

Substrate words of Sami which correlate with Sumerian words

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Abstract

In Sami there are 30 words that have no Uralic etymology; they could be borrowed from the language of Paja Ul De⁷η. It is supposed that Paja Ul De⁷η spoke a language belonging to the western branch of the Ainu-Minoan stock. Recently Sumerian language has been proved to belong to the western branch of the Ainu-Minoan stock, so Sumerian can be applied to these words of dim etymology. At least six words can be correlated with Sumerian words: *kipp'te* "to cook" ~ Sumerian *kibiKAK*; Kildin Sami (KS) *luhpel'* "1 y.o. reindeer" ~ Sumerian *lahar*, *lahar*₂ "ewe", "sheep" (however the word *lahar* can be of Akkadian origin, this point requires a special research); KS *modžes* "beautiful" ~ Sumerian *mu*₅ "beautiful", "good"; KS *mun* "frost" ~ Sumerian: *mabi*, *mabi*₂, *mammi*₂; KS *nigkeš* "pike" (fish) ~ Sumerian *niĝ₂-ki*^{ku}₆ "fish"; KS *nisse* "to kiss" ~ Sumerian *niĝ-sa*_{6-ga} "pleasure", "happiness", *niĝ₂-sag*_{9-ga} (*nig₂-sag*_{9-ga}) "goodness", "good (thing)".

Keywords: substrate in Sami; Paja Ul De⁷η; Sumerian; Ainu-Minoan stock

1. Introduction to the problem

In Sami language there are 30 words that have no Uralic etymologies. These words are the following (KS means Kildin Sami and NS means Northern Sami):

- 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 *lux'ke* – “to cry”,
- 29) KS *sejĵd* – NS *sieidi* “deity”
- 30) KS *vuntas* – “sand”

It is supposed that ancient Sami could borrow these words from the language of the so-called Paja UI De'η. Paja UI De'η [padzau' de'η] – “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 the Littorina Sea (the Littorina sea is a stage of the Baltic Sea that lasted from the 5th to the 2nd millennia BCE) and Lake Ladoga in their hypothetical reconstructed language (see Akulov 2020a). It is possible to state that these people spoke a language that was a juncture between Yeniseian languages on the one hand and Caucasian and Hattic on the other hand (see Akulov 2020a, 2020b, 2021).



Fig. 1. Locations of languages belonging to the western branch of the Aino-Minoan stock/macroeconomy, and locations of Northern Sami and Kildin Sami (the map has been drawn after Google maps screenshot)

For now twelve words from the list have been identified as correlated with words originated from languages belonging to the western branch of the Ainu-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) *piŋŋk* – “wind” correlates with Yeniseian and Hattic root at the same time,
- 10) *puaz* – “reindeer” correlates with Proto-North Caucasian root,
- 11) *sejđd* – “deity” correlates with Hattic root,
- 12) *vuntas* – “sand” correlates with Yeniseian root.

For more details see Akulov 2020a, 2020b, 2021.



Recently it has been shown that the Sumerian language belongs to the western branch of the Ainu-Minoan stock, Sumerian is pretty close to the Northeast Caucasian languages (Akulov 2022), and so in this connection, it can be perspective to look for analogies to some Sami words with obscure etymologies in Sumerian.


2. Sami words of unclear etymology which can be correlated with Sumerian words

At the current moment at least six words of the above-shown list can be correlated with certain Sumerian.


These words are the following:


kipp'te “to cook” ~ Sumerian *kibiKAK*  “banquet” (PSD);

KS *luhpel'* “1 y.o. reindeer” ~ Sumerian *lahar* , *lahar*₂  “ewe”, “sheep” (PSD) (however, there are some doubts about the word *lahar* since it can be of Akkadian origin, this point is now unclear and requires a special research);

KS *modžes* “beautiful” ~ Sumerian *mu*₅  “beautiful”, “good” (PSD);

KS *mun* “frost” ~ Sumerian *mabi*₂, *mammi*₂  *mabi*  “frost” (PSD);

KS *nigkeš* “pike” (fish) ~ Sumerian *niğ*₂-*ki*^{ku}₆  “fish” (PSD);

KS *nisse* "to kiss" ~ Sumerian *nīg-sa₆-ga* "pleasure", "happiness" (see Halloran), or *nīg₂-sag₉-ga* (*nig₂-sag₉-ga*)  "goodness", "good (thing)" (PSD).

3. Conclusion

Thus, now 18 of 30 words of the above-shown list are correlated with words originated from languages belonging to the western branch of the Ainu-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) *kipp'te* "to cook" correlates with a Sumerian word;
- 7) *kuras* – "empty" correlates with Nakh roots,
- 8) *kut't'k* "heart" correlates with a Proto-Yeniseian root,
- 9) KS *luhpeł'* "1 y.o. reindeer" correlates with a Sumerian word,
- 10) KS *modžes* "beautiful" correlates with a Sumerian word,
- 11) KS *mun* "frost" correlates with a Sumerian word,
- 12) *murr* – "tree" correlates with a Proto-West Caucasian root, and also with a Nakh root,
- 13) KS *nigkeš* "pike" (fish) correlates with a Sumerian word,
- 14) KS *nisse* "to kiss" correlates with a Sumerian word,
- 15) *piŋŋk* – "wind" correlates with a Yeniseian and a Hattic root at the same time,
- 16) *puaz* – "reindeer" correlates with a Proto-North Caucasian root,
- 17) *sejĵd* – "deity" correlates with a Hattic root,
- 18) *vuntas* – "sand" correlates with a Yeniseian root.

About 72% of this list of 18 words correlates with words of the languages belonging to the southern cluster of the western branch of the Ainu-Minoan stock, i.e.: with Caucasian or Hattic or Sumerian words. About 22% of the list correlates with words of the Yeniseian languages. And about 6% correlates with Yeniseian and Hattic words at the same time.

Taking into the account the fact that all these words came to Sami from the language of Paja Ul De^ŋ it is possible to make some clarifications about the possible position of the language of Paja Ul De^ŋ in relation to the languages of the western branch of the Ainu-Minoan stock.

Although the currently available data are pretty scarce, it can nevertheless be said that the features of the southern cluster of the western branch of the Ainu-Minoan stock prevail over the features of the Yeniseian languages in the language of Paja Ul De^ŋ, while previously it was assumed that they were represented pretty evenly.

The fact that words that came to Sami language from the language of Paja Ul De^ŋ can be correlated with Yeniseian, Caucasian, Hattic, and Sumerian words means that the language of Paja Ul De^ŋ demonstrates the state that existed before the breakup of the pro-language of the western branch of Ainu-Minoan stock into separated languages/language families. It is possible to say that the language of Paja Ul De^ŋ separated from the proto-language before the emergence of the Yeniseian family, the Caucasian family, the Hattic language, and the Sumerian language (see Fig. 2).

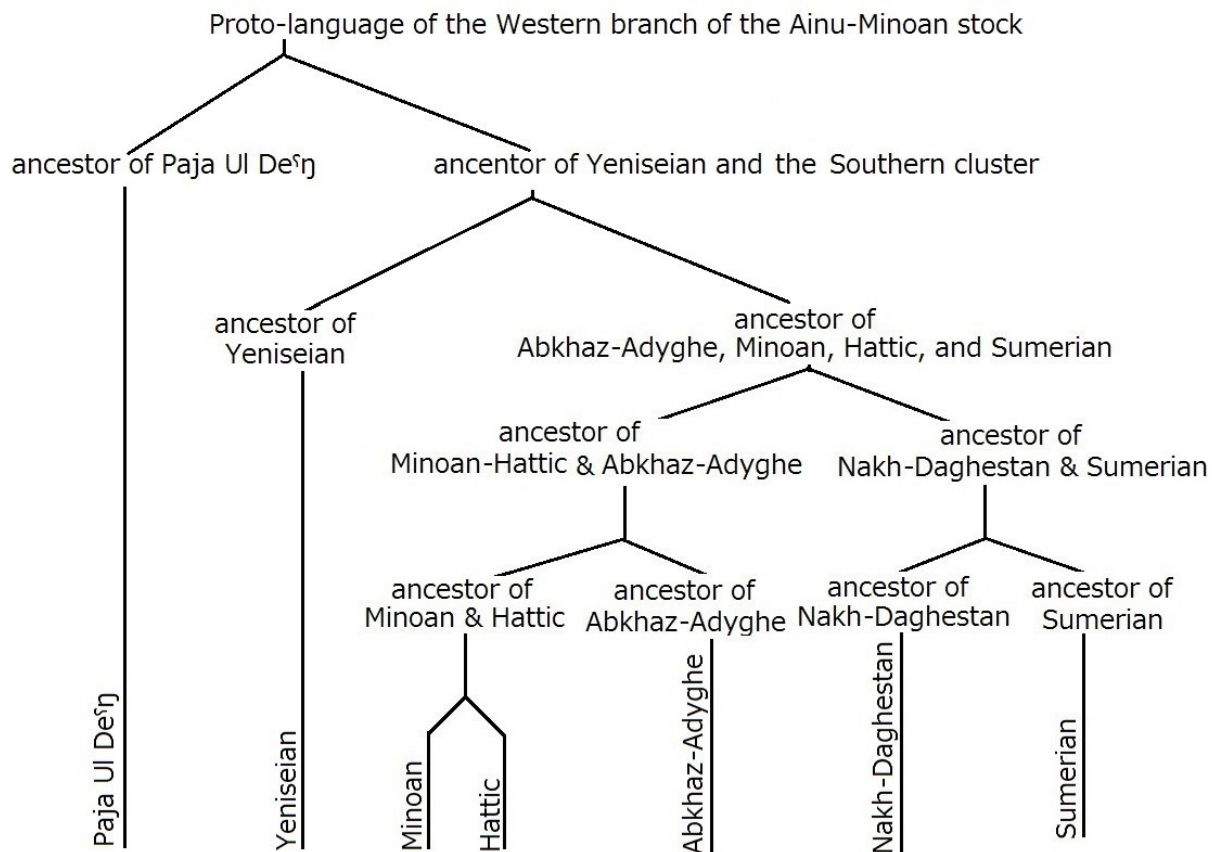


Fig. 2. A scheme showing the approximate position of Paja Ul De'η language among other languages of the Western branch of the Ainu-Minoan stock (drawn by the author)

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