the author put a space immediately before them. E.g.:

qonqu_z (qonquz)

1.3. Corresponding Written Mongol / Turkic / Persian / Arabic Form in Roman Transcription[3]

For convenience of finding morphemes on the computer, a stem and suffixes are separated by hyphens, only a back-vocalic form of a suffix is used for both "masculine" and "feminine" stems, and no distinction is made between front and back velars. E.g.:

[2] Examples are taken from *Muqaddimat al-Adab* in this paper.
[3] This field is not complete yet.

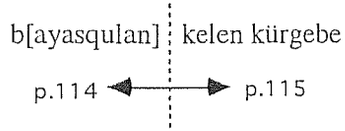
ire-ba (iräbä)
bol-u-ksan (boluksan)
gajar-a (gaǰar-a)

1.4. English equivalent[4]

The English equivalent for each Mongolian word is given in this field.

1.5. Page Number

The page number of a word entered in this field is that of the first word in the sentence in which the word appears. For instance, the page number of the last three words in the following sentence is not "115" but "114."[5]

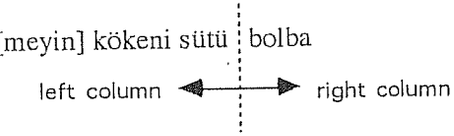


In this field in the *Leiden Glossary* database, publication year is added before a page number for convenience of sorting records on this field since Poppe's edition of the glossary was published in two separate issues of *Известия АНСССР*. E.g.:

(därgädä) 1927–1273
1928–0056
etc.

1.6. Column

Poppe's editions of *Muqaddimat al-Adab* and *Glossary of Ibn Muhanna* have pages arranged in double columns. The data in this field contains information about the column in which the first word of a sentence appears. The letters "l" and "r" are short for "left column" and "right column" respectively. For example, the last word of the following sentence does not have "r" but "l" in this field.

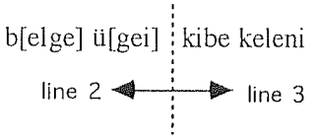


1.7. Line Number

The line number of a word entered in this field is the number of the line on which the first word of the sentence appears. Each number contains two digits. For example, the line number for the last two words of the following sentence is not

[4] This field is not complete yet.
[5] Diacritic marks used in Поппе (1938) are omitted in this article.

"03" but "02".



Two sentences printed on the same line are distinguished by letters "a" and "b" added to the line number.

1.8. Position of a Word in Sentence

The figure in this field contains information about the place of each word in one sentence, which gives syntactic information. One can restore original sentences by sorting data on this field. When the same word spelled in the same way follows one after another, no original form is given in Poppe's edition except for the first one. Such forms are marked by an asterisk "*" in this field.

1.9. Page Number in the Original Manuscript

The page number(s) of each word in the original manuscript is (are) put in this field.

2. Working with the Data

You can work with the data created by the database program on other programs such as word processor, spread sheet, etc. The author shows graphically in Figure 2 what can be done with the data.

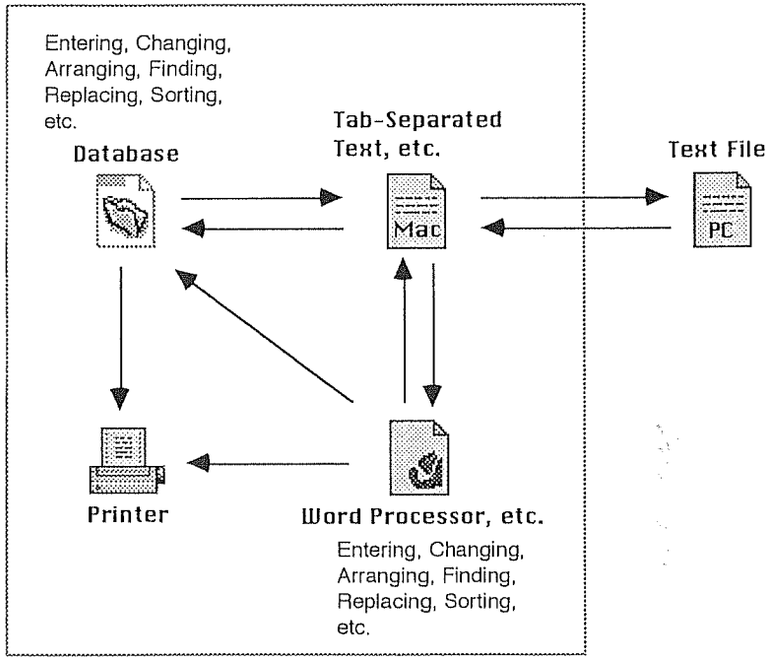


Figure 2

3. A Problem

As the database is based on secondary materials, it may contain mistakes made not only by Islamic scholars and the creator of the database, but also by Poppe and Soviet typographers. Checking all the Mongolian words in the original is required in order to exclude the latter. However, we can, to a certain extent, avoid drawing incorrect conclusions from analysing miscopied forms by taking the number of occurrence and the distribution of a word in the original manuscript into consideration.

4.

As the author believes that the computer database of West Middle Mongolian words introduced above is already useful to some extent, he is ready to offer free copies of it in a tab-separated Macintosh text format on a 2HD disk to those who are interested in it. Requests for a copy should be made to Yoshio Saitô at one of the following addresses:

Email Address:
saito@u-gakugei.ac.jp

Snailmail Address:
Tokyo Gakugei University
4-1-1 Nukui-Kita, Koganei,
Tokyo, 184-0015 Japan

Appendix: Transliteration Systems Employed

Arabic Script				Transliteration-1	Transliteration-2
Independent	Final	Medial	Initial	(Normal Text)	(Database)
ا	ـا	ـا	ا	â	@
ب	ـب	ـبـ	بـ	b	b
پ	ـپ	ـپـ	پـ	p	p
ت	ـت	ـتـ	تـ	t	t
ث	ـث	ـثـ	ثـ	ṯ	t-
ج	ـج	ـجـ	جـ	ǰ	j
چ	ـچ	ـچـ	چـ	č	c
ح	ـح	ـحـ	حـ	ḥ	h!
خ	ـخ	ـخـ	خـ	x	x
د	ـد	ـد	د	d	d
ذ	ـذ	ـذ	ذ	ḏ	d-
ر	ـر	ـر	ر	r	r
ز	ـز	ـز	ز	z	z
ژ	ـژ	ـژ	ژ	ž	z^
س	ـس	ـسـ	سـ	s	s
ش	ـش	ـشـ	شـ	š	s^
ص	ـص	ـصـ	صـ	ṣ	s!
ض	ـض	ـضـ	ضـ	ḍ	d!
ط	ـط	ـطـ	طـ	ṭ	t!
ظ	ـظ	ـظـ	ظـ	ẓ	z!
ع	ـع	ـعـ	عـ	ʿ	o!
غ	ـغ	ـغـ	غـ	ğ	g!
ف	ـف	ـفـ	فـ	f	f
ق	ـق	ـقـ	قـ	q	q
	ـک	ـکـ	کـ	k	k
ك	ـك			ḵ	k%
ڪ		ـڪـ	ڪـ	ḳ	k%.
گ	ـگ	ـگـ	گـ	g	g
ل	ـل	ـلـ	لـ	l	l
م	ـم	ـمـ	مـ	m	m

ن	ـن	ـنـ	نـ	n	n
و	ـو	ـو	و	w	w
ه	ـه	ـهـ	هـ	h	h
ی	ـی	ـیـ	یـ	y	y
ي	ـي			ÿ	y"
ة				ẖ	h"
آ				â~	@~
أ				â’	@'
إ				â,	@,
ء				/’	'
ٔ				◦	◦
ٕ				*	*
ـَ				a	a
ـِ				i	i
ـُ				u	u
ـً				á	a=
ـٍ				í	i=
ـٌ				ú	u=