

## COMPOUND AND PSEUDO-COMPOUND WORDS IN ORKHON INSCRIPTIONS

*Aysel AHMEDOVA\**

### **Abstract:**

Compounding is one of the most productive ways of word-formation along with affixation in agglutinative languages. This is also true for modern Turkic languages. But in the language of Orkhon Inscriptions, the condition is different. There are very few compound words in Orkhon Turkic, most of them being proper names. But there are some phrases, including reduplicative words, composite names, numeral phrases and “compound verbs” that were considered as compound words by some researchers. The aim of this paper is to distinguish these pseudo-compounds from genuine compounds and to suggest that even without those few genuine compounds Orkhon Turkic could function and express very different ideas. So we assume that agglutinative languages can function without compound words, because they have larger opportunities for affixation.

**Key words:** Old Turkic, Orkhon Inscriptions, Word-Formation, Genuine Compound Words, Pseudo-Compounds.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The main ways of word-formation in agglutinative languages are morphological and syntactical methods, i.e. affixation and compounding, respectively. But there is an important question: Can agglutinative languages function without compounding, the important way of word-formation, can their users express their thoughts without any restrictions?

One of the most productive ways of word-formation in modern Turkic languages is called syntactic word-formation, i.e. compounding. The number of compounds in these languages is more than the number of the products of other word-formation processes, except affixation. However, the condition in the language of Orkhon Inscriptions is completely different and confusing. These inscriptions are among the oldest written monuments of Turkic languages, and learning their language is important for turkologic investigations. That’s why the data on the syntactical word-formation must be used for solving the problematic issues of general Turkic word-formation system.

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\* Res. Assist., Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences Institute of Linguistics named after Nesimi - Baku/Azerbaijan aysel\_009@mail.ru

## 1. THE THEORETICAL PROBLEMS OF SYNTACTICAL WORD-FORMATION AND THE MAIN FEATURES OF COMPOUND WORDS AS A PRODUCT OF WORD-FORMATION

The product of syntactical word-formation is a compound word. Identifying compound words and distinguishing them from other similar constructions is not easy. It caused many problems in turkology, and led the scholars to include some nominal and verbal phrases, phraseological units into this category.

Not determining the demarcations of compound words, confusing compound words with other syntactical phrases are spread widely in turkology. As a result, such syntactical units were included into compound words that are not related to them, are not formed as independent lexical units. Although syntactical word-formation is productive in modern Turkic languages, it is still less active than morphological way. Some scholars divide compound words into compounds that began to be formed recently, compounds that are in forming process, and compounds that are formed completely (Cəfərov, 2007, p. 171). But how can the compounds that aren't formed completely be called independent words? The situation is more complicated in modern Turkish language. Most of the Turkish linguists couldn't distinguish compound words and syntactical phrases (Koç, 2007; Korkmaz, 1994), though some of them tried to distinguish these two categories, at least they only accepted the compounds that are formed completely and written adjacently (Sinanoğlu, 1958, p. 12).

These debates also continued in the researches on Orkhon Turkic. Some scholars assume that there were not many compound words, or syntactical word-formation was not used in Orkhon Turkic at all, or on the contrary Orkhon Turkic is rich in compounds. One of the supporters of the last thought was G.Ajdarov (Айдаров, 1971, p. 162). But he could give only a few examples for compound words, and did not even accept all of them as genuine compounds. A.Shukurlu included a lot of constructions into compound words that are not genuine compounds, such as *Şantun yazı*, *Ötüken yış*, *tokuz oğuz*, *otuz tatar* (Şükürlü, 1993, p. 82-83).

Main features of compounds that distinguish them from other words and phrases can be determined as the following:

a) Syntactical connection between components of compound words are stabilized, whereas these connections are alive in nominal or verbal phrases.

Although compound words are also formed with syntactical connections between their components, but it is only about their formation process. As soon as the formation process is over, they lose their syntactical connection (Есипова, 2014, p. 31), as they become lexical units, not syntactical.

b) Constituents of compound words came together to make a new lexical unit, they lose their independent meanings fully or partially. However, it does not mean that constituents of syntactical phrases are not semantically connected. It only means that their constituents continue to be independent lexemes, not parts of words. The first constituents of syntactical phrases usually depict types of second components, in other words, they explain the second ones.

c) Compound words are lexical units with single stress, while each component of syntactical phrases keeps its own stress. This feature proves that many phrases that are called compound words by some scholars are merely syntactical units.

d) Compound words being the units of language exist in the language for a long time, have been used since ancient times. However, syntactical phrases are the units of speech, and they are created in the speaking process.

e) Neither an extra word nor a new suffix can be added to the constituents of compound words.

These features help us to distinguish compound words from other lexical and syntactical units. But defining compound words in Orkhon Turkic is more difficult than in modern languages, because:

a) Orkhon Turkic is not used in modern world, thus the stress of the words cannot be determined. Using the stress pattern as a distinguishing method between compound words and syntactical phrases is not helpful here.

b) In Orkhon Inscriptions, the only way to separate words is the mark [:]. But it is not useful that much in this case, because in most instances, it was not used between words, but between syntagms. In one example, it was even used to split the subject and the object from the predicate, but there was no separating mark between the subject and the object. Obviously these words do not have any syntactical relationship, but maybe the reason of not using splitting mark between them is related to the intonation pattern that we cannot determine today. At least one thing is clear, it was not used inside simple and derivative words. According to this information, we can assume that this mark might not be used inside compound words, either. So if there is a splitting mark between constituents it proves that this is not a compound word, but a phrase.

## **2. THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COMPOUND WORDS AND THE PHRASES SIMILAR TO THEM**

There are some nominal and verbal phrases in Orkhon Inscriptions that are similar to compound words and accepted as compounds by some turkologists. They can be called “pseudo-compound words”. These include

reduplicative words, composite names, numeral phrases, and so-called compound verbs.

### 2.1. Reduplicative Words

Reduplication is used for several purposes: to strengthen the meaning, to enrich the meaning (Hatiboğlu, 1981, p. 9), to increase the meaning, to simplify the meaning (Hatiboğlu, 1981, p. 56-57), to express collective, general, and abstract meanings (Ганиев, 1982, p. 58), to show expressiveness (Ганиев, 1982, p. 59). Reduplicative words and the phrases similar to them have been common in Turkic languages since ancient times. M.Kashgari noticed that they are used in the language of Oghuz more than the other Turkic ethnic groups (Hatiboğlu, 1981, p. 11).

The meaning of the term reduplicative words here is not identical to the meaning of the same term used for the modern Turkic languages. The main difference is the lack of some features belonging to the compound words in the so-called reduplicative words of Orkhon Turkic. In other words, the reduplicatives in modern Turkic have more common features with compound words than the reduplicatives in Orkhon Inscriptions:

a) In Orkhon Inscriptions case and possessive suffixes can be easily added to the both components of reduplicatives, which is not typical for compound words and reduplicative words in the modern Turkic languages.

b) The grammatical suffixes in reduplicative words are alive in Orkhon Turkic. They keep their grammatical functions. On the contrary, in compound words grammatical suffixes lose their functions, and become the permanent parts of the words, like ordinary sounds. For example, in the word *ayaqqabi* ‘shoe’ (Azerbaijani), there is a possessive suffix in the second part of the word:

*Ayaq+qab-i*

Foot wear-POSS

‘Shoes’

But this suffix lost its grammatical meaning, and when the word is used in the possessive construction, it needs an extra possessive ending:

*Mən-im ayaqqabı-m*

I-GEN shoes-POSS

‘my shoes’

But the words like *atı küsi* ‘name and repute’ do not need any other possessive ending to be used in the possessive construction, for instance,

*Türk bodun-un at-ı kü-si*

Turkic people name-POSS repute-POSS

‘the name and the repute of Turkic people’

It makes us to believe that, unlike the suggestions of some turkologists, there is not a word like *atı küsi* in Orkhon Inscriptions. It is just a nominal phrase formed with coordination containing synonyms *atı* and *küsi*.

There is a large number of so-called reduplicative words which, to our opinion, are phrases. Here are some examples:

Yeti yüz er bol-ıp *elsire-mis*,  
*kağansıra-mis* bodun-ıǵ, *küjed-mis*,  
*kulad-mis* bodun-ıǵ... (Kul tigin east 13)

Seven hundred man be-CVB lose\_state-PTCP  
lose\_kaghan-PTCP people-ACC become\_female\_slave-  
PTCP become\_slave-PTCP people-ACC...

‘Being seven hundred men ... the people that lost their state and kaghan, the people that became female slave and slaves...’

...*yer-i-ıjerü*, *sub-ı-ıjaru* kon-tı (Bilge  
Kaghan east 40)

...place-POSS.3.SG-LAT water-POSS.3.SG-LAT settle\_down-PST...

‘...settled down in their place and water’

...*is-ig*, *küç-ig* ber-ti-m ök... (Tonikuk 52)

...work-ACC strength-ACC give-PST-1.SG PTCL...

‘...I gave my work and strength...’

These examples prove that unlike the genuine compound words both sides of reduplicatives are independent, they both can get grammatical suffixes, or other words can be added between them.

The phrase *yir sub* was also called a compound, but to our opinion, it is not formed completely as a compound word in Orkhon Turkic. However, there is a compound word in modern Tatar which is similar to *yir sub*. This word is *il-su* ‘homeland’ (Ганиев, 1982, p. 37). The phrase *atı küsi* also has an equivalent in modern Tatar: *atı-çabı* ‘fame’ (Ганиев, 1982, p. 38). This is not a compound word, either, because both parts of the phrase accepted the suffix of accusative phrase.

The mark [:] which is used to separate words, is sometimes used between the constituents of reduplicative words, and sometimes not. It occurs even in the same words, for example, *eçüm apam* is written adjacently in the first line of Ongin Inscription and in the 19<sup>th</sup> line of the east part of Kul Tigin Inscription, but is written with the mark [:] in the first and

the 13<sup>th</sup> lines of Kul Tigin Inscription. The same thing can be said for the reduplicatives like *eb bark* and *iç taş*. The situation is very confusing, if they all had been written together, without splitting mark it would be much more easier to identify them as compounds.

Reduplicative words in Turkic languages have some specific features: their components are similar for their phonetic structures. They have a clear order. The following words come first: shorter word, a word that have vowel as its first phoneme, etc. (Hatiboğlu, 1981, p. 15-17). Among our examples the words *eb bark*, *iç taş*, *is küç* fit these rules.

Components of reduplicative words can have several semantical relationships: they can be synonyms (*eb bark*, *itdim yaratdım*, *küñedmis kuladmis*), antonyms (*begli bodunlu*), or they can be the words that belong to the same semantical row, i.e. they are related to each other (*eçü apa*). Sometimes reduplicative words are based on iteration of the same word, but this type of reduplicatives was not found in the language of the Inscriptions.

The meaning of the whole phrase can be equal to the total of the meaning of components (*begli bodunlu*), can be more general than the meaning of components (*eçü apa*), can increase meaning, expressiveness of components (*yir sub*), can reduce the meaning of components, can be the average of the meanings of components (Ганиев, 1982, p. 64).

There is a special linking element that is used in reduplicative words. This is the suffix *-li*. For example,

<i>...inili-eçili</i>	<i>kiñsür-tüg-in</i>
<i>üçün, begli-bodunlığ</i>	<i>yoñsur-tuk-ın üçün...</i> (Kul Tigin east 6)
...little_brother big_brother	make_opposite-PTCP-GEN
POST with_beg with_people	make_enemy-PTCP-GEN POST...

‘...because they make the little brothers and big brothers against each other, they make begs and people enemies...’

<i>...önig</i>	<i>yoğaru sü</i>	<i>yor-ıp tünlü-künlü</i>
<i>yiti</i>	<i>ödüş-ke subsız</i>	<i>keç-di-m</i> (Bilge Kaghan south-east)
...in_front	up army	lead with_day with_night
seven days	without_water	cross

‘...in front of there leading the army, I crossed seven days and nights without water’

This element is used even between phrases which proves that the words linked with this suffix do not form compounds:

Sakın-tı-m: *turuk bukalı, semiz bukalı*  
 arka-da bil-ser... (Tonikuk 5-6)

Think-PST-1.SG lean with\_bull fat with\_bull  
 back\_LOC know-COND...

‘I thought: if he knows lean bull and fat bull from the back...’

## 2.2. Composite Names

Composite names are nominal phrases that are used to depict the names of people, places, organizations, etc. Although they are not actual lexical units, but syntactical phrases, in some turkologic researches composite names were included into compound nouns. There are too many composite nouns in Orkhon Turkic to show, but we give some examples below in order to analyze their characteristics and to distinguish them from genuine compound nouns.

...İlgerü *Şantun yazı-ka tegi süle-di-m...* (Kul Tigin south 3)

...Ahead Shantun step-DAT POST attack-PST-1.SG....

‘...Ahead of there I attacked to the Shantun step...’

*Altun yıs-da olur-ın, ti-di* (Tonikuk 31).

Altun forest-LOC sit-IMP-1.PL say-PST

‘Sit at the Altun forest, said he’.

Tekeş *Kül tudun ini-si...* (Ihe Ashete 1)

Tekesh Kul tudun little\_brother-POSS.3.SG...

‘Tekesh, the little brother of Kul tudun...’

So it is clear that Shantun is the name of a step, Altun is the name of a forest, and Kul is the name of a man who is a tudun (military rank). It means that only the first part of these phrases is used to depict the name, the second part is a common noun, that is used together with the proper name just to demonstrate what category the owner of the name belongs to.

*Taluy ügüz* is not considered as a composite name by A.N.Kononov. The well-known turkologist present this phrase as a reduplicative word with the meaning ‘ocean-sea’ (Kononov, 1980, p. 99). But we have to say that the first word means ‘sea’ and the second ‘river’ in Orkhon Turkic, and it is not much possible to combine these two words. Even if they are combined with the meaning ‘ocean-sea’, it can’t be called reduplication, because reduplication expresses two or more notions together, not a notion that combines two different meanings. For instance, *eçü apa* means ‘uncles and fathers’, i.e. ‘ancestors’, not a person who is both an uncle and a father.

*Taluy ügüz* is used as a parallel to *Şantun balık*, another composite name, that's why we dare to say that *Taluy* is the name of the river here.

Santuñ balık-a, *Taluy ügüz-ke* tegürtim (Tonikuk 19)

Santun city-DAT Taluy river-DAT make\_reach-PST-1.SG

'I made them reach to Shantun city and Taluy river'

There are some exceptions that the second part doesn't express the type of the owner:

a) *Kara kum*

'lit. black sand'

Çuğay kuz-iğ, *Kara kum-iğ* olur-ur er-ti-miz  
(Tonikuk 17)

Chughay mountain-ACC Kara Kum-ACC sit-PRS be-PST-1.PL

'We were sitting in the Chughay mountain and Kara Kum'

It is a name of the desert in Asia. The second component does not mean the whole desert, but a part of it, sand. That's why it is hard to separate two components of this composite noun. In other words, *Kara* cannot be used independently to depict that desert. The name of the desert is *Kara Kum*. This is very close to the genuine compounds.

b) *Temir kapığ*

'lit. iron door'

*Temir kapığ-ka* tegi ir-ti-miz, an-ta  
yantur-tı-mız (Tonikuk 45)

Temir kapıg-DAT POST reach-PST-1.PL there-LOC  
return-PST-1.PL

'We reached to Temir kapıg and returned from there'

It is a name of the place that is used very often in Orkhon Inscriptions. *Temir* cannot be used alone to show the same meaning, and *kapığ* does not really mean 'door' here. In other words, *Temir kapığ* is not a name of a door, but a name of a place.

c) *Besbalık*

'lit. five cities'

...*Besbalık-a* bar-ır... (Hoytu Temir 1st 4)

...Besbalık-DAT go-PRS...



‘...He goes to Besbalik...’

This is the name of the city, and its components were always used together to depict this city. The splitting mark was never used between the components. *Besbalik* does not express five cities together, it expresses only one city. That’s why, to our opinion, it can be accepted as a genuine compound.

### 2.3. Numeral Phrases

This term is used to identify the phrases consisting of several numerals. These phrases are widely used in all the languages of the world. There are some researchers among the turkologists claiming that these phrases are compound numerals. However, these phrases don’t have phonetical, semantical, and grammatical features of compound words. First of all, each components of these syntactical units has its own stress, which is not appropriate to the stress pattern of compounds that must be phonetically formed. Secondly, the meaning of these phrases are identical with other syntactical constructions, the components of them are semantically connected, but they do not form a single meaning. And finally, there is no restrictions for using several numerals in these phrases. The number of numeral phrases is very large, and it is not typical for word-formation. These phrases do not exist in the language as full-fledged lexical units, they are made in the speaking process.

...eki-üç miz... (Tonikuk 14)	biñ	sü-miz	kel-teçü-
...two-three	thousand	army-POSS.1.PL	come-FUT-1.PL...

‘...we will come with our army of two or three thousand people...’

Men yigirmi yıl artukı bir	tokuz kağan	yigirmi yıl olurtım,	şad il	olur-tım tut-dı-m.	tokuz Otuz
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I twenty year plus one...	nine kaghan	twenty year sit-PST-1.SG	shad state	sit-PST-1.SG catch-PST-1.SG.	nine Thirty plus one...
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‘I had been shad four nineteen years, kaghan for nineteen years, made a state. Thirty one...’

The examples help us to confirm that numeral phrases are not compound words, since the word *artukı* might be added between them. When this word is used, the meaning of the phrase is equal to the total of the components:

...men ay artuki tört kün olur-ıp biti-di-m,  
bediz-ti-m... (Bilge kaghan south-west)

...I month plus four day sit-CVB write-PST-  
1.SG ornament-PST-1.SG...

‘...I wrote and ornamented it by sitting for a month and four days...’

Thereby, numeral phrases have special logical laws that distinguishes them from all other phrases and compound words.

### 3. THE PROBLEM OF COMPOUND VERBS IN ORKHON TURKIC

It is one of the biggest problems of turkology, and caused a lot of debates and discussuions, but it hasn’t solved yet. According to some turklogists syntactical word-formation is as productive in verbs as it is in nominals, however, it is not the only thought on this matter. Many scholars including T.Hajiyev and E.Azizov (Hacıyev, 1988, p. 8), A.Rajabli, Y.Seyidov (Seyidov, 2006, p. 103) deny the existence of compound verbs in Turkic languages. Even those linguists who accept the existence of compound verbs in Turkic languages do not consider them as words, but call them word-groups (Yiğitbaşı, p. 369; Şükürlü, 1993, p. 117). Compound verbs are not very common for other languages, either. H.Marchand used the term pseudo-compounds for the compounds formed with the combination of nouns or adjectives with verbs (Trias, 2010, p. 155). Some authors completely denied the existence of compound verbs in some of the Roman languages (Trias, 2010, p. 220), and others consider it “a non-productive process in English” (Lamberty, 2013, p. 621). There is also such an idea that unlike nominal compounds, verbal compounds cannot freely occur in all types of languages (Bagasheva, 2013, p. 55).

#### 3.1. Nominal+Verb Constructions

These constructions have auxiliary verbs as their second components. As we mention above, compound words are based on the combination of the lexical meanings of the constituents. So if a part of a construction doesn’t have an independent meaning, the term compound word cannot be used.

Here are some examples:

Ol kan yok bol-tuk-da kisre el yit-mis,  
ıçğın-mıs, kaçış-mış... (Ongin front 1)

That khan disappear-PTCP-LOC after state (people) be\_lost-  
PST disappear-PST run\_away-PST...

‘After that khan disappeared, state (people) lost, disappeared, and ran away...’

...çıǵañ bodun-ıǵ *bay kıl-tım,* az bodun-ıǵ *ükiş*  
*kıl-tım* (Kul Tigin south 10)  
...poor people-ACC rich make-PST-1.SG few people many  
make-PST-1.SG

‘...I made poor people rich, few people many’

The second parts of them, being auxiliary verbs, do not have an independent lexical meaning. And it is one of the main reasons why we can’t accept the nominal+verb constructions as compound verbs. If we include these constructions into compound words, then we must accept the nominal+postposition constructions as compound words, as well. Because in both construction types the first part is a nominal, and the second part is an auxiliary word, without an independent lexical meaning.

In nominal+verb constructions, the first component carries all the lexical meaning, and the second part is just used to verbalize it (Özkan, 2013, p. 14; Baydar, 2013, p. 58)., i.e. the second part acts as a suffix. This led some scholar to call them not words, but morphemes (Bacanlı, 2013, p. 30). It helps to associate nominal+verb constructions with derivative verbs (Müasir, 1980, p. 216). E.V.Sevortyan wrote that the content of the acting process is given with nominal, and verb only expresses the idea of action in general (Султакаева, 2013, p. 126).

The other reason why we can’t accept them as compounds is the independence of the first part. As is known, verbs are not used with attributes, but with adverbials. But the first parts of the nominal+verb constructions can get their own attributes, for example,

*O yaxşı adam oldu.* (Azerbaijani)

He good man be-PST

‘He became a good man’

*Yaxşı* ‘good’ is the attribute of *adam* ‘man’ which is a part of the construction *adam olmaq* ‘to be a man’, it does not belong to the whole construction. This situation is not typical for verbs.

There are a very large number of these constructions in the language which is not typical for word-formation process. Every nominal can be used with an auxiliary verb and create this type of construction. It means that all nominals multiple by two makes compound verbs (Hacıyev, 1988, p. 7). The syntactical phrases that come together with auxiliary verbs can also be included into this group. One can add auxiliary verbs (*bol-* and *kıl* in the language of Orkhon Inscriptions) to every nominal, regardless of its meaning. There is not any restrictions for making these constructions. It contradicts

the rules of word-formation which is strongly dependent on the meaning of words being used in this process.

### 3.2. Verb+Verb Constructions

These phrases are also called analytical verbs, and usually contain a main verb in the form of converb and an auxiliary verb. Analytism is giving a meaning complex with more than one word (Есипова, 2014, p. 30). “When only one of the verbs in a verb phrase is lexical to any degree, the construction is called ‘analytical’” (Erdal, 2004, p. 245).

Alp	Şalçı	ak	at-1-n		
binip	<i>oplayu</i>	<i>teg-di,</i>	eki	er-ig	
	<i>udış-ru</i>	<i>sanç-di</i>	(Kul tigin north 2)		
Alp	Shalchi	white	horse-POSS.3.SG-AC		
take_a_horse-CVB	attack-CVB	reach-PST	two	man-ACC	
fight-CVB	blow-PST				

‘Taking the white horse of Alp Shalchi he reached attacking, blew two men fighting with them’

Kün	yeme,	tün	yeme	<i>yel-ü</i>	<i>bar-di-muz</i>
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(Tonikuk 27)

Day too night too gallop-CVB go-PST-1.PL

‘We went galloping day and night’

The examples show that unlike modern Turkic languages in the language of Orkhon Inscriptions components of these constructions are independent semantically, phonetically, and grammatically. Second parts of these phrases are not really auxiliary verbs, they have their own lexical meanings, and can be used independently. They are syntactical units, in other words, they are verbal phrases.

Only the constructions with the verb *bir-* ‘to give’ are close to the analytical verbs in the modern Turkic languages:

Olur-ıpan türk	bodun-ın	il-i-n,	törü-si-n
	<i>tut-a</i>	<i>bir-mis,</i>	<i>it-i</i>
	<i>bir-mis</i>	(Kul Tigin east 1)	
Sit-CVB	Turkic people-GEN	state-POSS.3.SG-ACC	law-POSS-
3.SG-ACC	catch-CVB	give-PST	make-CVB
	give-PST		

‘Sitting there caught and made the state and the law of Turkic people’

...türk-im-e, bodun-ım-a  
*kazğan-u bir-ti-m, it-i bir-ti-m...* (Bilge  
 Kaghan north 12)

...Turk-POSS.1.SG-DAT people-POSS.1.SG-DAT  
 earn-CVB give-PST-1.SG make-CVB give-PST-1.SG...

‘...I earned and made for my Turks, for my people...’

According to some turkologists the seconds parts of these constructions are similar to grammatical suffixes (Anderson, 2003, p. 9; Müasir, 1980, p. 221). These makes us to think that this is not a word-formation process, because it does not form a new lexical meaning, but changes the grammatical properties of words. “Grammatical form, regardless to its complexity cannot be considered as a result of word-formation’ (Ганиев, 1982, p. 10).

F.Ganijev notes that there are ten thousands of these constructions in modern Tatar (Ганиев, 1982, p. 10). The products of word-formation cannot be this many.

### 3.3. Verbs With An Internal Object

Though verbs with an internal object are called compound verbs by most researchers, they are merely verbal phrases containing main verb and its internal object. By using the term internal object we mean a noun that has the same root with a verb. Components of these phrases are used together to depict an action, but they don’t make words that are formed semantically, phonetically, and grammatically. Components keep their independent meanings, stress, and syntactic relations, which is not possible for compound words.

*Bilig bil-m-ez kisi, ol sab-ıĝ*  
 al-ıp, yaĝru bar-ıp, üküś kiři öl-tig (Kul Tigin  
 south 7)

Knowledge know-NEG-PTCL man, that word-ACC  
 take-PST, near go-PST, many man die-PST

‘People who don’t know anything took that word, went near, and a lot of people died’.

*Sü süle-pen tört buluĝ-da-kı bodun-ıĝ*  
 kop al-mıř, kop baz kıl-mıs... (Kul  
 Tigin east 2)

Army march-CVB four direction-LOC-ADJ people-  
 ACC all take-PST, all prisoner make-PST...

‘Marching with the army he captured all the people in the four directions, captivated all of them...’

The objects in these constructions can have their own attributes:

...kırk artukı yeti yolu süle-mis, yegirmi  
*süñüs süñüsmis* (Kul Tigin east 15).

...forty plus seven times march-PST, twenty  
battle fight-PST.

‘...marched forty seven times, fought twenty times’.

...bunça bitig bitı-di-m... (Kuli Chor 28)

‘...this\_many writing write-PST-1.SG...’

‘I wrote this many writings’.

Nearly most of the verbs and their internal objects are written with splitting mark.

Existence of verbs with internal object in Orkhon Inscriptions caused the formation of some nouns, or verbs by conversion. For example, the verb *süñüş-* occurred widely in Inscriptions, but its noun counterpart was used rarely and only together with the verb. It proves that the verb is older than the noun, and the noun was based on the verb. Or the noun *bediz-* and its derivatives were widely used, while the verb *bediz-* was used in few occasions, and mostly together with the nouns from the same root. It makes the idea that the noun *bediz* is older than the verb, and the verb first used only with internal object, after that it turned into an independent word.

...*bediz-i-n* *bediz-ti* olur-tı (Kuli Chor 24).

...ornament-POSS.3.SG-ACC ornament-PST sit-PST

‘...He ornamented his ornament and sat’

Ağu-da eki uluğ süñüş süñüş-dim (Bilge Kaghan east 34).

Aghu-LOC two big fight fight-PST-1.SG

‘He fought in two big fights in Aghu’

### 3.4. Phraseological Units

We can assume that these units are between syntactical phrases and compound words. They are formed semantically, their meaning is not equal to the total of the meanings of their components. They live in the language for a long time, they are parts of the lexical system of language. But they cannot be included into compound words, i.e. they are not words. Because

they are not phonetically formed, the components keep their independent stress. Some of them can change their components, suffixes in their components or can accept extra words between their components.

There is a small number of phraseological units in Orkhon Inscriptions:

Ança kazğan-ıp biriki bodun-ıǵ ot sub  
*kul-ma-dı-m* (Kul tigin east 27)

This\_much earn-CVB joint people-ACC grass water  
 make-NEG-PST-1.SG

‘Earning this much I did not separate the joint people’

*Teñri, yir bulǵak-ın* üçün yaǵı bol-tı (Kul tigin  
 north 4)

Sky ground mixed-GEN for enemy become-PST

‘They became enemy because the sky and the ground mixed together’

...kañ-ım İteris kağan-ıǵ, ög-im  
 İlbilge katun-ıǵ teñri töpe-sin-te tut-ıp  
*yögerü kötür-mis* erinç (Kul tigin east 11)

...father-POSS.1.SG İteris kaghan-ACC mather-POSS.1.SG  
 Ilbilge katun-ACC God top-POSS.1.SG-LOC capture-  
 PST above lift-PSTMOD

‘...probably, God took my father İteris kaghan and my mother Ilbilge katun on top and took them up’

Altun yıs-ıǵ yolsız-ın as-dım,  
 Ertis ügüz-ig keçigsiz-in keç-di-miz,  
*tün kat-dı-mız* (Tonikuk 35)

Altun forest-ACC without\_a\_way-INS pass\_over\_PST-  
 1.SG Ertis river-ACC without\_a\_pass-INS cross-PST-1.PL  
 night add-PST-1.PL

‘We pass over the Altun forest without a way, crossed the Ertis river without a pass, we went day and night’

#### 4. GENUINE COMPOUND WORDS IN ORKHON INSCRIPTIONS

There are a few examples of these words in Orkhon Inscriptions:

a) *Elteber*:

...bin-ip oplayu teg-di, az  
*elteber-ig* tut-dı (Kul Tigin north 3).

...take\_a\_horse-CVB    attack-CVB    reach-PST,    Az  
elteber-ACC    capture-PST,

‘...he attacked taking a horse, captured the elteber of az people’.

...bunça                      bedizçi-g                      Toyğun  
*Elteber* kelür-ti (Kul Tigin north-east).

...this\_many-ACC              decorator-ACC              Toyghun  
Elteber bring-PST.

‘...Toygun Elteber brought this many decorators’.

This word depicts a military rank, and consists of two words: *el* and *teber*. *El* means ‘state’. The meaning of *teber* is not obvious, but it can be assumed that it is a participle with the suffix *-er*. According to A.N.Kononov (Кононов, 1980, p. 102), *teb-* comes from *teg-* ‘to reach’. But this idea doesn’t fully explain the meaning of the whole word. There is a verb *tebre-* ‘to move’, ‘to swing’, ‘to tremble’ in Old Turkic (Древнетюркский, 1969, p. 546). Its root is the verb *teb-*. *Teb-/tep-/dep-* is still used in modern Turkish, Turkmen, Uzbek, Gagauz, Kumyk, Karaim, Karakalpak, Uyghur. This word has the meanings ‘to push’, ‘to push the horse forward’, ‘to beat’, ‘to attack’, ‘to move resolutely’ and the like (Этимологический 3, 1980, p. 196). *Elteber* as a military title might mean either ‘the one who pushes the people forward’ or ‘the one who makes people obey’.

b) *Elteris*:

Капаған                      *Elteris* kağan eli-η-e                      kılın-tı-m  
(Ongin front 4).

Conquer-PTCP    *Elteris* kaghan state-Poss.3.SG-DAT    bring    up-  
PASS-PST-1.SG.

‘I was brought up in the state of *Elteris* kaghan, the conqueror’.

...birle,                      *İlteris* kağan bol-ayın (Tonikuk 7).

...together                      *İlteris* kagan be-IMP.1.SG.

‘Let me be *İlteris* kaghan together with...’

This is the name of the first kaghan of the Second Gokturk Empire. The first component of this word is also the noun *il*. As we mentioned above, *el/il* means ‘state, people’. The meaning of the second part is not clear. According to A.N.Kononov, the word *teris* means ‘to gather’, ‘assembly’ (Кононов, 1980, p. 102). This explanation can be accepted, since *İlteris* kaghan gathered Turkic people that obeyed to China after the fall of the First Gokturk Empire, and formed a new state. The verb *ter-* ‘to gather, to collect’ is used in Old Turkic, and *teris-* is the cooperative voice of this verb



(Древнетюркский, 1969, p. 553-554). There is another meaning of *teris*: ‘to combine’ (Этимологический 3, 1980, p. 204). So, *Elteris* means ‘the one who gathers people and unites the state’.

c) *İlbilge*:

...kaŋ-ım	İlteris	kağan-ıǵ,	ög-im
<i>İlbilge</i> katun-ıǵ	teŋri	töpe-sin-te	tut-ıp
yögerü kötür-mis	erinç (Kul Tigin east 11)		
...father-POSS.1.SG	İlteris	kagan-ACC,	mather-POSS.1.SG
<i>İlbilge</i> katun-ACC	God	top-POSS.3.SG	take-CVB
up lift-PST	MOD		

‘...probably, God took my father İlteris kaghan and my mother İlbilge katun on top and took them up’

*İlbilge katun* is the wife of *İlteris kaghan*. Her name consists of two words: *il* ‘state’ and *bilge* ‘wise’, means ‘the wise person of the state’. This name may be given to her because she was a wise person and gave useful advice to rule the state. According to Sir Gerard Clauson, this was also an official title meaning ‘counsellor’ (Clauson, 1972, p. 340). There are a lot of Turkic kaghans with this word in their names: *Bilge kaghan*, *Kutlugh Bilge Kul kaghan*, *Alp Kutlugh Bilge kaghan*, *Kulug Bilge kaghan* and so on.

d) *Eletmis*:

<i>Eletmis</i> Yabǵu	oǵl-ı	Işbara
Tamǵan (Ongin front 4).		
<i>Eletmis</i> Yabghu	son-POSS.3.SG	Ishbara
Tamghan		

‘*Eletmis Yabghu*’s son *Ishbara Tamghan*’.

The first component of this name is also the noun *el/il*, and the second component is the participle *etmis*. *Et-/it-* means ‘to gather, to make’, and the meaning of the whole compound is ‘a person who gathers people, makes state’.

The first component of all these nouns is the word *el/il*.

One important thing about these words is that they are proper names, except *elteber*, which means their formation is different than all the other words. Proper names are used to identify a person, and when we use them we don’t usually think about the meanings of their roots. But it is also important to mention that in Orkhon Inscriptions the meaning of the roots of proper names play important role for the usage of the name. For example, *İlteris* means ‘the person who gathers people, state’, and he was the kaghan who brought Turkic people together for the second time.

Another word that can be called compound is *küntüz* ‘day’:

...*küntüz* olur-sık-ım kel-me-di (Tonikuk 12)

...day sit-PTCP-POSS.1.SG come-NEG-PST

‘...I did not want to sit at the day’

...*küntüz* olurmatı... (Tonikuk 52).

...day sit-NEG-PST...

‘...he did not sit at the day’

It can be said that *küntüz* comes from the combination of two words: *kün* ‘day’ and *tüz* ‘correct, straight’, and means ‘the time when the rays of the Sun comes straight’, ‘the time when the Sun is on top’ or ‘the middle of the day’. Some researchers assume that *-tüz* is a derivative suffix, among them are W.Bang, J.Deny, A. fon Gabain (Этимологический 3, 1980, p. 103). But there is no other evidence of the use this suffix in Turkic languages. This word is going to be used in modern Turkic languages in different phonetic forms: *gündüz* (Azerbaijan), *gündiz* (Turkmen), *kündiz* (Nogai and Karakalpak), *kündüz* (Karachai-Malkar), etc. (Этимологический 3, 1980, p. 102). In Khakas and Chuvash, it means ‘noon, midday’ (Этимологический 3, 1980, p. 103). This confirms the idea given above. In Chuvash, there is also the word *kündüri* ‘south’ (Этимологический 3, 1980, p. 103) which can be compared to the construction *kün ortusu* ‘south’ in Orkhon Inscriptions. Though there is a consensus among the turkologists about this word coming from the combination of two parts, *kün* and *tüz*, it is still not clear whether *tüz* is a word or a suffix, and what the real meaning of this part is. E.V.Sevortyan (Этимологический 3, 1980, p. 103) and G.Clauson (Clauson, 1972, p. 729) agree with *tüz* being a word.

The words *Kara kum*, *Temir kapığ*, and *Besbalık* can also be included into these list.

The only genuine compounds in Orkhon Inscriptions that is not a proper name are *elteber* and *küntüz*, and the first one is a name of a military rank.

##### **5. WHY DO WE SUPPOSE THAT SYNTACTICAL WAY OF WORD-FORMATION DID NOT PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ORKHON TURKIC?**

As we look into the examples carefully, we can say that, most of the units that are called compound words in Orkhon Turkic are not the products of word-formation. Reduplicative words are just nominal phrases formed with coordinate connection. Composite names are examples of nominal phrases with subordinate connection that are used to depict proper names.

The number of the numeral phrases in the language is too large to assume that they are results of word-formation. Every numeral can be used together with every other numeral to express larger numbers. And finally, compound verbs are not lexical units, but verbal phrases that can contain nouns and verbs, verbs and verbs, can have nouns depicting objects of verbs with the same root, can have metaphorical meanings. All of these constructions are not the units of language, but they are the units of speech.

There are few examples for genuine compound words. Their components came together to form a lexical unit that have single meaning, single stress, are written together without a splitting mark. Grammatical suffixes can be added only to the second parts of these words, the first parts cannot change grammatically. We cannot add extra words between their components. But most of these compound words are proper nouns. Proper nouns have different meaning and word-formation rules than the other words. Their meanings are not equal to the people, or places they belong to.

All of these reasons helps us to claim that syntactical way of word-formation didn't play an important role in Orkhon Turkic. It was only used to name people or places. Even without this way Orkhon Turkic had a great lexicon, and could function during centuries. That's why to our opinion, syntactical way (compounding) was a newer type of word-formation, appeared after morphological way (affixation). Orkhon Turkic did not need syntactical word-formation, because it has larger opportunity for affixation, and used it widely.

There is a common thought that Turkic suffixes are based on the independent words, it means that morphologically derivative words are based on the compounds. However, the oldest written monuments that have few and far between compound words contradict this idea. Because the most ancient examples having a lot of derivatives, but not many compounds prove that derivatives are older, and compounds appeared after derivatives. So it is not possible that derivatives were made of constructions newer than themselves.

Orkhon Turkic was a really rich and full-fledged language that could express very different thoughts in very different forms. Although only a few part of it reached to our time, even this shows the strength and potential of this language. But in the written monuments of this language we could find only few genuine compound words, four of them are proper nouns, and most of them were formed with the word *el/il*. It shows that this language did not need compound words much, in other words, syntactical word formation wasn't important for its lexicon, or not having compounds did not affected its functioning very much. It proves that an agglutinative language can also function without compound words.

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