

Reflexes of the Most Ancient Root *Deng «Equal» in Eurasian Languages and Interpersonal Relationship Cognitions of Proverbs in the Kyrgyz Language

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Abstract:

The article is devoted to a comparative analysis of contemporary reflexes of the *deng «equal» the most ancient root in a number of Eurasian language families. The article shows that in ancient times this root had an adjective meaning. In the process of its development, the *deng «equal» the most ancient root underwent various modifications, both in form and in meaning. Morphological changes at the beginning (d / t), middle (e / ə / a / and / ö / o) and the end (ng / ngg / nk / n / k / g / y) of the compared units correspond to the patterns of alternation in the languages of Eurasia. It was established that the most ancient root *deng «equal», which in antiquity had only an adjective meaning, functionally modifying and semantically enriching, acquired substantive («sameness», «identification», «scales», «connective»...), additional adjective («equivalent», «similar», «equitable», «the same»...), adverbial («on a par», «equally», «evenly», «identically», «jointly»...) and relational («how», «as if», «as though», «like», «such as», «kind of»...) meanings. Cognitive-semantic originality, constructive-syntactic structure in traditional Kyrgyz speech formulas ensuring the normal flow of interpersonal communications, the most important imperative expressions associating with speech etiquette were characterized, which is necessary for speech culture theory study and practice.

Keywords: Nostratics, Languages of Eurasia, The most ancient root, Archetype, Comparative meaning, Transformations, Modifications, Speech prohibitions, Imperative, Cognitema, Speech etiquette, Generalized personal sentence

1. INTRODUCTION

Nostratics is a branch of comparative linguistics that postulates a distant genetic relationship between a number of language families of the Eurasia and North Africa. At the same time about a thousand common affixed and root morphemes already have been established, which have a similar sound formation and similar meaning (Zulpukarov et al., 2021). We have tendency to the hypothesis of those comparativists, who understand the structure of Nostratic languages widely, including to them, besides Altaic, Dravidian, Indo-European, Kartvelian, Uralic and Afrasian languages (Abduldaev & Ahmatov, 2009; Arzumanov et al., 1958; Atazhanova et al., 2020) also Dagestani, Chukchi-Kamchatka, Eskimo-Aleutian, and Sino-Tibetan languages (Baskakov, 1952; Ganiev, 1977; Dolgopolskiy, 1964; Dolgopolskiy, 1967; Zulpukarov, 1994; Zulpukarov, 2016).

The object of this research is the modern reflexes of the most ancient root *deng «equal» just only in a number of language families of the Eurasia. It compares the facts of the Turkic, Mongolian, Tunguso-Manchu, Chinese, Korean, Uralic, Baltic, Slavic and Iranian languages, which are easily developed to the reconstructed archetype. The purpose of the article is a comparative analysis of modern transformations of the searched root from the point of view of the possibility of construction them to a single prototype.

Cognitema is a unit of memory, exists in the mind of a person and contains the generalized meaning of a saying. Each of cognitives distinguishes within itself private, specific cognitives, and materializes in the proverbial signs of the language.

Paremiias general and constant value integrate particular, concrete action in relation to invariant principles.

In the Kyrgyz morality formulas, many imperative sayings are expressing cognition “One must respect a person”,

which is constant meaning existing in the each ethnos minds and reflecting in numerous paremic expressions (Abdraeva et al., 2021b).

2. METHODOLOGY AND MATERIALS

The methodological basis of the study is the principles of Nostratics. Using the methods of comparison and reconstruction, we can present the ancient name of equality and similarity of objects and actions in the form of the archetype *deng, which probably came down to us in various reflexes and specific variants (Scheme 1). In the Turkic languages, for example, we have the following transformations: 1) Tuvan, Turkish, Turkmen deng; 2) Uzbek dialect, Uyghur dialect däng; 3) Altai, old Uyghur, Kazakh, Karagas, Kyrgyz, Koibal, Kumyk, Saryg-Yugur, Teleut, Shor teng; 4) Tatar dialect ting; 5) Uyghur dialects tängg; 6) Uyghur dialect, Lobnor täng; 7) Teleut tung; 8) Karaite, Chuvash tan; 9) Gagauz, Turkish denk; 10) Altai dialect tek/tig/teg; 11) Turkish dialect dek; 12) Altai dialect, Khakass tööy/töy, etc. (Zulpukarov & Amiraliev, 2016; Zulpukarov & Amiraliev, 2018a).

Cognitemes in Kyrgyz speech etiquette and ways of their interpretation in language, types of imperatives-prohibitions in the linguistic and linguistic-ethnocultural aspects were analyzed based on Kyrgyz ethnographers works (Abdraeva et al., 2021a). Additional research relevance in this work are generally accepted imperatives-prohibitions in the Kyrgyz people speech, which imply their observance by ethnic group representatives in communication and ensure normal flow of interpersonal communication in society. The purpose of the article is to consider the cognitive-linguistic originality and constructive-syntactic structure of the precedent imperatives in the Kyrgyz speech, which are necessary to regulate the

society members' speech intention and behavior.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It is clear that all variants of the equality nominee in the Turkic languages can easily be raised to the most ancient root *deng and reflect regular alternations in the initial (d/t), medial (e/ä/a/i/ö) and final (ng/ngg/nk/n/k/g/y) parts of a monosyllabic word. Consequently, all reflexes of the archetype (deng/däng/teng/ting/tängg/täng/tung/tan/denk/tek/tig/teg/dek/töoy/töy etc.) formed within the limits of transformation and modification allowed by the phonetic rules of the Turkic languages.

Not only the signifier of the *deng archetype has been exposed to transformation, but also its semantics. Reflexes of the *deng submit meanings:

- 1) «equal, evenly» in the functions of the adjective and adverb (Azerbaijani, Altai, Gagauz, Cuman, Lobnor, Saryg-Yugur, Tuva, Turkish, Turkmen, Tofalar, Chuvash);
- 2) «draw» (Turkmen);
- 3) «the same, identically, like» in the adjective and adverbial functions (Altai

dialect, Cuman, Tuvan, Turkish, Tofalar, Uzbek dialect, Chuvash);

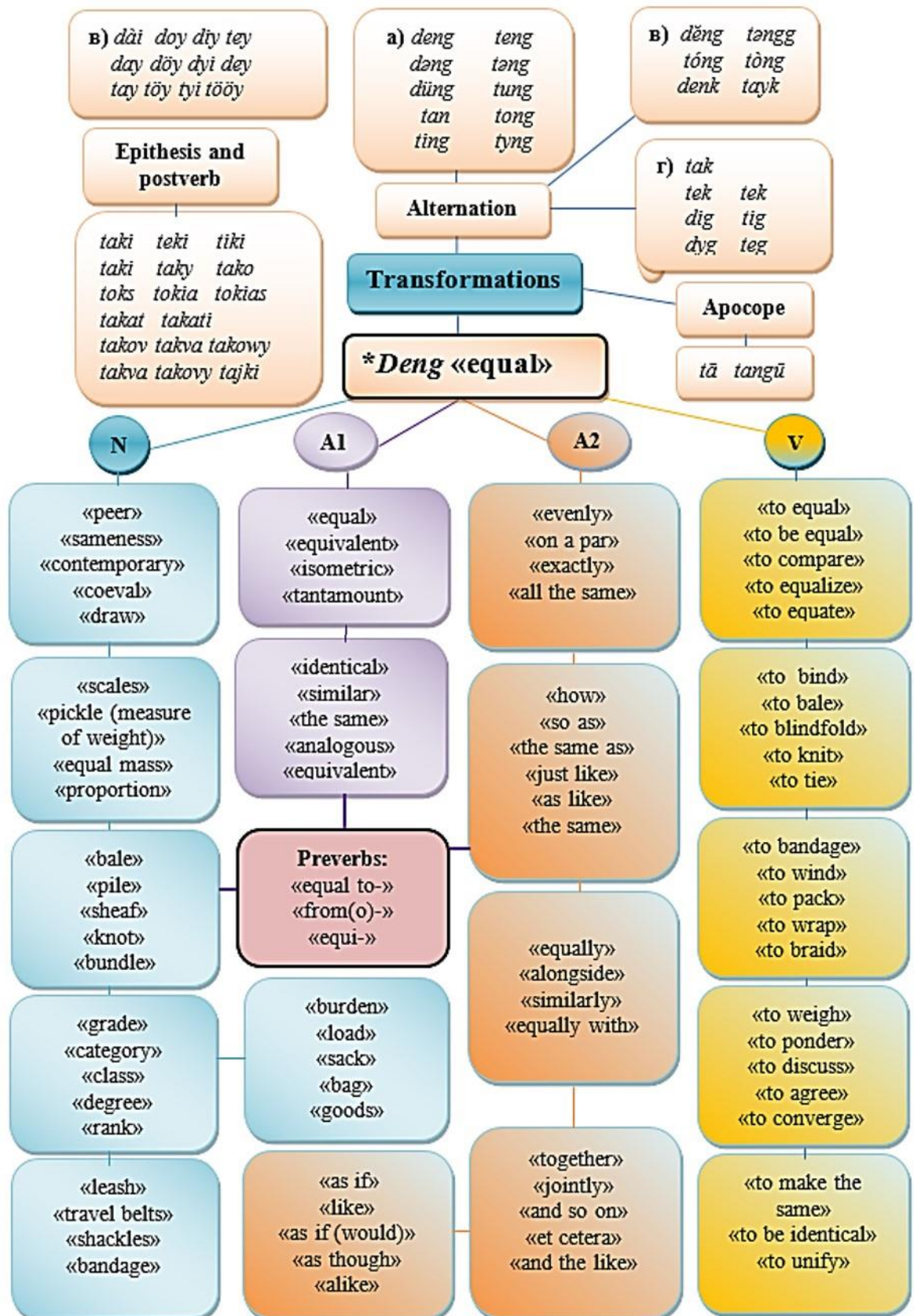
4) «on a par (equally), level with» (Kumyk, Turkmen);

5) «equivalent, equal value» (Gagauz), «equal» (Chuvash);

6) «equal (compeer)» (Kumyk, Turkmen), «coeval» (Turkmen, Chuvash), «peer» (Kumyk, Turkmen). Compare in connection the facts of Uralic languages with the meanings (3, 6) of the studied root: East Mari dene «like», mountain Mari täng «friend, coeval» (Zulpukarov & Amiraliev, 2018b).

These meanings are generally correlative and mutually support each other. Only the substantive semantics are prominently removed from the previous meanings.

The examples above perform functions of the parts of speech – adjectives, nouns, and adverbs. Some reflexes of the common Turkic root *deng «equal» are used in the relational function, as comparative postpositions: 1) dek (Turkmen, Uyghur); 2) deg (Karagas); 3) dey (Altai, Karagas, Turkmen oral); 4) teg (Saryg-Yugur); 5) tey (Turkmen dialect); 6) day (Turkish



Scheme 1. Transformations of the most ancient root reflexes *deng «equal» in Eurasian languages.

dialect); 7) tek (Turkmen dialect); 8) dig/dyg/diy/dyi/tyi (Altai dialect); 9) teki/tiki (Turkish dialect); 10) deyin/teyin (Turkmen dialect), daiyn (Crimean Tatar), etc., which are used to convey the meaning of likeness: 1) «like, similar, alike, the same as, kind of, such as» (in all languages); 2) «as if, as if (would), as though» (Tuvan, Turkish dialect), «as, as if, even if» (old Turkic) (Zulpukarov & Amiraliev, 2016). It is clear, that this postposition formally and semantically correlates with the reconstructed root *deng, in the semantics of which the adjectival meaning probably dominated. Postpositions dek, teg, tek «as, like» allow a comparison with Balto-Slavic pronominals that are easily erected to the most ancient root *tak (>tok/tajk/tā) with the meaning of identification presented in a number of semantically close transform: Russian, Ukrainian, Serbo-Croatian, Czech, Slovak, Polish, upper Sorbian, lower Sorbian tak, Bulgarian, Slovenian tako «so», etc. and their derivatives:

a) Lithuanian toks (masculine), tokia (feminine), Eastern literary tokias (masculine), tokia (feminine) «such», Latvian tālis «such»;

b) Russian taki, takzhe, vse-taki, takov, takova, Serbo-Croatian takov, takva, takvo, takovy, Czech taky, takovy, upper Sorbian tajki, taki, etc.;

c) Russian takat, Ukrainian takati «assent», etc. (Fasmer, 1987). These examples easily converge with other Eurasian root and affixal morphemes with the semantics of convergence, comparison and identification.

The considered Turkic words are not etymologically isolated. They allow comparison with the Mongolian teng «equal weight, similarity (of two objects), camel load», dŷng «equal mass, proportion» (Zulpukarov & Amiraliev, 2016), with the Korean words: tyngdyng «like», tongdyngida «identically, equally», tongdyngkhan «equal», based on repetitions (Illich-Svitych, 1976), tengdara

«imitation, doing the same» (Zulpukarov & Amiraliev, 2016), with facts of the Tunguso-Manchu languages: Evenki dengsele «scales», Negidal, Orok, Ulch, Nanai dengse «scales» dengsele «to weigh (on the scales)», Manchu dengne/dengsele «to weigh (on the scales), to equalize the packs (on both sides of the camel); to compare, to collate», dengse «scales, steelyard (for weighing small weights)» (Kaiymova et al., 2020), tekku «the equal weight, similarity (of two items, camel cargo)» (Zulpukarov & Amiraliev, 2016). The alternation of sounds in the examples teng/dāng/tyng/tong/teng/deng/tek is typical for Altaic and some other Nostratic languages. Compare analogies: Kyrgyz tang «morning», Chinese dàn «morning, dawn», Russian den «day», German tag «morning», English day etc.

These examples are also related to the Persian dang «half a pack (on a horse)», tang «half a pack, package, bale, bundle, knot, bag, sack», Tajik toy «package, bale (packing measure)» (Lytkin & Maytinskaya, 1966). The latter is compared with the Kyrgyz tay «bale, package, bundle» (Reshetov, 1965). The balance and approximate closeness of the volume and weight of the packs served as the basis for using reflexes of the root *deng as their name.

It should be noted, that the root teng/deng/tek... is used in the compared languages not only in substantive, adjective, adverbial and postpositional functions, but also as a verb base:

1) tang- (Altai, Barabinsk, Kazakh, Karakalpak, Lobnor, Teleutian, Saryg-Yugur, Uyghur dialect, Yakut), dang- (Turkmen), tan- (Saryg-Yugur), tank- (ancient Turkic), teng- deng- (Chagatai) with meanings: 1) «to tie» (Altay, Kazakh, Karakalpak, Kyrgyz, Turkmen), «to knit» (Turkish), «to bind» (Altay, Lobnor, Turkmen, Uyghur dialect), «to bind to knots, to tie» (Altay, Kazakh, Karakalpak, Kyrgyz, Turkmen, Uyghur dialect), «to load equally on each side» (Saryg-Yugur, Lobnor), «to burden» (Lobnor), «to be

equal, the same; to weigh, equalize, think, discuss» (Chagatai), «to put in order (seine, net), attaching weights, floats» (Yakut), «to tie up» (ancient Turkic, Altai, Barabinsk, Kyrgyz, Teleutian, Tobolsk), «to marry» (Turkmen); «to tie up» (Karakalpak, Turkmen), «to make a bandage, bandage, wind» (Kyrgyz, Turkmen), «to pack» (Turkmen), «to wrap» (Uyghur dialect), «to braid» (Yakut), etc. (Zulpukarov & Amiraliev, 2016).

2) Kyrgyz tang- a) «(southern wedding rites) to bind the bride and groom together after the wedding feast, throwing a veil over their heads, that covers their eyes; after that, the bride and groom try to step on each other's foot; the one, who comes first will conquer»; b) «to tie, bind, blindfold; (in folk medicine) to cultivate and bandage a broken bone; to bandage; to recommend strongly, advise persistently; advising, to insist on their own» (Reshetov, 1965).

The existence of the words *tanggak/tangak* «bundle, binding; pile, bale», *tanggakta* «to bind in bundles, bale; to put in bundles, pack in stack, bundles, bales», *tanggych* «road belts», *tangū* «to tie, connect; bundle, bandage; fetters», *tangysh* «tie, binding», etc. in the Kyrgyz language it serves as the basis for the convergence of the above verb bases with most ancient root **deng*, because bundles and bales of things have approximately the same volume and weight and are designed for loading and transportation from one place to another. See also Kyrgyz verb formations *tenge* «equalize, compare, make the same», *tengel* «equal yourself, become the same», *tengdöö* «to equalize, balance; equating, equalizing», *tengdel-/tengdelÿÿ* «to equal, equate, equate, belong to the same category», *tengdetÿÿ* «equate/equating, equalize/equalization» etc. (Reshetov, 1965). This verb base correlates with the attributive-substantive words of the Kyrgyz language: *teng* «equal, peer, equal half, one of the couple (husband-wife, bride-groom); all the

same», *tengata* «equal on origin, class, status», *teng ukuktuu* «equality, equal in rights». These examples show the primordial homonymy of the name and verb in the Turkic languages.

Reflexes of the most ancient root **deng* we also find in Chinese:

1) *děng* «belong to the same category, to be equal, to equal; equal, identical, similar; to equate, identify, put an equal sign; rank, degree, class, grade, group, category; in equal degree, equally, similarly, all the same; how? in what degree? what? which?; equal-, evenly, from, equi-» (Baskakov, 1952); *děngděng* «and so on, etcetera, and so forth» (Baskakov, 1952). Compare the use of this root in the structure of compound word in combination with the negation *bù* «not, without, no»: *bùděng* «dissimilar, different» (Sevortyan, 1980);

2) *tóng/tòng* «similar, equal, identical, the same, one and the same; equally, identically, on a par, in equal degree; jointly, common, together; to coincide, be identical; to agree, solidify; to converge, bring together; to unite, unify, put on the same board, do something equal; as well as, on a par with, just like» (Baskakov, 1952); *tóngděng* «equal, identical, identically, sameness» (Sevortyan, 1980);

3) *děng* «grade, category, class; goods of the highest (best) brand; goods of the same quality (grade); identical, sameness; equal, from»;

4) *děngtóng* «to identify, identification; to identify/ identification»; *děngyú* «to be equal, equal, equivalent; to mean, signify» (compare. Kyrgyz *tengöö* «equalize», *tengdeme* «equation»);

5) *děng* «weigh (on scales)» (Baskakov, 1952).

These examples significantly supplement the above comparative material and serve as the basis for the conclusion, that the Altaic, Chinese, Iranian, and probably Slavic and Uralic languages have reflexes of the most ancient root **deng*, represented

in various phonetic and semantic transformations and variations.

However, in comparative studies, there are several different points of view regarding languages, in which this root originated and spread. A.V. Sevortyan presents the versions of scientists on the etymology of the considered word.

1. Many turkologists such as A. fon Gaben, K. Menges, G. Derfer, M. Ryasenen, etc. qualify it as a Chinese borrowing.

2. According to A.M. Sherbak, the archetype of the word is recognized as properly Turkic and is represented as *teng* «equal».

3. According to J. Clawson, some scholars, speaking about the words *deng/teng* in the Turkic languages, emphasize the Persian origin and do not reject its connection with the Chinese words *teng/deng*. The Persian *dang* «half a pack, package, bale, bundle, knot, bag, sack» is compared with the Chinese *dan* «burden, load, bundle, pickle (measure of weight)» (Zulpukarov & Amiraliev, 2016).

Thus, there are three points of view about the origin of the words *teng/deng* – actually Turkic, Chinese or Iranian-Chinese. For our part, we believe that it is interethnic, Nostratic, and common in the south-eastern languages of the Nostratic macrofamily of languages.

Reflexes of the most ancient root **deng* are also found in the affixal part of words in the Turkic languages: 1) *-dek/-day* (Uzbek); 2) *-tag/-dag* (Saryg-Yugur) (Starostin et al., 2016); 3) *-day, -dey* (Crimean Tatar) (Tenishev, 1988); 4) *dyi, -duy, -tyi, -tiy, -tuy, -duy* (Altai); 5) *-day, -dey, -tay, -tey* (Karakalpak) (Usatov et al., 1952); 6) *-day, -dey, -doy, -döy; -tay, -tey, -toy, -töy* (Kyrgyz) (Baskakov, 1952); 7) *-day, -dey, -lay, -ley* (Kumyk) (Tenishev, 1988), etc.

These affixes show semantic and formal similarity with the above words of the Turkic languages in the functions of various parts of speech. Only the amplitude of the sound variation of the

affix is different in languages: in the Uzbek literary language, the affix is represented by two interchangeable forms, in the Kyrgyz language – by eight allomorphs, that exclude interchangeability. Compare: Uzbek *ot* «horse» - *otdek/otday* «like a horse», *siz* «you» - *sizdek/sizday* «like you», *it* «dog» - *itdek/itday* «like a dog» (Fasmer, 1987); compare also: Altai *kushtyi* «like a bird», *kandyi* «like blood», *tündiy* «like night», *anday/ondyi* «such» (Khabichev, 1989); Kumyk, Crimean Tatar *ot* «fire» - *otday* «like fire», *zhymchyq* «sparrow» - *zhymchyqday* «like a sparrow», *söz* «word» - *sözdey* «like a word, similarly a word» (Tenishev, 1988).

Phonetically variable affixes of comparison with the meanings «as, as if, as though, exactly, likely, kind of» in the Turkic languages find an analog in Chinese. In this language, there is a functional word *dài* «like, as, as if, as though, seem like, probably, perhaps, almost, to approach», which contains both a relative and a weak material meaning and used before the compared word (Baskakov, 1952). This fact allows us to take a broader look at reflexes of the most ancient root **deng* and include to their composition the considered comparative affix with all its transformations and allomorphs.

The status of the common Turkic affix *-day/-dak, -dey/-dek* with other variants is determined by grammarians in completely different ways. Some scholars call it a derivational affix of adjectives (Cincius, 1975), others – affix of adverbs (Fasmer, 1987; Starostin et al. 2016) and other group of scientists – interparticle affix of the name (Tenishev, 1988) or affix of the comparative case (Baskakov, 1952).

We are more tending to conclusion about the case character of the comparative affix and its functions. In the Kyrgyz language, for example, it performs an inflectional function. The question of the presence of a comparative in the case system of the Turkic languages has long attracted the

attention of grammarians. We also consider this affix as a form of comparative case, following the tradition, which goes back to the morphological concept of V. V. Radlov, developed in the works of a number of turkologists (E.D. Polivanov, V.M. Nasilov, N.P. Dyrenkova, K. K. Sartbaev, G. I. Ramstedt, V. Kotvich, M. Z. Zakiev, E. R. Tenishev, E. I. Ubryatova, G. G. Fisakova, K. S. Kadyrazhieva, A. M. Sherbak et al. (Scherbak, 1977).

In Kyrgyz, the comparative affix varies depending on the quality of the final sound of the word and syllable:

1) variant -day joins to the base with the final voiced consonant and syllable on the vowels a, u and y: karday «like snow», baladay «like a child», äryday «like a bee»;

2) variant -tay joins to the base with a final unvoiced consonant and a syllable on the vowels a, u, and y: attay «like a horse», zhattay «like a stranger», myktay «like a nail, the best»;

3) variant -dey joins to the base with a final voiced consonant and a syllable on the vowels e and i: sendey «like you», beedey «like a mare»;

4) variant -tey joins to the base with a final unvoiced consonant and a syllable on the vowels e and i: ittey «like a dog», cheptei «like a fortress, such as a fortress»;

5) variant -döy joins to the base with a final voiced consonant and a syllable on the vowels ö and ü: köödöy «like soot», yidöy «like a house, such as a house»;

6) variant -töy joins to the base with a final unvoiced consonant and a syllable on the vowels ö and ü: chöptöy «like a grass», köktöy «like the sky», köbüktöy «like foam»;

7) variant -doy joins to the base with a final voiced consonant and a syllable on the vowel o: koydoy «like a ram», oroodoy «like a pit»;

8) variant -toy joins to the base with a final unvoiced consonant and a syllable on the

vowel o: oktoy «with an arrow, like an arrow», ottoy «like fire, alike fire».

We give these examples to demonstrate the productivity of the comparison affix in the language, the dependence of its variation on typical conditions, and the quality of vowels and consonants in the final part of the base. We believe that the Kyrgyz language has a special case, which scientists call comparative.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, we can make some conclusions:

1. In the Eastern dialects of the Nostratic proto-language, there probably existed a most ancient root *deng «equal».

2. This root in the progress of its development has been transformed and has received various reflexes: deng/däng/teng/ting/tyng/tängg/täng/tong/dyng/tying/tan/denk/tek/tig/teg/dek/töy/töy// dëng/tóng/tòng/dài/tak/tā// dig/dyg/diy/dyi/tyi/teki/tiki/dey/tey/day/tay/doy/döy/taik.

3. The primary adjective meaning, being functionally modified and expanded, has acquired substantive, adverbial, procedural, affixal and combined meanings: 1) «equal», «equivalent», «equidimensional», «tantamount», «identical, similar», «alike, the same, one and the same», «counterpart»; 2) «compeer», «peer», «contemporary», «draw», «sameness», «identification», «scales, steelyard (for weighing small weights)», «package, bale (packing measure)», «ligament», «bundle», «grade, category, class; rank, degree, group, category», «load, burden, pikul (measure of weight), equal weight, proportion», «half of a saddlebag (on a horse), node, bag, sack», «leash», «road belt», «imitation, carrying out of the same», «bandage; cord», «goods of the highest (best) brands; the goods of a single quality (type)»; 3) «on a par, on the same level», «equal», «equally», «as, like, such as, the same as, kind of», «as if, like (to), as though», «equally», «equally, in the same

degree», «jointly», «together», «and so on, and other, etcetera», «as the same, as; on par with, like», «anyway; how? to what extent? evenly»; 4) «be equal, the same; to weigh, equalize, think, discuss», «to be equal», «equalize, compare, make the same», «equal yourself, become the same», «to tie in bundles, to bale; stack in bundles, pack in bales, bunch, bundles, to bale», «to tie», «to knit», «connect», «to bind into nodes, tie», «put in order (seine, net), attaching sinkers, floats», «to tie/bind up», «to marry»; «patch somebody/something up», «to make a bandage, bandage, wrap», «to pack», «to wrap», «to braid», «to match, be identical; to agree, solidify; converge, bring together; to combine, unify, put on the same board, equate», «belong to the same category, be equal, equal yourself; to equate, identify, put an equal sign», «to weigh (on the scales), equate packs (on both sides of the camel);

compare, collate» «to identify», «load equally on each side», «to burden», «to inoculate and bandage a broken bone; to bandage; to firmly recommend, persistently advise; advising, insist on your own», «to mean, signify»; 5) «equal to, from, equi-» in the Russian equivalents first part.

4. The Kyrgyz language has a comparative case. The opinion of Kyrgyz grammarians about nominal word forms with a comparative affix, relating them to adjectives, does not have the necessary basis, because they are found not only in adjectival, but also in adverbial positions and are attached even to anthroponyms.

5. Some reflexes of the reconstructed root found in the Baltic, Slavic, Iranian, and Uralic languages.

Conflict of Interest

Authors declare no conflict of interest in publication of this paper.

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