

Ottoman Turkish and Digoric “Iranian”

Here is a part of a poem in Ottoman Turkish from Oztuna, Y., *Turkiye Tarihi*, Vol 5. p. 123.

Kerem Kasîdesi (Ahmed Paşa) (to Fatih Sultan Mehmet)

*Ey muhît-i keremin katresi ummân-ı kerem
Bâğ-ı cûd ebr-i kefinden dolu bârân-ı kerem
Matla’-î subh-ı zafer mihr-i zekâ ebr-i hayâ
Felek-î izz-u alâ dâver-i devrân-ı kerem*

...

*Açılır hulk-ı nesîmiyle gülşen-î cûd
Bezenir lutfu zülâliyle gülistân-ı kerem
Bahr-i ahdardır anın kulzüm-i cûdunda habâb
Katre-î feyzidürür ebr-i dür-efşân-ı kerem*

Here are the lines without the non-Turkic morphemes. The morphemes have been replaced by the symbol ☉. Only the Turkic morphemes are shown.

Ey ☉ ☉in ☉si ☉ ☉
☉ ☉ ☉ ☉inden dolu ☉ ☉
☉ ☉ ☉ ☉ ☉ ☉ ☉
☉ ☉ ☉ ☉ ☉ ☉

...

Açılır ☉ ☉iyle ☉ ☉
Bezenir ☉iyle ☉ ☉
☉ ☉dır anın ☉ ☉ ☉
☉ ☉ ☉ ☉ ☉

Despite centuries of intense contact with Farsi and Arabic, and despite the amazing number of nonturkic words, the syntax on the whole, and the morphology mostly are still Turkish. Aside from the izafet construction, the morphology is completely Turkish. As can be plainly seen, the verbs mostly are still Turkish. The suffixes are Turkish. The pronouns are Turkish.

This is typically how a language would change. The syntax, grammar and morphology have to stay Turkish otherwise the language would become incomprehensible. These characteristics (e.g syntax, morphology, etc) are system characteristics and without them there is no system. Nouns may be borrowed slowly or rapidly and absorbed into the system as long as “the system” remains. Without the “system” there is no language.

With good common sense and reason, the above is not called “agglutinating Farsi” or “agglutinating Arabic”. It is called Ottoman Turkish.

Then we have to ask how Digoric Ossetian became so “Turkified” that it became agglutinative while still retaining so many Iranian words? It is quite obvious that Abaev is incorrect in stating that Digoric is an Iranian language which became so influenced by Turkic that it became agglutinative. Digoric Ossetian, in contrast to Ironic Ossetian must have been a Turkic language that became Iranized!

This creates a gigantic headache for the Iranists. In this era of alleged swamping of Iranian homelands by Turkic speakers, how did a Turkic tribe/language manage to get Iranified? How long did it take? In contrast, the Turkic origin of Digoric also simply explains certain things, e.g. why do so many Turkic languages have the alleged Iranian words that exist in Digoric while the words do not exist in Ironic?

The Balkars use the name Dügür to refer to Digors. Karachays use the word Tegey or Tegeyli to refer to Ossetians. At the same time, Ossetians use the word Assiag to refer to Balkars as Stur Assiag to refer to Karachays. Strangely enough, it is claimed that these Irons must have called themselves As (e.g. Ossetian, Georgian Ovsî), or Alan. But the word Alan does not exist in Ossetian. It exists in Karachay-Balkar. What is likely is that the original name of the Digor/Tegey is something like *Tergenth, or *Terkenth.