

Substrate lexical items of Sami which correlate with words of Northeast Caucasian languages

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Abstract

In Sami there are 30 words of unknown etymology; they could be borrowed from the language of Paja Ul Deʔŋ. Recently it was shown that Northwest and Northeast Caucasian are related, so the origin of these words of dim etymology can be searched for in Northeast Caucasian languages: Sami *abbr'* – “rain” correlates with Chechen *ɬowr-as*; Sami *cigk* – “mist” correlates with Ingush *dexko* “fog”; Sami *kuras* – “empty” correlates with Proto-North Caucasian: **xāro* “hollow”; Sami *puaz* – “reindeer” correlates with Proto-North Caucasian **wḥīswe* – “deer”, Sami *murr* – “tree” correlates with Proto-Nakh **murq̄a* “alder tree”. Now we have a list of 12 words: about 58.3% of the list has Caucasian or Hattic etymology, about 33.3% of this list has Yeniseian etymology, about 8.3% has Yeniseian and Hattic etymology at the same time. The language of Paja Ul Deʔŋ seems to be closer to Caucasian languages and to Hattic rather than to Yeniseian.

Keywords: Ainu-Minoan stock; Paja Ul Deʔŋ; substrate in Sami

1. Introduction to the problem

In Kildin Sami (KS) and in Northern Sami (NS) there are some words that have no Uralic etymologies as well as any other proved etymology. These words are the following:

- 1) KS *abbr'* – NS *arvi* “rain”,
- 2) KS *aps* – “smell”,
- 3) KS *čacke* – NS *čiekčat* – “to throw”,
- 4) KS *čad'z'* – NS *čáhci* – “water”,
- 5) KS *cigk* – “mist”,
- 6) KS *čujke* – NS *čuoigat* “to ski”,
- 7) KS *k'ed'd'k* – NS *geađgi* – “stone”,
- 8) KS *ket't'k'* – NS *geatki* – “wolverine”
- 9) KS *kipp'te* – “to cook”,
- 10) KS *kuarkte* – “to boast”,
- 11) KS *kut't'k* – “heart”,
- 12) KS *koan'n't* – NS *goddi* – “wild reindeer”,
- 13) KS *kuras* – NS – *guoros* – “empty”
- 14) KS *luhpel'* – “1 y.o. reindeer”,
- 15) KS *madt* – “trouble”,
- 16) KS *modžes* – “beautiful”,
- 17) KS *mun* – “frost”,
- 18) KS *murr* – NS *muorra* “tree”
- 19) KS *nigkeš* – “pike” (fish),
- 20) KS *nirr* – NS *nierru* “cheek”,

- 21) KS *nisse* – “to kiss”,
- 22) KS *n’učke* – NS *njuiket* “to jump”,
- 23) KS *pin’ne* – “to herd”, “to look after”,
- 24) KS *piŋŋk* – NS *biegga* – “wind”,
- 25) KS *poav’n* – “hummock”,
- 26) KS *puaz* – NS *boazu* – “reindeer”
- 27) KS *tunntε* – NS *duoldit* “to boil”
- 28) KS *nujx’ke* – “to cry”,
- 29) KS *sejĵd* – NS *sieidi* “deity”
- 30) KS *vuntas* – “sand”

Previously some items of this list have been explained through Yeniseian languages, Northwest Caucasian languages, and also through Hattic (Akulov 2020a, 2020b):

- 1) *čacke* – “to throw” correlates with a Proto-West Caucasian root,
- 2) *čad’z’* – “water” correlates with modern Yeniseian root,
- 3) *k’ed’d’k* – “stone” correlates with modern Yeniseian root,
- 4) *kuťt’k* “heart” correlates with a Proto-Yeniseian root,
- 5) *murr* – “tree” correlates with a Proto-West Caucasian root,
- 6) *piŋŋk* – “wind” correlates with Yeniseian and Hattic root at the same time,
- 7) *sejĵd* – “deity” correlates with Hattic root,
- 8) *vuntas* – “sand” correlates with Yeniseian root (for more details see Akulov 2020b)



Fig. 1. Map showing locations of languages mentioned in the text (map has been drawn after Google maps screenshot)

Recently it has been shown that Northeast Caucasian languages and Northwest Caucasian languages are related, i.e.: belong to the same stock (Akulov 2021), and so the origin of Sami lexical items of dim etymology can be also searched for in words of Northeast Caucasian languages.

2. Lexical items of Sami that can be correlated with words of Northeast Caucasian languages

KS *abbr'* – NS *arvi* “rain” can be correlated with Proto-Nakh **ʔadurV* and with Chechen: *ʃowr-as* “mountain stream” (after rain or thawing) (see: North Caucasian etymology “river”, “stream”).

KS *cigk* – “mist” can be correlated with Ingush form *deχko*, and with Proto-Nakh **doχk* – “fog”, “cloud” (see: Nakh etymology “fog”, “cloud”).

KS *kuras* – NS *guoros* – “empty” correlate with Proto-North Caucasian: **xāro*, with Proto-Nakh **χāra* – “hollow”, “cavity” (see North Caucasian etymology “hollow”, “cavity”); also Sami forms correlate with Proto-North Caucasian: **qHörV* (see: North Caucasian etymology “empty”).

KS *puaz* – NS *boazu* – “reindeer” can be correlated with Proto-North Caucasian: **wħ̄iswe* (see North Caucasian etymology “mountain goat”; “deer”).

Also it is interesting to note that Kildin Sami word *murr* – “tree” previously correlated with Northwest Caucasian root *mažV* (Akulov 2020b: 3) also has a connection with Northeast Caucasian languages: KS *murr* – NS *muorra* “tree” correlate with Proto-Nakh: **murqa* (see: Nakh etymology “alder-tree”).

3. Conclusion

It is supposed that these words of unknown origin were borrowed to Sami from the language of so-called Paja Ul De^ʔη. Paja Ul De^ʔη [padzaul^ʔde^ʔη] – “The People of Big Water” is a conventional and compact name given to the people who lived in the Neolithic period on the shores of Littorina Sea and Lake Ladoga in their hypothetical reconstructed language (it is possible to state that these people spoke a language that was a juncture between Yeniseian languages on the one hand and Northwest Caucasian, Northeast Caucasian and Hattic on the other hand).

Also it is supposed that Sami had contacts with Paja Ul De^ʔη and could borrow some words from their language and that the above discussed lexical items originated from the language of Paja Ul De^ʔη.

Comparing these Sami lexical items with unknown origin with words of different languages of the western branch of the Ainu-Minoan stock it is possible to make some preliminary conclusion about the position of Paja Ul De^ʔη language within the western branch of the Ainu-Minoan stock.

Previously it was supposed that the language of Paja Ul De^ʔη can be placed between Yeniseian languages and Northwest Caucasian/Hattic, i.e.: that the language of Paja Ul De^ʔη is equally close to Yeniseian languages on the one hand and to Northwest Caucasian/Hattic on the other hand. However, now it seems that Caucasian and Hattic features are more characteristic for

the languages of Paja Ul De^ʔη. Now twelve Sami words of unknown etymology have been identified as correlated with words originated from languages belonging to the western branch of the Aino-Minoan stock:

- 1) *abbr'* – “rain” correlates with Nakh roots,
- 2) *čacke* – “to throw” correlates with a Proto-West Caucasian root,
- 3) *čad'z'* – “water” correlates with modern Yeniseian root,
- 4) *cigk* – “mist” correlates with Nakh roots,
- 5) *k'ed'd'k* – “stone” correlates with modern Yeniseian root,
- 6) *kuras* – “empty” correlates with Nakh roots,
- 7) *kut't'k* “heart” correlates with a Proto-Yeniseian root,
- 8) *murr* – “tree” correlates with a Proto-West Caucasian root, and also with a Nakh root,
- 9) *piŋk* – “wind” correlates with Yeniseian and Hattic root at the same time,
- 10) *puaz* – “reindeer” correlates with Proto-North Caucasian root,
- 11) *sejđ* – “deity” correlates with Hattic root,
- 12) *vuntas* – “sand” correlates with Yeniseian root.

About 58.3% of the list has Caucasian or Hattic etymology; about 33.3% of this list has Yeniseian etymology, and about 8.3% has Yeniseian and Hattic etymology at the same time.

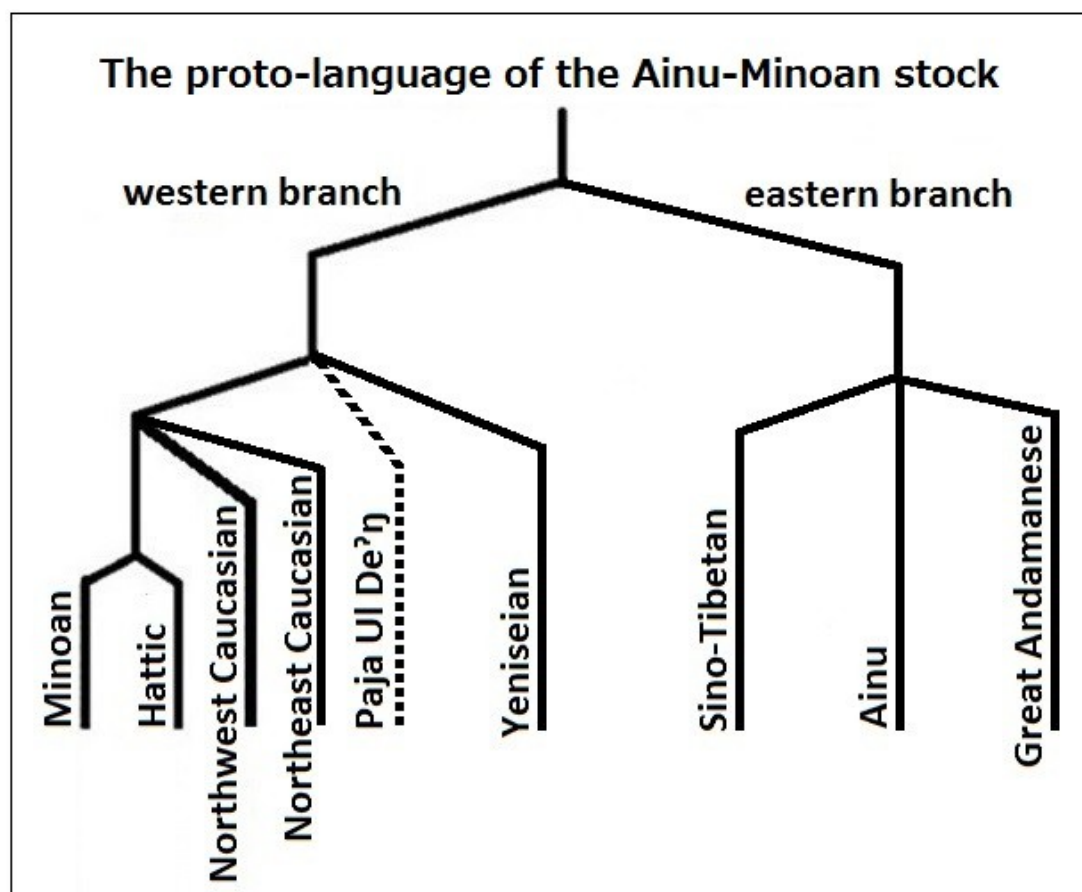


Fig. 2. The supposed position of the language of Paja Ul De^ʔη within the Aino-Minoan stock

Thus, it is possible to state that the language of Paja Ul De'η seems to be closer to Caucasian languages and to Hattic rather than to Yeniseian, however, it is a preliminary estimation yet, and further research can clarify the position of the language within the Ainu-Minoan stock.

I suppose it is possible to say that the language of Paja Ul De'η demonstrates the state that existed before the division of the western branch of the Ainu-Minoan stock into separated languages (language families).

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Nakh etymology “alder-tree”

https://starling.rinet.ru/cgi-bin/response.cgi?single=1&basename=%2fdata%2fcauc%2fnakhet&text_number=+458&root=config – accessed May 2021

Nakh etymology “fog”, “cloud” https://starling.rinet.ru/cgi-bin/response.cgi?single=1&basename=%2fdata%2fcauc%2fnakhet&text_number=++20&root=config – accessed May 2021

North Caucasian etymology “empty”

https://starling.rinet.ru/cgi-bin/response.cgi?single=1&basename=%2fdata%2fcauc%2fcaucet&text_number=1798&root=config – accessed May 2021

North Caucasian etymology “hollow”, “cavity”

<https://starling.rinet.ru/cgi-bin/response.cgi?root=config&morpho=0&basename=%5Cdata%5Ccauc%5Ccaucet&first=1&of f=&text proto=&method proto=substring&ic proto=on&text meaning=cavity&method meaning=substring&ic meaning=on&text nakh=&method nakh=substring&ic nakh=on&text aand=&method aand=substring&ic aand=on&text cez=&method cez=substring&ic cez=on&text lak=&method lak=substring&ic lak=on&text darg=&method darg=substring&ic darg=on&text lezg=&method lezg=substring&ic lezg=on&text khin=&method khin=substring&ic khin=on&text abad=&method abad=substring&ic abad=on&text comment=&method comment=substring&ic comment=on&text any=&method any=substring&sort=proto&ic any=on> – accessed May 2021

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North Caucasian etymology “mountain goat”; “deer”

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North Caucasian etymology “river”, “stream”

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