

## РОЗДІЛ 4 ТЮРКСЬКІ МОВИ

UDC 811.512.161(Turkish language)

DOI <https://doi.org/10.32782/tps2663-4880/2025.40.1.20>

### SIMILAR AND DIFFERENT FEATURES OF PHYTONYM LEXICON IN TURKIC LANGUAGES OF THE OGHUZ GROUP

### ПОДІБНІ ТА РІЗНІ РИСИ ЛЕКСИКОНУ ФІТОНІМІВ У ТЮРКСЬКИХ МОВАХ ОГУЗЬКОЇ ГРУПИ

Huseynova E.,

*orcid.org/0009-0000-4351-2995**Ph.D. in philology, Leading Researcher**Institute of Linguistics named after Imadeddin Nasimi of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan*

The main objective of the article is to reveal the similar and different features of phytonym lexical units in the same language family, Oghuz group of Turkic languages: Azerbaijani, Turkic, Turkmen and Gagauz languages. Even though the same concept is expressed by similar or identical words in the languages belonging to the same language family, sometimes it can mean completely different meanings like homonyms. Also, with the adoption of Islam, the words of Arabic origin in the Azerbaijani, Turkish, and Turkmen languages formed a majority in the lexical layer of the language, compared to the language of the Gagauz Turks belonging to the Christian faith.

**Research method and methodology.** In the article, the phytonym lexicon units included in the currently working vocabulary of the four languages of the Oghuz group: Azerbaijani, Turkish, Turkmen and Gagauz languages are studied in a comparative plan. Also, rich material related to four languages is compared using statistical, etymological, historical-comparative, analysis and synthesis methods.

**Novelty of the article.** Previously, units of phytonym lexicon in Turkic languages of the Oghuz group were not studied under a separate heading. This study can serve as a resource for those who study the similarities and differences between related languages at the lexical level, those who study the lexical layer of the Oghuz group of Turkic languages, and those who compile a dictionary related to the phytonym lexicon in Turkic languages in the future.

**Results.** It is possible to see that there are a number of different points in the study of the phytonym lexicon in the Turkic languages of the Oghuz group. It is possible to see these either in the processing of words in different forms, in the feature of homonymy, as well as in the formation of phytonymic units in different forms. Differences in letter and sound changes are observed in words that are similar with minor differences.

All this suggests that although the Azerbaijani, Turkic, Turkmen and Gagauz languages, which are part of the Oghuz group of Turkic languages, belong to the same language family, they have many differences in the lexicon of phytonyms. As the Azerbaijani, Turkish, Turkmen and Gagauz languages are included in the Oghuz language family, there are many similar words in their lexical fund. In the literary lexicon of Azerbaijani, Turkish, Turkmen, and Gagauz languages, similar words are sometimes written according to the same orthographic norm, and sometimes there are different spellings, even though the orthographic norm is expected.

**Key words:** Oghuz group Turkic languages, Azerbaijani language, Turkish language, Turkmen language, Gagauz language, lexicon of phytonyms, related languages, flower names, tree names.

**Основна мета статті** виявити подібні та різні риси лексичних одиниць фітонімів в одній мовній сім'ї, огузькій групі тюркських мов: азербайджанській, тюркській, туркменській та гагаузькій мовах. Незважаючи на те, що те саме поняття виражається схожими або однаковими словами в мовах, що належать до однієї мовної сім'ї, іноді воно може мати зовсім різні значення, як омоніми. Також із прийняттям ісламу слова арабського походження в азербайджанській, турецькій та туркменській мовах склали більшість у лексичному шарі мови, порівняно з мовою гагаузьких турків, що належать до християнського віросповідання.

**Метод та методологія дослідження.** У статті в порівняльному плані вивчаються одиниці фітонімічної лексики, що входять до чинного словникового складу чотирьох мов огузької групи: азербайджанської, турецької, туркменської та гагаузької мов. Також зіставляється багатий матеріал, що відноситься до чотирьох мов, з використанням статистичного, етимологічного, історико-порівняльного, аналізу та синтезу методів.

**Новизна.** Раніше одиниці фітонімічної лексики у тюркських мовах Огузької групи в рамках окремої рубрики не вивчалися. Дане дослідження може бути посібником для тих, хто вивчає подібності та відмінності між спорідненими мовами на лексичному рівні, тих, хто вивчає лексичний пласт огузької групи тюркських мов, і тих, хто в майбутньому складатиме словник, пов'язаний з лексикою фітонімів у тюркських мовах.

**Висновок.** Можна побачити, що існує низка різних моментів у вивченні лексики фітонімів у тюркських мовах огузької групи. Це можна побачити або у обробці слів у різних формах, в ознаках омонімії, а також у освіті фітоні-

мічних одиниць у різних формах. Відмінності в буквених і звукових змінах спостерігаються в словах, які схожі на незначні відмінності.

Все це говорить про те, що хоча азербайджанська, тюркська, туркменська та гагаузька мови, що входять до огузької групи тюркських мов, належать до однієї мовної сім'ї, у них є багато відмінностей у лексиці фітонімів. Оскільки азербайджанська, турецька, туркменська і гагаузька мови входять до огузської мовної сім'ї, у тому лексичному фонді багато подібних слів. У літературному лексиконі азербайджанської, турецької, туркменської та гагаузької мов схожі слова іноді пишуться за однією і тією ж орфографічною нормою, а іноді зустрічаються різні написання, хоча орфографічна норма і очікується.

**Ключові слова:** огузька група тюркських мов, азербайджанська мова, турецька мова, туркменська мова, гагаузька мова, лексика фітонімів, споріднені мови, назви квітів, назви дерев.

### **Introduction (relevance of the problem).**

The floristic lexicon in the Azerbaijani, Turkic, Turkmen and Gagauz languages, which make up the Oghuz group, has a number of similar as well as also quite different aspects. Among the words used in the floristic lexicon of the Azerbaijani, Turkish, Turkmen and Gagauz languages without undergoing any orthographic and orthoepic changes are: lemon {limon}, barley {arpa}, tea {çay} (although the pronunciation is the same due to the differences inherent in the alphabet of the Turkmen language, the spelling is çay), flower {gül}, pomegranate {nar}, grass {ot}, straw {saman}, soybean {soya}, grape {üzüm} can be given as an example [1, p. 112].

**The main objective of the article** is to reveal the similar and different features of phytonym lexical units in the same language family, Oghuz group of Turkic languages: Azerbaijani, Turkic, Turkmen and Gagauz languages. Even though the same concept is expressed by similar or identical words in the languages belonging to the same language family, sometimes it can mean completely different meanings like homonyms. Also, with the adoption of Islam, the words of Arabic origin in the Azerbaijani, Turkish, and Turkmen languages formed a majority in the lexical layer of the language, compared to the language of the Gagauz Turks belonging to the Christian faith. In the historical time period, people's neighborhood with different ethnic groups caused them to adopt borrowed words that express the same concept. A large part of the lexicon of nature is made up of words and word combinations that represent the lexicon of phytonyms.

### **Analysis of recent research and publications.**

Over the past 5 years, works by different authors have been published on various aspects of phytonymic vocabulary in the Oghuz Turkic languages or Turkic languages. Thus, in the article by A. Altuntash "Plant names in the Gagauz language and comparison with the Turkish language", the names of plants in the Gagauz language are given in a comparative form with the Turkish language [2, p. 442].

Another study by S. Abid entitled "Semantic and morphological analysis of the names of wild plants used in the dialects of the Azerbaijani language"

includes an analysis of the names of wild plants used in the dialects of the Azerbaijani language from a semantic and morphological point of view [3, p. 239].

In the article by E. Karatas "Archaic words in Gagauz proverbs and idioms", the names of plants in folklore and proverbs are analyzed from an etymological point of view [4, p. 6]. This article only provides a comparison of the names of plants in the Gagauz language.

In O.Kocaman's study titled "Vascular Plant Flora of the Pazaryeri (Bilecik) and Surrounding Areas", the names of plants growing in the Bilecik region of Turkey and their characteristics were analyzed [5, p. 46].

Examples of works published in the English-language literature in the last 5 years in terms of analyzing plant vocabulary on a global scale within the framework of cognitive semantics and worldview theories include article A. Mierzwińska-Hajnos's "The linguistic worldview revisited: a cognitive analysis of plant terms" [6, p. 474].

Also Y. Huang's "A study on the interpretation model of plant nouns based on generative lexicon theory" article analyze the cognitive semantics of plant names, the scope of word usage in modern times, and the issues of sound change [7, p. 67].

The difference and novelty of our research from the works of other authors with other names, published on the vocabulary of plants over the past 5 years, are as follows. In this study, the vocabulary of plants is not analyzed on the basis of lexical units of one language or a comparison of two languages. In the article, based on a comparison of four languages, phytonymic lexical units of the Oghuz group of Turkic languages, including Azerbaijani, Turkish, Turkmen and Gagauz, are analyzed. Also, unlike other studies listed above, in addition to the original meanings of words, their homonymous properties are analyzed based on the material of four languages. Also, unlike other studies, not only the modern pronunciation of phytonyms is analyzed, but also their archaic forms used in historical sources, in a comparative aspect with modern Azerbaijani, Turkish, Turkmen and Gagauz languages. We also testify that as an innovation only some of the phytonymic lexical

units analyzed here are used identically in the Oghuz group of Turkic languages, without any differences, while in most words there are differences in sound and letter or completely new lexical units are used.

Although the lexicon of phytonyms has a number of different aspects in the languages included in each of the Oghuz group, there are also a number of common features, with their etymologies mainly of Turkic origin. It should also be noted that there are some words of borrowed origin included in the lexicon of Turkic languages, the etymology of which can be discovered by examining the vocabulary units of the language they come from.

Sometimes the literary language material of one language included in the Oghuz group appears in the dialects of another. Sometimes, the word used in dialects is slightly different from the one in the literary language due to the difference in sound and letter. Sometimes the word used in the dialect has nothing to do with its counterpart in the literary language. The analysis of these and other facts conditions the study of the phytonym lexicon in the Turkic languages of the Oghuz group and provides a rich field of linguistic research and material for linguists.

#### **Presentation of the main research material.**

Thus, the vast majority of words that are already used in the vocabulary of Azerbaijani, Turkish, Turkmen and Gagauz languages and whose borrowing feature is not felt mainly coincide with the times when Islam spread from Arabic and Persian languages and the influence of these languages was widely felt. These types of words are mostly imperceptible words that are acquired in the language by passing to the vocabulary of the language with certain orthographic differences.

The study of the etymological points of the phytonym lexicon is also important in terms of the origin of these words used in the language, the source of their entry into the vocabulary of the language, and its current state of change. The Oghuz group of Turkic languages has a very rich dialectology related to plant cultivation. Comparison of lexical units and dialects of the literary language in the Oghuz group makes it possible to reveal the closeness between them.

This gives us grounds to assert that one of the scientific conclusions of the study is that only some words belonging to one language family are used identically, but other phytonymic lexical units show significant differences in the Oghuz group of Turkic languages. There are also some words whose equivalents are the same in the three languages included in the Oghuz group, but different in only one. The number of words of this type is quite large in

the floristic lexicon. Examples of this type of words are apple {alma} in Azerbaijani, Turkmen, and Gagauz languages, and elma, which occurs as a result of replacing the first vowel a with e in Turkish. In addition, the lexical units of bamboo {bambuk} and banana {banan}, which are used differently in only Turkish in the Oghuz group, can be an example. Thus, although the word bamboo {bambuk} in Azerbaijani, Turkmen and Gagauz languages is used in the form of bambu with the dropping of the last consonant letter k, the word banana is expressed by the word muz, which is a completely different lexical unit, in other languages except the Oghuz language.

There are some floristic lexical units used in the Turkmen language, whose counterparts in the Turkmen language are expressed in completely different words than in other languages of Oghuz group of Turkic languages. In the Azerbaijani, Turkmen and Gagauz languages, the word sapling {fidan}, which means the state of a tree after planting, is equivalent in Turkmen language to nahal; Another floristic lexical unit, which occurs as ore {filiz} in Azerbaijani, Turkmen and Gagauz languages, is the equivalent of the word purçuk in the Oghuz group of Turkic languages [8, p.30]. There are words that are part of some floristic lexicon, which are used in two of the Turkic languages of the Oghuz group in the same way, and in the other two they are either the same or partially or completely different. The word spike {sünbül} used in the Azerbaijani language is also included in the Turkmen language as “sünbül” but the same meaning in the Gagauz and Turkic languages spelling with quite different word “basak” [9, p. 731].

In the Turkmen language, the word head {baş} is also the primary meaning:

- 1) head as a body part;
- 2) corn;
- 3) hill;
- 4) the beginning;
- 5) tip;
- 6) chief, director;
- 7) real, actual;
- 8) grain;
- 9) person;
- 10) welding

as it also expresses different meanings depending on the scope of development. Comparatively, if we analyze the two word combinations in which the word “baş” is used in the Turkmen language, we can understand the different meanings of this homonymous word:

- bugday başy – spike wheat;
- mekgeçöven başlary – ears of corn;
- baýlygyn başy – the source of wealth, etc.

In addition, the word mulberry {tut} is the same in Azerbaijani and Turkmen languages [10, p.650]. Unlike the word «sünbül», the word «tut» is used as «düt» with the substitution of the consonants  $t \rightarrow d$ , not with a completely different lexical unit in words belonging to the other Oghuz group. Another word used almost identically with a letter change is the word olive {zeytun}, which is the same in Azerbaijani and Turkmen languages, and its counterpart in Gagauz and Turkic languages is the lexical unit of zeytin with the change of  $u \rightarrow i$ . The point to be noted is that in the Gagauz language there are images of this word olive as zeftun / zehlin / zetin. The word «garlic» {sarımsaq} in Azerbaijani is pronounced as «sarımsak» in Turkish with the change of  $q \rightarrow k$ , and in Gagauz and Turkmen languages as «sarımsak». However, although it is written as in Gagauz language, in Turkmen language it is written as sarymsak due to the fact that the sound [ɣ] is expressed with [y] in writing.

At the same time, there are some plant names used in the Gagauz language, which have variants that are used in the same way in the Turkish language. These words included in the lexicon of herbalism do not have the same meaning as the word of the same form in Turkish, and the reason is that these words are false equivalents. Examples of false equivalents used in the Gagauz language related to floristic lexicon are the words: juniper {andız}, plant {bitki}, planatus {çınar}. Thus, the word juniper {andız} is the name of a plant with thorny leaves spelling in the Turkish language in the same way as in the Gagauz language also, but in the Azerbaijani language this floristic lexicon unit spelling as ardıc. Another meaning of this word in the Gagauz language is desert [11, p. 140].

The meaning of the word plant {bitki} used in the Gagauz language means final, end, which is one of the false equivalents of the floristic lexicon. On the other hand, in the Gagauz language, the word planatus {çınar} is written in a similar form in the Turkish language and means as angry/nervous, but not the name of long-lived tree planatus.

Some examples of false equivalents of floristic vocabulary used in the Turkmen language are the words bulgur and botanic. Although the meaning of the word bulgur in Turkish is the bulgur cereal used in Azerbaijani language, the word bulgur in the Turkmen language gives different meanings such as crystal, crystal wine glass. The word grain {tahıl} is used in the Turkmen language in the sense of box / chest, which has a completely different meaning from the word grain {taxıl} in the Azerbaijani language [1, p. 113].

When studying the lexicon of plants, taking into account the breadth of words, they can be included

in the analysis within the group they belong to. If we look at the etymology of the word flower {çiçek}, which is almost the same in the Turkic languages of the Oghuz group, with a slight difference, we can find variates of çeçak\* / çiçak\* as the initial variant of the word in the ancient Uyghur, Karakhan-Uyghur languages. In the «Codex Kumanikus» texts, we can see that it is used in the form of şışek / şeşak with the consonant substitution  $\ç \rightarrow \ş$ . Besides, a similar meaning is expressed by the Mongolian word çeçег. The lexical unit in Mongolian and the counterpart in Turkish can be considered as an example for supporters of the idea that they come from the same root. This word çeçек, used as smallpox in «Divani lugat-it Turk», expressed the concept of disease as well as the name of flower. In addition to its original form, this word also has the meaning of smallpox in the modern Turkish, Azerbaijani languages, Crimean-Tatar, in the Crimean dialect of the Karaim language, in Kabarda-Balkar, Kumin, Tatar, Bashkir, Karakalpak, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Uzbek and Uyghur Turkic languages [10, p. 201]. In the Chagatai, Gagauz, Turkmen, Altai and Tuvin languages, this word is used only in the original meaning of flower. In Salar Turkish, the word çiçek, which is used as a flower, also means a bud in addition to its original meaning. Among the languages belonging to the Oghuz group, this word spelling as çiçek in Azerbaijani, çiçek in Turkmen and Gagauz languages, çeçек in Turkmen and Tuvin languages, and in other Turkic languages, respectively, Crimean Tatar, Kabarda-Balkar, Kumin, çeçек, çəçək in Tatar, səsək in Bashkir, şeşек in Kazakh, çeçек in Kyrgyz, Altai Turkic and used as çeçак in Uzbek languages.

Flower names have a special place in the floristic lexicon. The historical etymology of the word lily {zanbaq}, which is one of the units of the floristic lexicon, goes back to the Arabic language [1, p. 24]. Thus, the floristic unit is derived from the Arabic word قنباز\* [zanbak], which means bulbous plant. In ancient written sources, the word zanbak can be found in Khizir Pasha's «Muntahabi Shifa» and Omar bin Mazid's «Majmuatun Nazair».

Tree names are part of the floristic lexicon. The etymology of the lexical unit planatus, which stands out from these trees for its longevity, is derived from the Persian words لاناچ\* [chanal], راناچ\* [chanar]. It is possible to see that it is found in the form of chenar in the 14th century Masud bin Ahmed's «Suhheyl and Navbahar» and in the 16th century «Jamiul Furs» [8, p.85]. If we look at the current Turkic languages, it is used as çınar [chinar] in Azerbaijani, Bashkir, Uzbek, Tatar, Uyghur languages, as çınar

[chinar] in Turkish, and as şınar [shinar] in Kazakh language.

Conclusion. Among the differences in writing, we can mention the phenomenon of ringing in Azerbaijani language, the process of deafening in Turkish language, the dropping of the first consonant sound in Gagauz language, and in Turkmen language, consonants do not come together in writing, unlike the literary language of Azerbaijan. One of the factors that make up the difference is the substitution of e

in the words written in a similar form in the Turkic languages of the other Oghuz group, which exists in the Azerbaijani language.

Sometimes the Oghuz group is expressed by one word belonging to the phytonym lexicon of one of the Turkic languages, while it is possible to find it expressed by several words and synonyms in other languages belonging to this group. A similar phenomenon of synonymy is observed more often in Turkmen, especially in the Gagauz language.

#### REFERENCES:

1. Hüseynova, E. Ekolinqvistika: Oğuz qrupu türk dillərində flora və fauna ləksikası, Bakı: Elm və təhsil, 2024, 220 s.
2. Altuntaş, A. Gagavuz Türklerinde Bitki Adları ve Türkiye Türkçesiyle Karşılaştırılması. Uluslararası Beşeri Bilimler ve Eğitim Dergisi, 2018, 4(8), s. 432-447.
3. Abid, S. Azərbaycan Ağızlarında Kullanılan Yabani Bitki Adlarının Anlamsal ve Morfolojik İncelenmesi. Iğdır Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi, Iğdır, 2018. s. 235-248.
4. Karataş, E. Gagauz Atasözü ve Deyimlerinde Arkaik Kelimeler. III. Uluslararası Türk Dili ve Edebiyatı Öğrenci Kongresi, İstanbul, 2010. s. 1-17.
5. Kocaman, Ö. Pazaryeri (Bilecik) ve çevresinin damarlı bitkiler florası. Artvin Çoruh Üniversitesi Orman Fakültesi Dergisi, 18 (1), Artvin, 2017, s. 36-50.
6. Mierzwińska-Hajnos, A. The linguistic worldview revisited: a cognitive analysis of plant terms. The central European journal of social sciences and humanities, 46 (4), Poland, 2010, p. 457-479.
7. Huang, Y. A study on the interpretation model of plant nouns based on generative lexicon theory. Lawarath Social E-Journal, 6 (2), Thailand, 2024, p. 67-86.
8. Hüseynova, E. Ekolinqvistika: Oğuz qrupu türk dillərində relyef və iqlim ləksikası, Bakı: Elm və təhsil, 2024, 208 s.
9. Derleme Sözlüğü: [12 cildde] – Ankara: Türk Dil Kurumu, – c. 2: B. – 1993. – 835 s.
10. Türkmence Türkçe Sözlük. T. Tekin, M. Ölmez, E. Ceylan. Ankara: Simurg, – 1995. – 730 s.
11. Gagauz Türkçesinin Sözlüğü. İ. Kaynak, M. Doğru. Ankara: Kültür Bakanlığı, 1991, 284 s.