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# The Importance Of Old Turkic Official-Legal Documents In Teaching Of The Turkic Language

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# The Importance of Old Turkic Official-Legal Documents in Teaching of The Turkic Language

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#### **ABSTRACT**

The old Turkish official-legal texts, which are important sources in terms of teaching of the political and linguistic history of the Turks, as well as the Turkish legal system, are also important in the study of the history of the emergence, formation and development of the official-business style in Turkic languages. Only after identifying the features specific to the official-business style and systematizing them on the basis of typological classification, how and in which directions studying and teaching official-legal texts and other methodological issues can be solved. In this sense, teaching of the official-legal documents belonging to the ancient Turks, especially the stylistic-linguistic analysis of these texts, conditions the investigation of the old Turkic language from different perspectives. The basis of teaching of the texts is the scientific-theoretical clarification of the issue, the interpretation of the official-business style, the concept of the Turkish legal language.

Keywords: official-legal texts, official-business style, style, teaching, Turkic

## INTRODUCTION

Language is a single conveyor of the nation itself, environment, society, political conjuncture, means of communication and these values as a whole. In terms of studying the history, origin, development of language levels at different levels of the Turkic language, following its system of styles and the contemporary situation, the research of all periods, and special stages of each period from different perspectives is of particular importance. Among the numerous written monuments discovered in East Turkestan, Turfan, old Turkic official-legal documents occupy a special place. These documents, which are considered to be the most important sources of information about the old Turkic legal system and the Turkic Tora, have different contents and forms. These civil-legal documents, official documents reflect the legal processes related to various actions between citizens or between citizens and the state. Official-legal documents, which are important sources in teaching of the political-social history and language culture of the Turks, as well as the Turkish legal system, are also important in terms of the study of the history of stylistics in Turkic languages, including the emergence, formation and development of the official-business style. From this perspective, we can say that the study and teaching of the Turkish language and Turkish culture based on the oldest sources also conditions the study of old Turkic official-legal documents.

It should be noted that the official-legal documents reflecting the history, statehood traditions and worldview of the Turks have not become the object of scientific research in a serious and systematic way from a stylistic-linguistic point of view. The main goal of our research is to evaluate the documents from the point of view of political and legal history, to determine their importance in the history of the Turkic language and culture by revealing the historical linguistic facts and stylistic features reflected in them.

#### METHODS AND MATERIALS

The direct study of the documents from the point of view of the political history, legal norms, social life, administrative-political organization of the Turks, including the functioning official-legal institutions, the relations between the state and the people, is a necessity, and the fulfillment of this necessity leads entirely to the teaching of the old Turkic official-legal documents in terms of political history, Turkic legal language, and style. The classing, classification principles of legal texts and official documents with different content, which are drawn up based on the principles of the foundation of the legal act between the state and the citizen, between the citizen and the citizen, are based on different methodological aspects. For this purpose, the following issues have been put forward in the article:

- 1) To review the history of the study of old Turkic official-legal documents;
- 2) To define a genre typology based on the types, essence, principles of classification of old Turkic official-legal documents;
- 3) To investigate the history of formation and development of the official-business style in which old Turkic official-legal documents were written;

The history of the study of old Turkic official-legal documents: The development of any field is without exception related to the development of society. The role of a highly civilized society in the formation of political thought, as a logical continuation of this, in the formation of the political language, the language of law, the development of the traditions of statehood and becoming the dominant language in a large geography is undeniable. In this sense, the old Turkic official-legal documents covering the 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries are a written collection of information about the Turk society's lifestyle, occupation, economic situation, as well as political-legal, moral-psychological thinking.

Summarizing places where resources are found and protected, collections, centers where documents are protected, which reflect the relationships of individuals with state institutions, various groups in society (military, administrative, commercial, religious, etc.) Prof. O.F. Sertkaya notes that they are protected: "In general, the texts found in the Turfan Valley and Dunhuang during the scientific expeditions to Central Asia at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century are in England, London, Sir Aurel Stein in the "British Library", Paul Pelyot in the Paris "Biblioteque Nationale" library in France, Stockholm in Sweden Sven Heyden collection in the Ethnography Museum in Helsinki, G. G. Mannerhein in Helsinki, Finland, Count Otani in Kyoto, Japan, Istanbul University Library and Ankara Archeological Museum, Turkey, in the collections of V. I. Roborovsky and D. A. Clements in the Asian Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia, in the Beijing National Museum in the People's Republic of China It is preserved in the museum, as well as in the library and museum collections of other countries" (Sertkaya, 1980).

R.R. Arat, one of the first researchers of official-legal documents, writes: "It is enough to remind how important the analysis of legal documents is in monitoring the development of social enterprises of nations. The importance of these materials, which can provide information about the legal institutions created by the Turks in the ancient times of history, and written by the Turks themselves, does not remain only within the boundaries of the legal field, but is more or less related to every aspect of Turkic cultural history" (Arat, 1987). The documents found include censuses, taxes paid in exchange for goods and money, civil law documents, letters, wills, adoption, marriage and divorce contracts, family law, slave trade, contracts between individuals, and according to the type of sources consisting of tamgas and stamps there are language and style, form of compiling, legal bases.

The classification and classification principles of Turkic legal texts and official documents with different contents, which are compiled based on the principles of the foundation of the legal act between the state and the citizen, between the citizen and the citizen, are based on different methodological aspects. Old Turkic legal documents, primary sources on official-business style were classified for the first time by Rashid Rahmati Arat. Later, the research in this field was moved to a new level, the new documents found were classified by L.V. Clark. L.V. Clark's doctoral dissertation, "Uyghur Civil Documents of Eastern Turkestan", which includes an analysis of official and legal documents, consists of six parts (1975).

The researches of N. Yamada stand out among the serious studies conducted on official and legal documents in Old Turkic. Most of N. Yamada's research is related to this topic. P. Zieme, J. Oda and T. Moriyasu collected all his researches and published them in three volumes in the book "Collection of Uyghur Contracts" (Sammlung Uigurischer Kontrakte). The first volume contained N.Yamada's research on documents, the second volume contained documents, and the third volume included facsimiles of documents (Yamada, 1993). Based on N.Yamada's research on old Turkish-Uyghur legal cards and civil documents, the documents have been presented in a new form, this time with a more comprehensive and complex classification:

#### I. Official documents

(administrative, diplomatic, military and religious associations): 1. Regulations and administrative rules; 2 Diplomatic letters; 3. Certificates; 4. Receipts; 5. Applications; 6. Reports; 7. Notebooks and lists, 8. Prayers; 9. Mixed documents;

## II. Special documents

1. Agreements; 2. Receipts; 3. Letters and accounts; 4. Notes and lists; 5. Prayers; 6. Documents of various contents

121 documents presented in N. Yamada's publication were divided and coded into 9 subgroups based on this classification: 1. Sales; 2. Exchange; 3. Lease; 4. Debt; 5. Adoption; 6. Pledge; 7. Exemption; 8. Wills; 9. Mixed documents (Yamada, 1993).

One of the serious studies conducted on the legal system of Turks and documents written in official-business style is Ahmet Jafaroglu's work entitled "Law and Financial Terms in the Uyghurs". In the study written in

1934, the civil documents were interpreted in the context of the Turkish way of life, the concept of law and the basic principles of social justice among the Uyghurs. In the work, the principles of document classification and writing characteristics are analyzed and some examples are given (Jafaroglu, 1934).

Turkologist Ozkan Izgin has researches related to official and civil documents. Ö.Izgi, who is mainly a historian, made important findings about the cultural and political history of the Uyghurs based on civil documents. His three-part work "Political and Cultural History of Uyghurs" (Based on Legal Documents), published in 1987, first part is of the history of the Uyghurs, and the second part is a detailed explanation of Uyghur civil documents. The second part also contains general information about documents, information about the general classification and types of documents. Based on the documents, the researcher made some interesting assumptions about the commercial life of the Uyghurs. The third part consists of comments on the tax system of Turfan Uyghurs. At the end of the work, examples from texts are given, translated into Turkish Turkic (Izg1, 1987).

Among Turkish Turkologists, many studies have been done on the legal documents, which are the primary sources of the old Turkic official-business style. Regarding this field, it should be noted that due to its high scientific value, both fundamental and comprehensive, one of the main sources is Melek Ozyetgin's research. Melek Ozyetgin, who conducted extensive and serious research on civil documents, investigated the tax system based on civil documents in his book "Old Turkic Tax Terms" published in 2004 (Ozyetgin, 2004). The book contains tax rules, tax terms, information on the types of taxes and explanations on the areas of application, and examples from some civil documents. Civil documents are the basis of M. Özyetgin's book "Land Rights in Uyghurs before Islam" published in 2014 (Ozyetgin, 2014). In the work, first of all, general information about the land rights of Uyghurs was given, and the contracts related to land were analyzed in detail. Contracts related to land and territories were examined in the study. In M. Özyetgin's work entitled "Language and stylistic research of labels and knowledge related to Altynordu, Crimea and Kazan Region" the official and legal documents related to Altyn Ordu, Crimea and Kazan khanates were analyzed (Ozyetgin, 1996).

In general, examples of documents include "Servant's complaint to the master", "A document on the sale of land", "Sesame debt document", "Oil debt document", "Rent field", "Exchange paper of field with linen", "Exchange document of a woman with linen" and others documents can be cited as an example (Malov, 1951). Content and genre typology of official-legal documents. Turkic culture was formed in a large geography in the 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries, which covers a large period of Turkic history and a new stage of development, when a high civilization system spread. The formation of politicization tendencies in the social and ethno-cultural psychology of Turks is fully reflected in the official-legal and civil documents, which are ethno-political and multicultural manifestations of this culture. The influence of the historical, socio-political conditions of the period on the formation of official-legal documents and legal cards, which are historical sources reflecting the state system, political and legal relations of the Turks, should not be ignored. These documents are naturally focused on public and civil life, and have a remarkable status in the regulation of citizen-state and citizen-citizen relations. Legal documents generally show how the old Turks followed the laws and legal regulations. Based on these documents, we can find out what types of taxes and privileges the lower class, income holders, rich class, people with a certain source of income have in the society, who receives the various taxes established, by what criteria the relations between the citizen and the state are regulated, according to which rules the citizen should act in the legal system. These documents are important in teaching of language and legal history, the interaction of social relations between classes and institutions. Official-legal documents are generally an indicator of how the ancient Turks followed the laws, legal acts, regulatory institutional system. And as a factual evidence of the opinion that "the completely natural social-political, cultural-spiritual differentiation in the Turkic society since the earliest times has never fundamentally undermined the ethno-typological integrity of that society" (Jafarov, 2006) we should not forget that the integrative, unifying mission of the old Turkic legal system of the Turkish Tora plays an important role in the organization of the public life of the Turks, the regulation of the behavior of individuals and the activities of various social groups.

Official-legal documents have a certain writing procedure. According to the type of official-legal documents, there is a language and style, form of layout, legal basis. According to genre typology, documents have stylistic features, language structure, content and layout rules of each type, and legal bases. It should be noted that the language of official-legal documents is drawn up in an official-business, legal writing style, and this style differs from other styles primarily by its terminological system. The words and terms used in the documents of this style have a specific meaning, they reflect the character of legislation, information, formality, determination, and responsibility. The characteristic features of official state documents and official correspondence of various contents are the highest level of perfection and brevity of the language, the monosemy of the thought (words or phrases), clarity, official-legal justification. On the basis of all these general and specific aspects, official-legal documents can be basically given definition as follows: Legal documents - bearer of legally important information related to the creation, change or termination of legal norms, relationships in accordance with legal norms, act as the basis or confirmation of the rights and duties of participants in legal processes. The main characteristics of legal documents can be distinguished as follows: material form, informativeness - a legal

document contains information in various forms; legal force - an official-legal document either creates or confirms the legal rights and duties of the participants of a certain legal process, which is the main functional purpose of official-legal documents. And the legal determination of the status of the document - legal norms include signs of the existence of legal documents, the possibility of their use for certain legal purposes in specific circumstances.

When approached from this perspective, official-legal documents in old Turkic also have a certain format and form of expression according to their content and purpose. It should be noted that a large number of legal documents, personal correspondence, labels, colophons show that the official-business style was formed in the old Uyghur language. This style also has its own "language". Template expressions and patterns take the main place here, the language of this style is compact and standard. For example, in an official document, first the date of its preparation is indicated, then the persons and witnesses who signed the document, then the content of the document is given, the conditions are indicated, the approval of the witnesses and the person (persons) who signed the document is recorded (Rajabli, 2018).

Studying from the point of view of language and style: The beginning with standard expressions of letters, debt documents, commercial receipts, report books, labels, cards of various contents with legal status, drawing them up in certain frameworks and in a unique style proves the formation of a legal writing system - an official-business style in old Turkic.

Style, as the most basic historical category of the literary language, is closely related to the historical development of the language and the concepts of literary norms. In addition to intra-linguistic factors, extralinguistic (language relations, interaction, etc.) factors influence the development of styles. It should be noted that this process is influenced by the state structure, politics, political-social environment, etc. the influence of similar factors on this process should not be ignored. In linguistics, there is no special criterion for defining styles and specifying their boundaries. Azerbaijani linguist A. Gurbanov considers three factors as the basis for defining functional styles: a) any language variety called style should be widely used in a certain field of human activity and perform a certain task. For example, as people use the scientific style in the field of scientific activity; b) having sufficiently distinctive means of expression of each of the literary language diversity; c) each style is formed on the basis of the national characteristics of the existing language (Gurbanov) The stylistic differentiation that appears during the formation of the language determines the criterion for the development of the functional capabilities of the literary language. Analyzing the theoretical and methodological possibilities of stylistics, S. Mardanova summarizes the existing ideas about functional styles through a filter of critical analysis, and makes such a generalization that we think the obtained landscape is satisfactory: "1. Modern Azerbaijani literary language is divided into five functional styles or manifests itself in the form of five functional styles: 1) style of everyday life, 2) publicistic style, 3) fictional style, 4) scientific style, 5) officialbusiness style" (Mardanova, 2018).

The official-business style, which was formed later than other functional styles, is the language of official documents, normative acts, and business correspondences. Official-business documents with different contents cover the basic principles of legal acts between the state and citizens, the governing body and the executive body, and the formality of rights and privileges between the state and citizens. The language of documents has its own features by lexically, morphologically and syntactically. The characteristic features of the style reflecting the language of official documents and correspondences are the highest degree of perfection and conciseness of the language, the monosemy of the thought (words or phrases), clarity, official-legal justification. The language of official-business documents consists of standard, uniform forms, ideas are given in certain standard forms and concisely. At this time, the volume and topic of the document is not particularly important. Figurative expressions and individual speech elements are not found in the examples of this style. Unlike other styles, a number of archaic pattern words and expressions, obsolete syntactic constructions are used in the official-business style, and preserves its functionality. Official-business style is standard for all strata of society and everyone, regardless of the level of knowledge. Therefore, special attention is paid to the perfect preparation of those documents. Such documents convey special state importance.

The authoritative sources and initial examples of official-business style in Turkic languages are old Turkish official-legal cards and documents. However, unfortunately, researches on the stylistic analysis and research of old texts are limited. It is known from the works of V.V. Radlov, S.Y. Malov, N.A. Baskakov and other researchers that the language of official-legal and business documents provides rich language facts. Nevertheless, the linguistic and stylistic features of these documents have not been properly studied so far. In Turkological linguistics, the issue was touched on the basis of the materials of individual Turkic languages, the official-legal writing style and the language of the documents written in the official-business style were analyzed against the background of the modern language landscape. Researcher S. Aliyeva reviewing the studies on the language of official and business documents in Turkish languages, mentions that R. Kh. Khalikova's ("The language of Bashkir historical, legal and business documents of the 18<sup>th</sup> century") and X. Khamidov's ("The language of legal documents of the 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and its relation to the modern Karakalpak literary language") the candidate dissertations as one of the first initiatives in this field (Aliyeva,

2004). Documents reflecting debt, purchase, sale, rent, marriage, tax and other official-legal and civil relations in the Turkic language found in Turfan is the most perfect and official manifestation of the Turkic language as a legal language. There is a certain terminological system of the language of these documents, which have come to this day and contain information about the common legal concepts of Turks, and have official-legal value. One point should not be overlooked that the emergence of the official-legal writing style in Turkic languages and the formation and development of the terminological treasure in this context are related to social and political reasons, and as these reasons change, the genetic-derivative landscape of the style also changes. The significance of researching the language of historical sources reflecting the system of statehood, political and legal relations of the Turks, the formation and development of the official-business style based on these texts, lexical, grammatical and syntactic features, political and economic terminological system, especially legal concepts, was emphasized by prof. Melek Ozyetgin in such way: "we believe that the documents interpreted by a language historian and translated into modern Turkish will be of great benefit to our understanding of today's concept of law and to the development of our legal culture" (Ozyetgin, 2014).

The study of the language of old Turkic written monuments shows that in old Turkic two methods were used to express new concepts and objects, notions and terms encountered for the first time: the first, making a new lexical unit form for the concept to be expressed, and the second is that the word acquires a new meaning by being included in the appropriate field in an appellative lexicon. It is clear from the research that both of these methods were widely used in old Turkic official-legal texts. A database of terms is formed according to the style of this type of texts. A term – as a language sign, is a word or combination of words in the system of concepts of a science or specific field of technology, referring to a concept or object. Explaining the meaning of the term, word boundaries and informative load, prof. Sayali Sadigova notes that the term has a nominative function like a word and conveys a historical category (Sadigova, 2011). In this sense, the terminological lexical units included in the documents serve as the main source for following the development of legal terminology in Turkic languages.

T. Efendiyeva, who noted that each style uses the vocabulary of the language and creates a vocabulary in accordance with its social function, said that each style constitutes a special and complex system in itself, the reason for this complexity is the division of each style into genres and types of speech and the rules of using the language in this regard, in particular, she notes that it is related to the vocabulary, that the stylistic details and expressive colors of language units show themselves more prominently in words (Efendiyeva, 2001). In officiallegal texts, the language of civil documents is related to tora, punishment, law, tax, usury, debt, adoption, inheritance, sale, rent, etc. includes many legal acts, words and word combinations reflecting social relations, expressions, terms covering legal acts. Terms that differ in sound, structure, and thematic meaning are also diverse in origin. Lexical units, which are divided into national and borrowed terms by origin, have a different degree of development in documents with different contents and forms. Factual evidence shows that the scope of usage of terms of national and borrowed origin varies within the content and genre, and the influence of regional language characteristics in this change is undeniable. The existence of borrowed terms related to tax and commercial law, official documents also indicates the development of languages and intercultural relations. If we take into account the content of the texts in which the borrowed terms on the official-business style are used, it is possible to see that the terms are mostly of Turkish origin, and in the light of these facts, we can note that the Turks have a unique legal system. In the language of old Turkic tax, land, purchase and sale documents, many terms and word combinations such as Barım, Tamka, Nişan, Nişan çiz, Nişan tamga, İlçi, Tapığçı, Kalan/Kalançı, Bağçı, İnçü bağçı, İşçi, Ulağçı, Alımçı, Birimçi, Basıv, Birim, Birt, Borluv, Aş, Tüşük, Umtu, Salıv, Tesik, Vurut, Vopçur, Yasav are used to reflect various legal acts.

From the language of these historical sources, the content and lexical fund of the documents, it is clear that the first embryos of the official-practical style began to appear in Turkic from the earliest times, and as a result of the historical development, a special form and pattern, standard expressions were formed perfectly. In the old Uyghur legal documents, there are concepts such as sin, punishment, law, tax, credit, usury, debt, etc. as well as words and word combinations, pattern forms that express legal acts. According to the type of these documents, they have a language and style, form of arrangement, legal basis.

#### **RESULTS**

The rich language examples created by the Turks in different periods have different stylistic features, so the study of this written heritage ensures the study of all the stylistic possibilities of the language. In this sense, the study of the old Turkic written monuments, as well as the old Turkic official-legal and civil documents from different aspects, can mention both the limits of the historical expression possibilities of the language and the landscape of development of the political-social, scientific-cultural and legal thinking of the peoples who are conveyors of the language, and allows to determine the ability of the language to be divided into different styles. The study of the old Turkish-Uyghur official legal documents, which have been somewhat neglected in the studies of the literary language history carried out until now, will help to obtain new scientific results in the linguistic history studies. Practically, collecting and publishing the terms used in the language of old Turkic

official-legal documents as a dictionary will create new opportunities for the determination of the historical lexical fund of official-business style in Turkic languages, on the other hand, for the analysis of the historical development of the process of term formation, and for the restoration of some terms in one way or another in Turkic languages. In this sense, old Turkic official-legal texts can be considered as valuable sources in courses in the history of language, teaching stylistic history of Turkic languages and conducting research in this field. Primary sources show that the Turkic legal system, which is related to the state, and statehood traditions appeared in the initial stages in the form of customs and elementary laws, and later as an official-political manifestation of the cultural life of the society, a product of political-legal thinking. Thousands of Turkic civillegal documents belonging to the Ancient and Middle Turkic period reflect legal processes related to various actions between citizens, as well between citizens and the state. It should be noted that these documents, which are the main sources of the old Turkic official-business style, most of the studies carried out so far on legal cards have been mostly analyzed from the point of view of textual studies, the study of language features in a superficial way, while researching of language features, attention was mostly focused on the lexical structure, some terms origin and etymological aspects are highlighted. However, the study of these documents, which reflect the traditions of statehood and social and political life of a great era, has not been carried out in the context of the Turkic legal language, the emergence, formation and development of the official-business style in Turkic languages. The involvement of old Turkic official-legal documents in the linguistic research, especially the investigation of the language of these texts by means of synchronic and diachronic analysis, the analysis of the structure and regulation features of the texts, revealing the essence and content, from the point of view of language history, terminology and history of styles, is of great importance. Linguistic study of the old Turkic official-legal documents, which have been neglected up today, will help to obtain new scientific results related to the history of the language, the Turkish legal system, legal language, and the history of the formation and development of the official-business style in Turkic languages.

#### DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Being the main sources of the old Turkic official-business style, most of the studies carried out so far on legal cards have been mostly analyzed from the point of view of textual studies, the study of language features in a superficial way, while researching of language features, attention was mostly focused on the lexical structure, some terms origin and etymological aspects are highlighted. These documents, which reflect the traditions of statehood and social and political life of a great era, has not been studied in the context of the Turkic legal language, the emergence, formation and development of the official-business style in Turkic languages. In this sense, the involvement of documents in the linguistic research, especially the investigation of the language of these texts by means of synchronic and diachronic analysis, the analysis of the structure and regulation features of the texts, revealing the essence and content, from the point of view of language history, terminology and history of styles, is of great importance in the historical development landscape's description of the Turkic language, in teaching the layers of normalization and stabilization of language levels.

Thus, as a result, our research on the content, type, compiling principles, as well as stylistic characteristics of the official-legal documents, which are the reflection of the political-legal thinking, with the state, traditions of statehood, the official-political expression of the cultural life of the society, reveals the following points: 1). The written heritage, which reflects the development of the Turkic language, which spreads and develops in a very large geography, is the main source from the point of view of the history of the language, among those sources, numerous official-legal documents are important in the study of Turkic language and Turkic culture and history; 2). Official-legal documents present the most perfect reflection of the expression of legal language — political opinion in Turkic; 3). Intra-linguistic and extra-linguistic factors give impetus to the formation of official-business style in Turkic; 4). The primary sources for determining the official-business style and the history of its development differ in terms of content, form and compiling features.

The development of language and thinking, the fitting of the social status of the society into certain frameworks, in turn, leads to the development of the official-business style, and affects the determination of the legal status of the dominant language. The analysis of documents by synchronous and diachronic methods shows that, unlike other functional styles, there is more conservatism than dynamism in the official-business style, in the background of this the declaration of socio-political consciousness and the stability of statehood are the main factors.

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