

Language Family Reconstruction Example using Turkic vs Nilo-Saharan
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Bender, Lionel, Nilo-Saharan Languages: A comparative essay, Lincom Europa, 1996.

These reconstructions are from the various words in the languages which are presumed to constitute the Nilo-Saharan family. As can be seen some of the words exist in Turkic, and Indo-European. For some of them the original words in the constituent languages are shown. Substituted â for A; ô for O; ê for E; û for U; í for R; ƙ for K; ɪ for I; d̥ for D; ħ for H; ś for S; ñ for N; ʈ for T; ʊ for V; p^h for P; ɭ for L

In version 1 (this version) only very short Turkic cognates of Nilo-Saharan words are given without references. Anyone with a knowledge of Turkic can immediately see the cognate in most cases. Secondly, it is an example of how widely divergent semantic equivalences can be used in reconstruction which is denied Turkic reconstruction. There is no hiding the fact that these sound changes all fit directly into the scheme

$$\begin{aligned} \text{t} &> \{w,l,s/\text{ş}\} \mathbf{U} \{\text{đ}\} \mathbf{U} \{\text{t}\} \\ \text{đ} &> \{y,r,z\} \mathbf{U} \{\eta\} \mathbf{U} \{\text{d}\} \end{aligned}$$

where \mathbf{U} indicates set union. It is also possible that the t/đ in some cases was –nt-/–nd– and somehow there was a shift to –ng– (η). Other sound changes are known to be very common for IE studies. I cannot give links to etymologies because it gets too complex too fast especially since everyone is too habituated to other assumed sound changes. Later versions will have more; this version gives a simple list.

1. ****ar+**, **ar+ô** rain, water, river, lake, rainy season [Ben96:77]
arik= water canal
2. ****er+**, **+êr+**, ***ar+ı** brother, man or male, friend, bear child, mother [Ben96:78]
er=man, soldier
3. ****+kor+**, **gur+**, **kol+** follow, enter, hunt, or chase, dance, return, rise, turn [Ben96:79]
kuw=chase, kov=chase
4. ****kor₂**, ****kol+**, ***kol+o** elbow, claw, foot, hand or arm, finger [Ben96:79]
kol=arm, hand
5. ****kuř**, ***ƙûř+**, **kwr+** lake, river, well, water [Ben96:79]
köl=lake, kıldı=wet
6. ****p^hat**, ***pat**, **~ tap** many, all or completely, long, very [Ben96:80]
köp=much, many
7. ***a+gêl**, **a+gıl**, **a+gêl+** know, see, forget or lose, stare, watch [Ben96:80]
kör=see, kara=to look
8. ***bar+**, **~ber+**, **bař+**, **bala+** brother, boy, man [Ben96:80]
bala = child

- 9.*den *din *den story or tell, say, word, count, voice [Ben96:81]
de=to say, to tell
- 10.*di~tet burn, bite [Ben96:81]
tüt=to smoke, tuman=smoke
- 11.*dur+, dur, +dir-
+dôr short, thin, small [Ben96:81]
dur/tur=to stop, durmuş=stopped (e.g. short)
- 12.+der+, (n)der fall, go, jump, hop, walk, follow, throw **tef~tel,** [Ben96:82]
yürü/cürü=to walk (c-/y- said to come from *d, thus *du-)
- 13.*do, to/tu, +tu put, pout, pull or push [Ben96:82]
türt= push, tart= pull (weigh)
- 14.*d'ud+, duud+
dûd+? smoke, black, dirty or rotten [Ben96:82]
Tüt=to smoke, tuman=smoke
- 15.*iri ~lau-, *wri- stand, remain, rest or wait, sit, sleep, ~lau, wri wake [Ben96:84]
öre=standing, high, örle=to climb up
uyu=to sleep
- 16.*kaf+tt gourd or spoon, bowl [Ben96:84]
kap=pumpkin, gourd, bowl, cup
- 17.*k+ar+, ar+ white, red, yellow, clean [Ben96:84]
arıt=to clean, sarı=yellow, al=red
- 18.*kat+, ~ket+ bring, hold, pick up [Ben96:85]
ket=to go, kaldır=to lift (related to kalı=high)
- 19.*kau, ashes, field, mountain or hill, stone [Ben96:85]
küy/küw=to burn, kül=ashes, kayna=to boil, kabın=catch fire
- 20.*ke/ir, *kir, kir rope, root (or vein, etc), beard, hair=feather [Ben96:85]
kıl=body hair, sakal=beard
- 21.*kol+, **kôl, *kol tree, (throwing) stick, spear, shield, arrow, forest [Ben96:85]
kalkan=shield, ok=arrow
- 22.*kor+, kôr, after, afternoon, before, time, yesterday [Ben96:86]
sonra=after, öd=time, keç=to pass, late
- 23.*kor, kâl remain or stop, sit, prevent, rest [Ben96:86]
kal=to remain
- 24.*kor, ~ kway, chief or owner, drum, servant or slave *kôr ~kway, -k^wôr [Ben96:86]
kul=slave
- 25.*koy~kûi,
koy+a~kui, k^w(o)l fall (maybe of rain), go or leave, walk [Ben96:87]
ket=go, leave; koy=to put, to leave alone, kuy=to pour
- 26.*kôr+, kor+ good, right, pretty, sweet, light [Ben96:87]
- 27.*kur+, *çur, kur+i food, bite, burn, dura, eat [Ben96:87]
küy/küw=to burn, kap=bite
- 28.*kut+, carry, bring, gather, get or pick up [Ben96:87]
ket=to go, tut=to catch, hold; kötür=lift

- 29.*kĥôr, kor, kôr say, count or write, story or tell, lie, call or shout, laugh [Ben96:87]
kül=laugh; *kısır>kıçır=to call, shout
- 30.*sêr₂, *sêl+, clean, rub or sweep or broom, wash, white [Ben96:89]
sibir/süpür=to sweep, sarı=yellow
- 31.*si, **si, **si burn, eat, bite [Ben96:89]
ye/cey=to eat (y/c < *d but Chuvash has ś)
- 32.*sûr+, *sûr, *sar straight, right, crooked, left, round [Ben96:89]
tüz=straight, sol=left
- 33.*sır+, sir+, *sêr+? cut, rip or split, break, knife [Ben96:90]
sılı=to slice, sın=to break (<*sı)
- 34.*tâl, *tir~ tôr+, tôr+ dust, ashes, earth or country, mud, field, stone, mountain, marsh [Ben96:90]
toprak < *torpak (earthen, dirt), taş=stone <*tatul
- 35.*târ+, *târ+, *têl+a sky or up or god, lightning, outside [Ben96:91]
tağ=sky, tış=outside, taş=to overflow (e.g. go outside)
- 36.*tum rise, dance, turn, fall, throw [Ben96:91]
tepe=to dance, dön=to turn, tüş=to fall
- 37.*tû?, **tı~tu, tı+~tu cut or break, hit or beat, swim [Ben96:91]
tüy=to beat
- 38.*tir+, dir, dir gather or meet, send, catch, hold, carry [Ben96:91]
tut=to catch, hold, tübe=to meet, taşı=to carry
- 39.*ton-?, doñ+, dûñ+ sit or set, stand up or wake, remain, sleep, wait, forbid [Ben96:92]
tur=stand up, stand, remain, tüş=dream
- 40.*tul+, *dur+ smoke, hearth, hot [Ben96:92]
~ tul, țur+
tütün=smoke, tuman=smoke, tıbir=hearth
- 41.*war, war, war moon, month, day, sun, star, tomorrow, yesterday [Ben96:92]
ay=moon < *ad > ar/arma (moon, Hittite)
- 42.ar+, â], ar mountain or hill or stone, ashes, down, dust, sand [Ben96:93]
aşık=stone (<*taş < *tat-)
- 43.bang+a, bañ+a, `bam sister, girl, servant, mother [Ben96:91]
- 44.bar+ ~+bir+ root, hair, snake, worm [Ben96:94]
bař+ ~ baar+
baş=head
- 45.da, -da, +da fat, meat [Ben96:95]
yağ/caw < *da- = oil, fat, butter (shining, glistening?)
- 46.dao+ ~ did+, bird [Ben96:95]
did+, *d'i
tawuk, tox= hen, tük=feather, tüy=feather
- 47.dor, dôr sheep or ram or goat, buffalo, bull [Ben96:95]
- 48.dog, tog+ mud, earth, field, mountain [Ben96:96]
taw/dağ=mountain
- 49.jut ~św-, milk, suckle [Ben96:98]
*ju~św, -sí
suw=water, süt=milk

- 50.kal+ gourd, or spoon, or paddle, pot [Ben96:98]
kaşık=spoon
- 51.kol armpit, breast or chest [Ben96:99]
kol=arm, hand
- 52.kom, *kûm all, deep, many, fat or thick [Ben96:99]
he(m/p)isi, hemi=all, köp=many, much, kalın=thick, semiz=fat
- 53.kor+ bad or evil, dirty, rotten [Ben96:99]
kötü=bad
- 54.kor+o, kor+o dry season, sun or moon [Ben96:99]
kuru=dry, küy=to burn (dry up), kün=sun, kuyaş=sun
- 55.kur+, **kor big, full, long=deep, fat=thick, many, very [Ben96:100]
köp=many, much, to swell; semiz=fat,
- 56.k^{wal} ~koL+ right, left [Ben96:100]
sol=left, kol=arm, hand
- 57.kaş+ old [Ben96:100]
kart=old
- 57.môr, môl/r-, mar all or complete, enough, far, fat, many, very [Ben96:101]
may=fat, oil, barı=all
- 59.ru, *uru say, call or shout, count or write [Ben96:102]
yaz/caz=to write, Chuvash şir=to write > Magyar ir
- 60.şi, *şi+a rope, hair or feather, snake, tail, worm [Ben96:103]
cip/yip=rope, saç=hair, cılan/yılan=snake
- 61.şur₂+?, **sul, sul river=valley, marsh, well, earth, field [Ben96:103]
suw=water, sadır=bog, sel=flood (Ar.?)
- 62.tind remain, live or be alive, sit or set, sleep [Ben96:104]
tin=life, tiri=alive
- 63.tor?, tor, to(o)r come, climb or ascend, dance, hunt, turn, walk [Ben96:104]
ör=high, töğere=to roll (<*tVđ), cürü/yürü=to walk < *du-
- 64.tuk, **tok = turn=return, come=arrive=enter, dance, go=run, throw,climb=ascend [Ben96:104]
dön=turn, change mind
- 65.wôl, -wol, wol before or in front of, tomorrow [Ben96:105]
al=front, aln=forehead, ileri=forward, ilet/elt=to forward, ulaş=to reach; ulag=pack horse, ulak=goat kid
- 66.a(n)+da know, see, think [Ben96:106]
ağı=consciousness, mind, ağıla/anla=to understand
- 67.ar, *(y)ar+a two, half, foreigner=other [Ben96:106]
carım/yarım=half, yağı=foreigner, enemy
- 68.(a)ta, *ata person, boy, child, father, man, son, sister [Ben96:106]
ata=father, atta=father
- 69.ayo, ay~yô come, climb, enter, go, walk [Ben96:106]
aylan=wander, walk, [örle, ay, ar/arma etc]

- 70.âl tree or wood, stem, stick, poison [Ben96:107]
ađı, aw/uw= poison
- 71.*+ja, *ša go or travel, fall, run or flee, turn [Ben96:107]
çap=run
- 72.kel+, *kwr small, sharp, thin, thorn [Ben96:108]
küçük= small, kiçi=younger, gitçe=small
keskin=sharp (from kes=cut), kısa=short (from cut)
kır=to break, kıptı < *kılıptı (scissors), kılıç=sword
- 73.sil, *(s)ır+? hand, elbow, one [Ben96:109]
el=hand, elig=hand (Sumerian silig)
- 74.tük one, ten [Ben96:110]
tek=single
- 75.ay remain, sleep, or lie down, finish [Ben96:110]
uyu=sleep, yat=lie down
- 76.+sast+, ~+sis+? Fat or thick, wide [Ben96:114]
şişman=fat, şiş=to swell
- 77.**ša milk [Ben96:114]
süt=milk
- 78.tush? tie [Ben96:114]
tüy=to tie, sew, tüyre=to sew, attach
- 79.tuw+, ~taw+ field or pasture, earth, down, mud [Ben96:116]
taw=mountain, toz=dust
- 80.**abba~baba,
**abba~baba,
**abba~baba = father, man [Ben96:120]
appa=father, ancestor, akka=father, ancestor
- 81.**em+a mother, sister, girl, child [Ben96:121]
amma = mother, egeç=sister, eke[t]=sister [m=k]
- 82.**ku/ol-?, round or ring, crooked or curved *külo+, **k'ül- [Ben96:122]
kıvrık=curved, <*kVđ > *kVr; kıvrık=crooked
- 83.**kür, **kür+, *kur fowl, pigeon or dove, partridge, kite [Ben96:123]
kuş=bird, kaz=goose, kuw/kuđu=swan, kanat=wing
- 84.*nga, *anga mother, woman, sister, girl or daughter, child or baby [Ben96:124]
~+ing, *añ(iñ)+
ana=mother, amma=mother
- 85.*ñ+am, +am, *+am+a food, dura, eat or bite or burn [Ben96:124]
em=to suck, yum=to close (e.g. mouth), yut=to swallow
- 86.*bel, **bêl, Pal knife, split=tear, cut=chop, hit=swim, pound, ax [Ben96:126]
böl=to divide, balta=axe, biç=to mow, bıçak=knife
- 87.*dji, *ti(i), **tiy+a give, bring, carry, catch, send, hold, take, buy [Ben96:127]
taşı=carry, tut=catch; iy=send < *id
- 88.*(k)+al well, lake or sea [Ben96:127]
köl=lake
- 89.kauñ, *kauñ, kañ cut or fell, break or swim, knife, stab [Ben96:128]
sın =to break (*kın < *kVn)
- 90.*kôr, **kôr, kul neck or throat, back, shoulder, buttocks [Ben96:128]
kıç=buttocks, köt=rear end, arse, kudruk=tail

- 91.kûr+, *kor+k, kôf bark, skin, basket [Ben96:129]
kabuk=bark, skin
- 92.tw̄k+, tik, tiḡ feather, hair, beard, root [Ben96:130]
tük=feather, tawuk=hen, tox=hen
- 93.t̄úr+, ṭúr, ṭêf+ moon, star, sun, time [Ben96:130]
tün=evening, tünene=yesterday, dün=yesterday
- 94.ar?, *ar, or come, enter, exit, go or crawl, fall [Ben96:131]
kir=enter, bar/var=go, arrive
- 95.baar ~ bir two, first [Ben96:131]
bir=one
- 96.**-do/u?, *du~ud-, come, enter, go, fall or descend, jump [Ben96:132]
tüş=fall, descend
- 97.ka come, go, walk [Ben96:132]
kel=come (ke-el?(al/il) Vs ke-öte?)
- 98.*kar, kôr+, *kal cut or chop, split or divide, ax, hit, break [Ben96:133]
kes=cut, kıs=shorten, gıda=axe, kır=break
- 99.*kim+, kiñ fly, mosquito, bee or honey, louse [Ben96:133]
çibin=fly
- 100.*kor+?, *kül+
~kêr, kar fast [Ben96:133]
kızıw=fast; hızlı=fast, hız=speed
terk=fast, tez=fast
- 101.*(k+)ôr+i, *ar+i, ôr blood, red, white or yellow [Ben96:134]
kızıl=red, kan=blood
kırmızı=red (*karamzin),
The latter is said to be from Arabic beetle *karamzin, and related to crimson.
- 102.*ku/or-, *kûr+, k'ol+ worm, snake, tail [Ben96:134]
kurt=worm
- 103.*ta/ta+i, **ta+i, tiya give, bring, catch, gather, hold, buy [Ben96:136]
tut=catch, hold
- 104.**garm+, garm+, sheep or ram or ewe, goat, buffalo [Ben96:138]
ḡôr+
koy=sheep, Tatar sarık < *karık (Uralic?)
- 105.*kur+, *kur, **kur earth or soil, ashes, down, field or farm or pasture, sand, charcoals or black, family, mountain or stony [Ben96:139]
kir=dirt, kara=black, kömür=coal
- 106.*k^(w)ar+a, *kur+, **k^(w)ar+a mountain=hill, earth, field, mud, marsh [Ben96:139]
kara=land, küre=to shovel, *karV=to dig
- 107.ôr~ru, **ôr
~ru, *ir~ôr see, know, dream, watch [Ben96:139]
kör=to see, kara=to watch; uyu/udı=sleep
- 108.**shi, *is~si
, *c~z-? dung, urine [Ben96:140]
sığın=dung?
siy=to urinate, sidik=urine?
- 109.**têm+, tam+
~tiñ, **tim finish, kill, die or dead [Ben96:140]
tinkay=die (tin=life), tunçuk=choke

110. ****t̥el+ñ+**, tongue or language, lick, taste, molar tooth [Ben96:141]
***d̥el+m+**, ***t'el+~lêt'** **tiş=tooth, til=tongue, tat=to taste**
111. ***t̥og, t̥ok, **duk** take, carry, catch, gather, give, exchange [Ben96:141]
değiş tokuş=exchange
112. ***way+ay+**, moon, sun, after, tomorrow, year [Ben96:141]
****ay+, *ay+** **ay=moon, month; yıl/cıl=year**

Version 2 entries are in blue.