



TURKISH SIMILAR WORDS IN QUECHUA CORPUS

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Abstract:

Quechua is a South American indigenous language, spoken by eight to twelve million people across six South American countries, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. The theory of multi-wave migrations of Asian tribes through the Bering Straight inside the Americas, invoked academic studies to search for probable linguistic and cultural kinship between the languages of native peoples of Americas and the languages of Asian nations, such as Turkish, Mongolian and Indo-iranian language families. The motivation for the present study was to investigate Quechuan living word inventory from the viewpoint of searching any probable correlation with Turkish Language. With this aim, a field-compiled three-dialectal dictionary of Quechuan Language by Parker (1964) was focused. The dictionary has been published as a fieldwork report resume: *English-Quechua Dictionary- Cuzco, Ayacucho and Cochabamba*. Having found a significant number of Turkish-sounding words with similar meanings, the author concludes that the living vocabulary of these three dialects of the Quechua carries evidence indicating the presence of a correlation with the languages of Turks in Asia. The findings are tabulated under the headlines in English, Quechuan and Turkish. The study is hoped to invoke further and more detailed similar works.

Keywords: Turkish, Quechua, Cuzco, Ayacucho, Cochabamba

1. Introduction

Quechua is a South American indigenous language spoken by eight to twelve million people across six South American countries, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, and it is mostly deemed as an endangered language, Hornberger et al., (2004).

The term *Quechua* is from Spanish *qhichwa* (literally *temperate valley*). Quechuan people call their language *Runasimi*, from Quechuan *runa* (people) + *simi* (speech).

There is a lack of original written documents about the vocabulary and grammar of Quechuan language family. Thus, the present ones largely depend on field-works, collected information from the mouth of living people, during the last century.

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From the literature, Quechuan reflects many similarities with Turkish: an agglutinating language; no articles; no gender distinction; modifiers preceding nouns; two past tenses, one indicating past events that are directly experienced, the other referring to events that were not directly experienced; Subject-Object-Verb order, etc.

It is estimated that Quechuan today has some 45 varieties (dialects). A dialectal division of Quechua language families is made by Parker (1963). Among others, Cuzco, Ayacucho and Cochabamba dialects of Quechua are widely spoken in Bolivia and Peru.

Although Quechuan is considered an endangered language, as a result of Quechuan-speaking peoples recently having been effective in domestic politics, it is accepted as an official language in their countries of Southern America.

Quechuan today takes place in the curricula of many universities throughout the continent America, and at the focus of many research programs and digital educational platforms, such as online translation applications, etc.

2. Literature Review

Due to the lack of original written sources about the native peoples of America, present dictionaries especially etymological ones are incomplete, Greenberg & Ruhle (2007). Another factor is the existence of so many native tribes throughout the continent America speaking dialects with various differences. Therefore, further work is needed. In this context, in a previous and comprehensive study, inclusive of lingual, artistic and behavioral elements, Kaya (1986) suggested some similarities between Quechoa and Turkish words, such as, tepee (tent)-tepe (hill), kin (day)-gün (day), etc., thus drawing attention to the deep lineage in genetics and linguistics of the ancestors of the Quechoan speaking peoples (Proto-Incas) and Proto-Turks, in central and North Asia.

The present study aims to investigate Quechuan living word inventory from the viewpoint of searching any correlation with Turkish. With this purpose, a field-compiled three-dialectal dictionary by Parker (1964) was focused. It is published as a fieldwork report resume: *English-Quechua Dictionary- Ayacucho Cuzco, and Cochabamba*, by Parker et al. (30 Aug 1964).

The aforesaid dictionary, reportedly gathered directly from native informants, has nearly 3,000 entries of Quechuan words listed alphabetically and given with their English and Spanish equivalents.

3. Material and Methods

This study is in the form of a dictionary scan, namely, *English-Quechua Dictionary- Cuzco, Ayacucho and Cochabamba*, as detailed in the Introduction.

All of the dictionary entries were scanned attentively, with an eye of discovering potential connections to Turkish language (all its forms, historical, modern and dialects)

Some of the significant findings from the standpoint of the author are tabulated below. In Table 1; Ayacucho, Cuzco and Cochabamba dialects are encoded as I, II and III, respectively, to indicate the coverage of the entries.

Table 1: The list of the collected Quechuan words with English equivalents provided in Parker's dictionary and corresponding Turkish counterparts, suggested by the author of the present paper for further etymological research

English	Quechuan	Turkish
abandon, leave v.	saqiy (I, II, III)	sakın (avoid)
absorb v.	suquy (I), sokoy (II), suhsoy (III)	soğur
add v.	yapay (I, II)	yap (do)
adjust v.	kipuy (I, III)	kip (mode)
alertly i.	uya-(I), uyay-(II)	uyar
almost i.	yaqa (I, II)	yakın
ask, demand v.	tapuy (I, II, III)	tapşır
big, great s.	hatun (I, II, III)	hatun, xatun (great, king, queen)
cat s.	misi (I, III), miçi, piçi(II)	pisi
cook v.	yanuy (I)	yan (burn)
country (outside of city) s.	çakra (I), çaxra (II), çahra(III)	çark, çakra (<Mongol, Sanskrit) (circle, peripheral)
craw s.	uytu (I, III), qutu (II)	kuytu (nook)
fear v.	karkay (III)	kork
find out v.	tapu (y), kaçay (II, III)	tap (find) + kaç (escape, out)
give v.	quy (I, II), qoy (III)	koy (put, set)
give (gift) v.	sunay (I)	sun
grandfather s.	hatun tayta (II), hatun tata (III)	hatun (grand) + ata(father)
grandmother s.	hatun mama (II)	hatun (grand) + ana(mother)
grandparents s.	hatun tayta-mama (II)	<i>see upper two cells</i>
high s.	hatu(u)n (I, II)	hatun (grand)
hurt v.	kiriy (I, II, III)	kır
husband s.	qusa (I, II), qosa (III)	koca
join (two things) v.	çatay (II)	çat
length; size; longitude s.	sayay (I, II)	sayı (number), say (count)
lift, raise v.	uqariy (I, II), hoqariy (III)	yukarı (upward)
listen, hear v.	uyariy (I, II, III)	(d)uy, uyar
loose, let go v.	kaçariy (I, II, III)	kaç(ır)
male(animal) s.	urqu (I, II), orqo (III)	erk(ek) (animal, human)
man, adult s.	qari (I, II, III)	karı (formerly <i>oldster</i> then <i>female oldster</i>)
outside s.	hawa (I, II, III), qawa (I)	hav, kav (bark, skin, surface)
package s.	qipi (I), qepi (III)	kip (mood, module)
paralytic s.	suçu (I, II)	suç (failure, deviation)
parboil v.	yanuy (I)	yan, yak
pasture s.	miçiy (I, II, III)	çimen
pinch v.	çiptiy (I, III)	çimdi
place of origin s.	yura (I)	yurt
plow (make canal) v.	yapuy (I, II)	yap (canal)
plow (land for planting) v.	çakmay (I, II), qaqay (II)	çak kak
powerful s.	sinçi (I, II)	sançı, sancı
prolifera te v.	miray (I, II, III)	miray (human name) (crescent)
raise, lift v.	(h)uqariy	yukarı (upward)

raw s.	kapka (II)	kaba
region, zone s.	suyu (I, II, III)	su (zone in time, space)
reside, live v.	yaçay (I)	yaşa
roll (thread) v.	kururay (I, II)	kur (set, wind)
root s.	sapi (I, II, III)	sap
rub v.	qaquy (I, III), qaçoy (II)	kak
saliva s.	tuqa (I), tuuqay (II), toqay (III)	tükürük
scold v.	qaççay (I), qahçay (II)	kakala
send v.	qaçay, apaçiy (I, II)	geç, apar
sew v.	simay (I, II, III)	sima (complexion, texture)
shake v.	tapiy (I)	tapış
shatter v.	çaluy (II, III)	çal
shine v.	ilay (II, III)	ilay (human name, light)
side s.	kinray (I, II)	kenar
size, length s.	sayay (I, II)	sayı
sleep, doze s.	susunkay (I, II)	sus
sleet v.	çixçiy	çise
small s.	uçuk (I), huçuy (III)	küçük
sour s.	karku (III)	kekre
spin, rotate, turn v.	muyuy (I, II, III)	bur
spit v.	tuquy (I), toqay (II)	tükür
sprinkle v.	çalay (I, II, III)	çal
sprout v.	çikliy (I), çixliy (III)	çiçek
squat, crouch v.	çukuy (III)	çök
squeeze with one's hands v.	qapiy (I, II, III)	kap
stammer v.	kakuyay (III)	kekele
stretch v.	aysay (I, II)	ayır
strip (fiber from a plant) v.	çilpay (I, II)	çıplat
strong (person) s.	kalpasapa (II)	kaba saba (?)
take v.	apay (I, II)	apar
too, very much s.	ança (III)	ança (that much)
top, outside s.	hawa (I, II, III)	hava
tree s.	saça (I, II, III)	saçak
wink v.	cimqi, cimsi	çımki, çıncı
water (plants) v.	yuyu (II)	yu (wash)

Note: Abbreviations: v. = verb, s.= substantive, i. = invariant

It should be noted that, although two different consonants of Quchuan, *q* and *k*, are matched with only one consonant, *k*, in Turkish alphabet, spoken Turkish includes both, usage depending on various factors. And, the consonant *w* of English alphabet is matched with *v* of Turkish alphabet.

4. Observations and Conclusions

In the light of the results of this study, tabulated in Section 2., Quechuan dialects contain numbers of words, both sounding Turkish-like and bearing the same or significantly similar meaning.

The present study is a preliminary one in order to invoke attention to the main topic, searching for the probable linguistic heritage of Quechuan and Turkish, and the author admits that the paper fails to include some linguistic details. Since the existing literature is far from complete, further etymological work is needed for tracing the deep origin of the words, whether they are from Asian history or from the later dominant language Spanish, etc.

It should also be noted that some of the Turkish words in the table are Mongolic or Indopersian origin, also requiring additional research.

Conflict of Interest Statement

The author declares no conflicts of interest.

About the Author

The author of this article received his B.Sc. in Electronics and Communications Engineering from Istanbul Technical University in 1982, his M.S. degree in Electronics and Computer Education from Marmara University in 1992 and his Ph.D. degree in Electronics and Communications Engineering department from Istanbul Technical University in 1996. After an academic life of 35 years at Sakarya University and Sakarya University of Applied Sciences, he retired in 2020. On the other hand, the author has spent years, not less than for his academic career in engineering, about activities such as searching, learning and teaching languages in general. In this context, he has shared some of his opinions in the articles at the end of Section 6.

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