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HUNGARIAN RESEARCH ABOUT THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE PEOPLES OF CENTRAL ASIA AND KAZAKHSTAN

Current article will be focused to Hungarian researchers' study on the history and culture of Central Asia and Kazakhstan. Goals and objectives of the study. The purpose of this article is to analyze the main scientific directions of Hungarian researchers who conducted their scientific investigation in Central Asia and Kazakhstan in various chronological periods, which allows to highlight and to trace the continuity of Hungarian scientist's generation in the named fields of the region. This study uses interviews and survey methods as one of up-to-date research method to inquire. On the framework a qualitative type of research, a sampling method based on the open-ended questions used on creating the interview points. Results. As the consequence, the generations of Hungarian scientists who conducted research expeditions in Central Asia and Kazakhstan were analyzed; interviews collected from modern Hungarian scientists who are currently managing research in this region; determined their scientific directions, topics and research objectives as well. Conclusion. Dates from this study can be used in the field of historiography, history, Turkology etc.

Key words: Hungarian researchers, Central Asia, Kazakhstan, Historiography, History, Turkology.

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Орта Азия мен Қазақстан халықтарының тарихы мен мәдениеті туралы Мажар ғалымдарының зерттеуі

Бұл мақала мажар ғалымдарының Орталық Азия мен Қазақстанның тарихы мен мәдениеті туралы зерттеулерін талдауға арналады. Зерттеудің мақсаты мен міндеттері. Орталық Азия мен Қазақстанда әртүрлі хронологиялық кезеңдердегі ғылыми зерттеулерін жүргізген Мажар зерттеушілерінің негізгі ғылыми бағыттарын талдау, бұл бізге Венгрияның тарихы мен мәдениеті саласындағы Мажар зерттеуші ғалымдарының жалғаспалы тізімін бөліп көрсетуге мүмкіндік береді. Оған қоса, зерттелетін аймақ бойынша ғалымдардың жұмыс тақырыптары, сондай-ақ осы ғалымдар тізімінің жалғасу реттілігін талдау. Бұл зерттеуде біз қазіргі заманғы зерттеу әдістерінің бірі ретінде сұхбат және сауалнама әдістеріне сүйенеміз. Сапалық зерттеуді жүргізу кезінде сұхбат сұрақтарын құру үшін ашық сұрақтарға негізделген іріктеу әдісі қолданылды. Нәтижелер. Нәтижесінде Орта Азия мен Қазақстанға ғылыми экспедициялар жасаған ғалымдардың тізімі жасалынды; қазіргі уақытта осы аймақта зерттеу жүргізіп жатқан мажар ғалымдарымен сұхбаттар жиналды; олардың ғылыми бағыттарын, тақырыптарын мен зерттеу мақсаттарын көрсетуге тырыстық. Қорытынды. Бұл зерттеу материалдарын тарихнама, тарих, түркология және басқа да. ғылым салаларында қолдануға болады.

Түйін сөздер: Орталық Азия, Қазақстан, тарих, Мажар зерттеушілері, тарихнама, түркология.

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Венгерские исследования по истории и культуре народов Средней Азии и Казахстана

Данная статья будет посвящена изучению вклада венгерских ученых в изучение истории и культуры Средней Азии и Казахстана. Цели и задачи исследования. Целью данной статьи является анализ основных научных направлений венгерских исследователей, проводивших свои научные изыскания в Средней Азии и Казахстане в различные хронологические периоды, что позволит нам выделить поколения венгерских ученых в области истории и культуры изучаемого

региона, тематику их работ, а также проследить преемственность данных поколений. В этом исследовании мы опираемся на такие современные методы изучения как интервью и метод опроса. В рамках проведения исследования, опирающегося на качественные методы, при составлении вопросов для интервью использовался также метод выборки, основанный на открытых вопросах. Результаты. В результате были выделены поколения венгерских ученых, совершивших научные экспедиции в Среднюю Азию и Казахстан; собраны интервью современных венгерских авторов, которые в настоящее время проводят исследования в указанном регионе; мы также постарались выделить их научные направления, темы и цели исследований. Заключение. Материалы данной статьи могут быть использованы в области историографии, истории, тюркологии и т. д.

Ключевые слова: Венгерские исследователи, Центральная Азия, Казахстан, историография, история, тюркология.

Introduction

The XIX century went down in world history as a period when the eyes of European politicians, scientists, and entrepreneurs were focused on the unexplored and inaccessible corners of Asia. However, due to the situation at that period, it was impossible not just collect data openly, even to enter to the territory was highly dangerous. Therefore, considered other, all possible paths and tried to learn the entire territory of Central Asia anyway, learn the language, religion, culture, in a word, all the values of the people living in this region. Having become acquainted with database about mentioned historical circumstances, especially, Armin Vambery, one of the few European travelers of the XIX century, Hungarian Turkologist and traveler, a representative of the European scientific intelligentsia of the XIX and early XX centuries, who was a corresponding member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He became known to the world for the fact that in 1864 he published the book “Journey through Central Asia. (Vambery 2003:2). Furthermore, to be familiar before with other Hungarian Turkologist, namely, Károly Czeglédy, Hungarian specialist in Turkish history, who processed Muslim sources, considered issues of historical ties between Hungary and Islam, examined the sources of the peoples of Transcaucasia in his work “Migration of nomadic peoples from East to West” (Schütz, E. (1996: 1-8); András Róna Tas, professor emeritus of the University Szeged, who’s scientific interest in historical linguistics, Turkic, Mongolic, Tibetan and Khitan, early history of Hungarians Róna-Tas has published numerous works on other Eurasian societies such as the Tibetans, Kipchaks, Khazars, Oghuz Turks and Alans. He was awarded the prestigious Humboldt Prize in 1996 (Professor’s personal page, date of use: December 23, 2023) were a one of reason to explore more deeply about this topic at the first opportunity. Therefore, when I came to Hungary on a research internship in 2022, had the chance to

get to know closely Hungarian people, culture and meet scientists who are making research in Central Asia, including Kazakhstan, additionally listen to professors lecture, personally discussing with the researchers, visiting territories that connect the history of the Hungarians with Central Asia, received from them a lot of interesting facts induced the motivation to create a generation by connecting the history of scientists who conducted research in Central Asia and Kazakhstan, and the researchers following in the footsteps of these scientists today, is the personal scientific reason for writing this article. Moreover, another reason is personal acquaintance with David Somfai and Istvan Santa, the author of the book ‘Letters and photographs from Central Asia’, Gergely Agocs and Professor Imre Pacsai served mainly.

I am deeply grateful for the support and patience of my scientific supervisor, Professor S.I. Kovalskaya on this way. Thus, an attempt was made to conduct research and to perform the results of scientific work in this article. This research is a pilot project that will be studied more deeply in the future.

The main goal of the study is to analyze research conducted by Hungarian scientists into Central Asia and Kazakhstan. *Relevance of this topic.* Nowadays, a full-fledged picture of the history and culture of the peoples of Central Asia and Kazakhstan is being formed. Hungarian researchers occupy a separate independent place in this process so that is why we address to this topic. Relevance of the topic proved by the theory of historiography and qualitative type of research methods that will be provided during research. The relevance of this article is confirmed by the usage of the latest research approaches, among which interviews occupy a special place.

Materials and methods

Research questions: How deep and which directions of the research was continued by Hungarian scholars in the study of Central Asia and Kazakhstan

after and/or Vambéry's period? Which scientists are conducting research currently in the territory of Central Asia and Kazakhstan? *Thesis*: a generation of Hungarian scientists sought to understand themselves through the origins of the Hungarian language, and the Hungarians as a separate people. As was mentioned above, this idea was quite popular in the XIX century, and our task is to determine and understand whether the entire generation of Hungarian scientists really proceeded from this, attempt to study their own history, culture and language. Moreover, having arrived in this territory in search of an answer, testing a hypothesis, they get acquainted with a large number of peoples inhabiting the region being studied. Accordingly, they leave unique data on the culture, ethnography, religion of the Turkic peoples. That idea what drove previous generation of Hungarian explorers and modern scientists essentially continue this same line because they also deal mainly with language and ethnography, common origin history etc.

This study uses interviews and survey methods. Interviews conducted in the territory of Hungary and Kazakhstan, 2023. Within the confines of a qualitative type of research, a sampling method, the collected information was used to present the role and significance of the research topic of Central Asia and Kazakhstan in the interviews among today's Hungarian scientists what are used open-ended questions. First of all, our research begins with the correct formulation of important questions and the collection of necessary information. In the second step, based on the data collected, the questions were divided into several categories in order to obtain a complete and effective answer to the research question. The qualitative research method is used to formulate interview questions. Qualitative interviews use open-ended questions, that is, questions that the researcher asks but does not provide answers. Open-ended questions place more demands on participants than closed questions because they require participants to come up with their own words, phrases, or sentences to answer (Alsaawi: 150). For example, in this study after collecting enough basic information about interviewees basic personal data, particularly their social surroundings what are more significant part of research, study questions shared out into the following groups: (1) Reason of interest on making research about Kazakhstan and Central Asia. In this part author's basic purpose is to collect data about previous Hungarian researchers' way and level of learning named question and what is the differences with interviewer's current research. Moreover, to

get more detailed information about researcher's chosen topic on the Central Asian and Kazakhstan study, mostly about Hungarian historiography on mentioned above matter. (2) Personal experience of studying the region. This section of questions leads to an innovative approach to research and a various way of thinking, delving deeply into aspects that are the most important part of research. The main goal is to share the research conducted by Hungarian scientists in the countries of Central Asia, especially Kazakhstan (on the basis of which fund, library, archive, research center, funding process, based on which projects, methods and goals of work, with the results obtained etc.) and the experience gained in this way. The purpose is to analyze the path traveled by Vambéry and the degree of research of that period with the current level of research. (3) Current Hungarian research in Central Asia. This part includes scientific view of modern Hungarian scientists on Central Asia and Kazakhstan and level of interest in teaching and studying the matter, especially about the historical relation of Hungarians with Turkic people and how does the current generation of Hungarians react to this scientific approach. For an interview were chosen scientists and researchers who are currently conducting research in Central Asia, mainly, next scholars: (1) Dávid Somfai Kara, Turkologist and Mongolist (2) Gergely Agocs is Hungarian folk musician, folk music researcher (3) Pacsai Imre is Professor of University of Nyíregyháza, Hungary and habilitated doctor of philological sciences who specialize in linguistic research of the Magyar and Turkic languages, including conducting research on determining family ties based on proverbs. Other researchers asked not to highlight their names. During interview following data were collected: valuable information about the Kipchak villages in Hungary from the researcher's view point who was living with them from childhood during summer holidays and the reason of his interest in conducting research in Central Asian countries. Moreover, a genealogy of Hungarian scientists who conducted research in Central Asia was created, which determined the chronological framework and elaborated on each of the scientist's biography which includes interesting and first-hand information. Collected detailed records from the research of interviewed scientists were in the field of Turkology, cultural anthropology, ethnography, spiritual culture of nomads, Sufism, epics, shamanic culture, folklore, folk dances, folk music, instrumental folk music, linguistics, relation in religious beliefs what accumulated and observed experience during many years (from 1997) and

interesting facts about their exploration, especially in territories what were less studied before in Central Asia. In other parts, for instance, some of them, according to the researchers, main similarities are found in the folklore and melodies of the Kazakh, Karakalpak etc. with Hungarian peoples: 70% of them are found among the Hungarians. Furthermore, discovered common features of the morphology of the Kazakh and Hungarian languages. As an example, nouns have no grammatical gender; in phrases there is no complete agreement between the adjective and the noun; in phrases with numerals, nouns and adjectives do not take plural endings; Hungarian and Kazakh languages have possessive endings that are absent in Indo-European languages. A common element of these languages is the law of synharmonism: affixes are in harmony with the root. When studying the vocabulary of Turkic languages, researchers found the roots of Hungarian words that do not have a clear etymology and some Hungarian geographical names in Turkic languages. The focus of the interviewed academic researchers is based on living culture and living history. According to them, the entire history, culture, library and priceless heritage of the nomads can be collected by visiting and seeing living people.

Literature review

To present the used literature of research, let us divide them into several groups, what are following: (1) works of Hungarian researchers of XIX centuries (2) 20th century scientists who studied the region until modern times (3) scientists who are currently working on this topic.

To the first part of researcher's work were taken firstly, Vambery's book 'Travel in Asia' where he illustrates about his wanderings in Central Asia in 1863. Full of dangers and hardships, this journey was in the spirit of his era, marked by important geographical and other discoveries. Particular attention was paid to studying natural conditions, history, ethnography, religion and culture of the peoples of Central Asia (Vamberi, A. 2003); Vambery covered several areas of science. A. Vambery made a significant contribution to the study of the past of peoples Central Asia and Kazakhstan based on written sources. Namely, his works on the living languages, folklore and literature of the Central Asian peoples are of greatest scientific importance. Their value is enhanced by the fact that he recorded historical legends and the poems of such classical poets of that time that circulated among the people from mouth to mouth (Vamberi, A. 2003: 8);

Secondly, the book on based to the biography of Hungarian traveler who was in the territory of Central Asia, Alexander Csoma De Koros by Theodore Duka. Book was consisted from Csoma's each published works and essays, as well as of his still extant manuscripts which published in 1885 'Alexander Csoma De Koros. (A brief notice of each of his published works and essays, as well as of his still extant manuscripts). Where he gives information that Alexander Csoma De Koros was first explorer in the territory of Central Asia in 1821, November. In his book he gave data about languages of Central Asian people, particularly, about their structure and comparison of it with Hungarian language, about his travel ways as well in territory. 'The narrative as it now stands will, it is hoped, make those interested in philological science better acquainted with the details of Csoma's early years, and enable them to follow without interruption the steps of his long and arduous wanderings. These were for the most part accomplished on foot, and extended from Europe across Central Asia, Bokhara, through Afghanistan, the Panjab, and Kashmir towards the borders of China, and afterwards into Tibet and Hindustan down to Calcutta' (Theodore Duka, 1885:2). Therefore, was the reason of interest and investigate deeper about him;

To the second group, we could take that works of authors who are refers one of our interviewer's Imre Pacsai, during the interview, as a sample, book of Isaev S. M. (1994) Collection of exercises on comparative typology of Russian and Kazakh languages (Isaev S.M. 1996: 182); The work of Sheridan were used in order to give basic fact about an one of famous Hungarian folk music representative Kodaly Zoltan's research, about the Hungarian folk music, where he mentioned about the connections in the folk music of Turkic people, during the writing about an interview with Gergely Agocs.

Third group of literature were based to the researchers of current time, as: book of collective authors 'Uly dalanyn birtuar ulany' [Son of the great steppe which is born only once] (2008), published with the support of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the 65th anniversary of Istvan Konyr, collected the works of many scientists who studied Mandoki. Since he conducted general studies of the Turkic peoples, the works of scientists in the book are presented in languages associated with the territories of their origin; During research made use of own interviewers book, David Somfai Kara with Istvan Santha Shanta I. (2022) Pis'ma i fotografii iz serdca Azii [Letters and photographs from Central Asia] which pub-

lished in Bishkek and György Almasy was certainly such a researcher, who followed after Vambery and came to the territory, especially, conducted research in Kyrgyzstan. Whose trip to Kyrgyzstan in 1900 and 1906 was a great feat in his time, and his book about the 1900 expedition and scientific articles in German and Hungarian form the basis of European knowledge about the Kyrgyz (Santha 2022:9); Most information about current Hungarian researchers were taken from the electronic database, particularly from their official personal page with links to them; Next American writer Sheridan, M. M. (2019) in his research 'The Kodály Concept in the United States: Early American Adaptations to Recent Evolutions' where published in the Journal of Historical Research in Music Education gives data about who was Zoltán Kodály and what was his philosophy of music education and etc.

A works of modern authors, the article by de Somogyi 'Alexander Csoma de Kőrös' where published in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain & Ireland gives us information about basic data of Alexander's biography what was used during writing the article and provide information about one of the first explorers of the territory; As well as the research of Mossière, G. (2015). Alexandre Csoma de Kőrös, le traducteur-rhinocéros [the rhinoceros translator] in French language played a complementary role in the article.

Methods of qualitative type of research, especially, qualitative interviews were explained as research method widely in the work of Ali Alsaawi where published in the journal European Journal of Business and Social Sciences, Vol. 3, No. 4, pp 149-156 (Alsaawi, A. 2016).

In our research, we relied on general scientific methods, including historical-genetic and historical-comparative. Thus, the historical-genetic method allowed us to systematize information about the research of Hungarian scientists and establish an intergenerational connection between them in terms of the region being studied, scientific goals and research topics. Using the historical comparative method, we were able to trace how knowledge increased among Hungarian scientists about the history and culture of the peoples of Central Asia and Kazakhstan from the XIX century to the present day.

Results and discussion

Interview with Dávid Somfai Kara.

The role of professor David was highly remarkable in creating the generation of Hungarian

scientists, obtaining interesting information about their biographies, and providing a lot of information.

To present the collected database more understandable, let us look at each scientist and the received information from them in order according to the research based divided groups what were mentioned above. First interviewer Dávid Somfai Kara is a Turkologist and Mongolist. Between 1994 and 2022 he did fieldwork in western and northeast China (Xinjiang, Qinghai, Gansu, Inner Mongolia), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, and Russia (Siberia, Ural, Caucasus). He has collected oral literature (folksongs and epics) and data on Inner Asian folk beliefs among Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Uyghur, Bashkir, Nogay, Kumuk, Tuva, Tofa, Altai Turks, Abakan Tatars (Khakas), Sakha (Yakut), Buryat, Daur, Khoton (Sart-Kalmak) and Yugur. He wrote his PhD thesis on the vocabulary of folk beliefs among Turkic and Mongolic peoples of Inner Asia (2006). He worked as researcher at the Hungarian Institute of Ethnology (Budapest), a visiting scholar at Indiana University (Bloomington) and a visiting researcher at Minpaku (National Museum of Ethnology, Japan, Osaka) (from professor's personal page, date of use: December 15, 2023). Currently he is working as an assistant professor in the Nazarbayev University, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Astana, Kazakhstan. His current research in Kazakhstan is concentrated on living history. It means, coming to research aimed settlements, finding people who have seen historical times and study-based periods, collecting valuable information by interviewing them, finally compare it with the living history of their nation.

Biography. David was born in Budapest, Hungary, 1969, April 21. His father was photographer, mother was engineer, but after she changed her job to the book shop. Most his relatives were living in villages, especially from his mother's side where situated in the Hungarian Kipchak's settlement. It was called Kumans and they divided into two parts, Great Kumans are living in the east part of Tisa river and small Kumans who lived in the central part of the Tisa river where close even starts from Kecskemét where was the village of David's relatives from his mother's side and he usually spent there summer holidays. During this period, from his childhood he observed moments which are particularly interested him. Primarily, he paid special attention to the reading of the traditional prayers of the elders after cutting the bread and the blessing given in the Kipchak language:

Bizim atamyz kimisi kökte
 Sentlesin sening atyng
 Tüshsin sening köngling
 Nechik kim jerde alai kökte
 Bizim ötmegimizni ber bizge bütün künde
 Elt bizim minimizni
 Nechik kim biz de ijermiz bizge utyry kelgenge
 Eltme bizni ol jamanga
 Kutkar bizni ol jamandan
 Sen barsyng bu chyn iigi Tengri
 AMEN (Mándoky 1981: 24).

The meaning of this bata (blessing) from Kipchak language is about asking an about asking for blessings from the Heavenly God, so that the people of this people are far from iniquity, so that they are secured and protected by the Heavenly God and are under his defense.

David about Mandoky Kongur

This time-spending in Kipchak villages and the blessing given in the Kipchak language, wondered him why the Kipchaks spoke a language other than Magyar. When he was 21, he met with Mandoky Kongur and acquainted with each other and discussed about their interest in research. Mandoky was one of an outstanding Turkologist of the 20th century, the founder of European Kipchak studies, the author of unique works on the history, culture and language of the Turkic peoples. The Kazakhs called it “Konyr” (Akasheva 2008: 7).

This name became iconic in Kazakh society in the 80-90s of the last century. After this meeting they started to meet often and during 2 years Mandoki taught David to the basic aspects on how to make research and became a scientist, so he was in the territory of Central Asia, especially in Kazakhstan. Unfortunately, Mandoki died accidentally in 1992 and David aimed to continue the path of Mandoki in research. As Mandoki’s wife was the Kazakh girl, Ongaisha Mandoki, she supported David’s initiation and taught the Kazakh language. Currently David knows more than 22 languages. After go back to Budapest and applied to the ELTE university Turkic and Mongol philology faculty and successfully graduated in 2000. Currently he is teaching Turkology to students at Nazarbayev University.

About Hungarian researchers in Central Asia. Sándor Csoma de Kőrös

David professor shared information about subsequences and how he made the continuity of researchers who conducted and tried to arrange researchers in the territory of Central Asia and

Kazakhstan. According to him, first researcher who came to the territory of Central Asia, before Armin Vambery was Sándor Csoma de Kőrös. He was born on the 4th April, 1784, in the village of Kőrös, named later Csomakőrös after him, in the county of Háromszék in Transylvania. Descended of a noble but poor family, he finished his studies as a pupil-servant at the Bethlen College of Nagyenyed, which sent him with a scholarship to the German University of Göttingen. There he heard from Professor Eichhorn that certain Arabic MSS. must contain valuable information, unknown to European scholars, regarding the Asiatic migrations of the Hungarians during the early Middle Ages. This induced Csoma to study Arabic and to travel in Central Asia rather than enter upon the quiet academic career that waited for him in his country (Somogyi 2015: 35). Alexandre Csoma was a Hungarian philologist and Orientalist, author of the first Tibetan-English dictionary and grammar book. Alexandre Csoma de Kőrös is a little-known figure internationally, but he is an essential historical figure in his native Hungary for having established the first Tibetan-English dictionary and the first grammar of Tibetan in 1834. This in doing so, he created the field of Tibetology. In his country, he is a national hero, and many streets, boulevards, schools, etc. bear his name. He has also been the subject of several films. Hungarian associations continue to maintain the memory and work of this linguist, translator by placing plaques at the places where he passed, by organizing commemorative events and by helping to the renovation of Himalayan monasteries in which he stayed (Mossière 2015: 33). In accordance with David, Csoma Sandor’s (Alexander) and other researchers’ main goal was to find the land of their ancestors and the history of their origin. However, because of the political issues, mainly because of the war (between Bukhara and Kokand) during that period he returned from Bukhara to Tibet. After he continued his research in other direction and made first Tibetan-English dictionary.

Prove of David professors’ word we could see from the book of Theodore Duka, 1885. Alexander Csoma De Koros when Csoma notes: “The 1st of March 1821, I bid adieu to my noble benefactors, and the 18th of April arrived at Meshed, in Khorassan. On account of warlike disturbances in the neighbouring countries, it was the 20th of October ere I could leave that placetoproceed insafely, and onthe 18th of Novembel’ I reached safely Bokhara, but, affrighted by frequent exaggerated reports of the approach of a nnme rous Rnssian army, after a residence of five days I left Bokhara, where I intended to pass the

winter, and with a caravan I came to Balk, Kulm, and thence by Bamian; on 6th of January, 1822, I arrived at Kabool” (Theodore Duka, 1885:27).

In his book he notes about languages: “In support of the possibility to accomplish my engagement, I beg leave to state that I am acquainted with several ancient and modern European and Asiatic languages, and that my mother-tongue, the Hungarian idiom, is nearly related, not in words, but in structure, with the Turkish, Indian, Chinese, Mogul, and Tibetan languages. In every language of Europe, except the Hungarian, Turkish, and those of Finnish origin, there are prepositions like in the languages of Hebrew or Arabic origin, but in our tongue, like in the Indian, Chinese, and Tibetan, we have postpositions, and for the formation of different cases in declension, we have affixes with which to form from the same root several sorts of verbs (Theodore Duka, 1885:52).

Armin Vambery

Second generation of researcher was Armin Vambery. Vambery tells about his wanderings in Central Asia in 1863. Full of dangers and hardships, this journey was in the spirit of his era, marked by important geographical and other discoveries. The 19th century entered world history as a period when the eyes of European politicians, scientists, and entrepreneurs were focused on the unknown and inaccessible corners of Asia. Particular attention was paid to the study of natural conditions, history, ethnography, religion and culture of the peoples of Central Asia. Interest in this mysterious region was fueled by rumors about its untold riches, native gold, strange markets, slave trade, original customs, nomadic freemen, fanatical despots of Khiva, Bukhara, Kokand. Of great importance, of course, was the geographical and strategic position of the region, bordering Russia and the Indian colonial possessions of Great Britain. A. Vambery’s notes were not free from some omissions and errors. Critics reproached the traveler for the conciseness of his presentation and the lack of important details in the story about the countries and peoples he saw. The author subsequently tried to eliminate these shortcomings in special additions to his trip to Central Asia (Vambery 2003: 6). Vambery’s materials concerning the living languages, folklore and literature of the Central Asian peoples deserve great attention. Their value is enhanced by the fact that he recorded historical legends and the poems (Vambery 2003: 8). Contained in “Journey through Central Asia” biographical information about the famous Turkmen poet contributed to further study of

his life and work. A. Vambery was among the first to introduce wide circles of European readers to the work of famous Central Asian poets. A. Vambery made a significant contribution to the study of the past of peoples Central Asia and Kazakhstan based on written sources. His works on the Chagatai and Uyghur languages, on Turkic-Tatar and Finno-Ugric lexicography are of greatest scientific importance.

György Almásy

After Vambery next researcher into Central Asia was György Almásy. As Professor David Somfai with his colleague Istvan Santha together wrote a book about György Almásy, he was able to give more deep information about him and shared how they together collected database and wrote the book. Almásy went on his first trip to Asia in 1900 with his professor at the University of Graz, Rudolf Stummer von Traunfels. They studied the Ili River basin, the area east of Issyk-Kul. Furthermore, they left ethnographic records telling about the daily life of the Kyrgyz and Kazakh peoples. Almásy played an important role in introducing the Kyrgyz epic *Manas* to Western audiences. (Santha 2022:9).

György Almásy was certainly such a researcher, whose trip to Kyrgyzstan in 1900 and 1906 was a great feat in his time, and his book about the 1900 expedition and scientific articles in German and Hungarian form the basis of European knowledge about the Kyrgyz. Almásy studied at the University of Graz and was interested in ornithology in his youth. He knew very well that the Hungarian aristocrats, influenced by geography and hunting, organized many campaigns and study trips to Africa, Central (inner) and Central Asia. The Kazakh-Kyrgyz expedition of 1900 was primarily motivated by an interest in zoology, which the Count carried out together with his Austrian colleague, Professor Rudolf Stummer-Traunfels (1866-1961). György Almásy was more of a zoologist, but during the trip he discovered the rich ethnography of the Kyrgyz people, their language and especially the world of Kyrgyz heroic tales. György Almásy published a book about his journey in Hungarian in 1903: “My Journey to the Heart of Asia”. For the author of these lines, when he first picked up Almásy’s book as a student at the Turkic University in the 1970s, it was a wonderful experience: acquaintance with Kyrgyz culture. Even after many decades, it was evaluated that the book is a huge, untapped treasure for the study of the Kyrgyz past, the world of past Kyrgyz times. (Santha 2022:9).

Istvan Mandoki Kongur

Next generation of the researcher, one of basic representative was Istvan Kongur Mandoky. Istvan Mandoki Konur was born in 1944 in Hungary in Karcag. The origin was from Hungarian Kypchaks. Istvan Mandoki Konur studied at the Turkology department of Budapest University in 1963-68. He knew several languages (Hungarian, Turkish, English, Russian, etc.) well. Among the Turkic languages he knew were Kyrgyz, Kazakh, Kumyk, Kyrgyz-Tatar, Karachay-Balkar, Nogai, and the medieval European Kipchak language (now a dead language). Istvan Mandoky Konur was a student of Gyula Nemeth (Julius Nemeth, 1890-1976), a prominent Hungarian Turkologist. Gyula Németh was born in Karcag. He began learning Turkish there and set off from there on his first trips to Turkey (Istanbul–1907, later to Aydin and Smyrna – 1908). From 1909, as a member of the Eötvös College, he studied at the University of Budapest from such personalities like Zoltán Gombocz, Bernát Munkácsi, Ignác Goldziher and Ármin Vámbéry. Between 1911 and 1914 he went on several study trips to Leipzig, Kiel and Berlin. He habilitated at the University of Budapest in 1915. In 1916 he became an extraordinary professor at the Department of Turkology, and in 1918 he became a full professor. His Turkish grammar was published in 1916–17, which is still a good manual for learning Ottoman-Turkish written in Arabic script. In 1921 his first studies on the Turkish loanwords of Hungarian and issues of Hungarian prehistory were published. His most important and most influential work, *A honfoglaló magyarság kialakulása*, [The Formation of the Conquering Hungarians], was published in 1930. In this book, he examined the naming practices of Turkic tribes, the Turkic tribal system and the formation of the nomadic Turkic states and presented the role of the joined Turkic tribes in the formation of the ethnicity of the Hungarian people.

Another important area of his scientific work was the study of the inscriptions on the treasures of Nagyszentmiklós (professor's personal page, date of use: December 23, 2023).

In his opinion, the inscriptions were written in a Kipchak-type Turkic language, namely the Pecheneg. In 1981, István Mandoki Konur defended his doctoral thesis on the topic “Documentary sources on the language of the Cumans in Hungary”(Kazakpayev 2007).

Konyr's goal and dream throughout his adult life is to restore and revive the forgotten language of the Kumankypchak in Hungary, where he comes from. (Bakitkaly 2023: 59). He died of a heart attack

in the summer of 1992 while on a research trip to Dagestan, when he was eager to start his research and teaching activities in Bishkek. According to his wish, his body was buried in Almaty, Kazakhstan. In 1993, a bronze statue of István Mandoki Konur was erected in his native town of Kartsag (Kazakpayev 2007).

Interview with Gergely Agocs

Following researcher Gergely Agocs is Hungarian folk musician, folk music researcher and worthy artist from the highlands. He was one of the founding members of the Slovakian Hungarian Folklore Association, where he directed the work of its folk music section from 1990 until the fall of '96. In 1997, he graduated from the Department of Folklore/Ethnography at Eötvös Lorand University in Budapest. In 2000 he began working on his PhD in Hungarian and Comparative Folklore in the Department of Humanities at the same university in Budapest. After finishing at the university, he accepted a position as folk music researcher at the Institute of Musicology at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (from professor's personal page, date of use: December 15, 2023).

Agocs professor came to the west part of Kazakhstan conducted research and found a lot of similarities in folk music, which once again proves the kinship of the Hungarian peoples with the Turkic peoples. Researcher gave us information about his observation study in Central Asia about Kipchaks, romalogy, folk dances, folk music, instrumental folk music, He talks about his research in the Edil Zhaiyk steppe region of Kazakhstan, how this region is connected to the origins of the Magyar people, as well as the history of the life of nomads and how it is connected to the Magyar people. Expressly, he started to talk about experience in Taktakopir is a village in Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan. Agocs mentioned about, Zoltán Kodály (born December 16, 1882, Kecskemét, Austria-Hungary [now in Hungary]–died March 6, 1967, Budapest) prominent composer and authority on Hungarian folk music. He was also important as an educator not only of composers but also of teachers, and, through his students, he contributed heavily to the spread of music education in Hungary (Sheridan 2019: 55). Referring to Kodaly Zoltan's research, about the Hungarian folk music, where he mentioned about the connections in the folk music of Turkic people and found similarities who lived near the Turks, Cheremis people. Moreover, explained the ties between folk songs in the mouths of the people, which determines the connection between

the languages of the Turkic peoples. Kodaly saw a connection among the Cheremis.

After Kodaly, his students continued his path, conducted 12 expeditions in 1950-60-70 on the territory of the Cheremis, and clarified that they also sing songs similar to Hungarian folk melodies. Consequently, the Cheremis who live near the Tatars and Bashkirs were also found to be similar, but the Cheremis who live in the north, who have no connection with the other Cheremis that we have already mentioned above, did not find such connections in folk music. According to the scientist, the Cheremis took this largely from the Bashkirs, from the Tatars and from the Kazakh Tatars. Agocs says, that in the future he will study the question of why and how this happened. Agocs has been engaged in these surveys for 23 years, he initially began his journey from studying Balkars, Karachays and began recording their folk songs.

When he first met the Nogais, he was very interested and began to study their folk songs more deeply and discovered 40% similarities with the Hungarians at first, when he began to further research and record folk music, explored approximately 70% similarities. After he continued to travel to another territories, next one was Kazakhstan, in particular in the villages of the western part of Kazakhstan. Realized most interesting similar aspects with them. According to the scientist, the main similarities are found in the folklore and melodies of the Kazakh, Karakalpak, Karachay, Balkar with Hungarian peoples: 70% of them are found among the Hungarian peoples.

Interview with Pacsai Imre

Next interviewer Pacsai Imre is Professor of University of Nyíregyháza, Hungary and habilitated doctor of philological sciences who specialize in linguistic research of the Magyar and Turkic languages, including conducting research on determining family ties based on proverbs (from professor's personal page, date of use: December 15, 2023).

Imre professor could not have the chance visit Kazakhstan, however during his scientific life he met with famous researchers from Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries as well which is greatly motivated him to learn and explore more about relations of Hungarians with Turkic people, mainly in linguistics. Consequently, he had an opportunity to receive enough materials and physical books in Kazakh language and to conduct comparative study in named research questions with Hungarian historiography.

During research according to the interview questions by obtaining answers to all research questions, complete and extensive information on the topic of the research was collected. When studying the vocabulary of Turkic languages, he found the roots of Hungarian words that do not have a clear etymology and some Hungarian geographical names in Turkic languages. Researcher shared with his finding in mentioned sphere and gave detailed data how it was, consequently who, from which countries supported him.

During interview he mentioned following information and what was given in originally from his words: "Since childhood, I have been interested in ancient legends. The legend about the magic deer, which brought the brothers Hunor and Madyar to their new homeland from the Central Asian steppe, is associated with the ethnogenesis of the Hungarians. I read with great interest about the life of Sándor Kőrösi Csoma, who wanted to find the ancestral home of the Hungarians in Central Asia. I was very interested in Armin Vambery's trip to Central Asia. I was glad to receive the book "40 Lessons of the Kazakh Language" (Alma-Ata, "Zhalyn" 1990) by Khadisha Kozhakhmetova, and studied the features of the Kazakh language with great interest. I quickly discovered common features of the morphology of the Kazakh and Hungarian languages: nouns have no grammatical gender; in phrases there is no complete agreement between the adjective and the noun; in phrases with numerals, nouns and adjectives do not take plural endings; Hungarian and Kazakh languages have possessive endings that are absent in Indo-European languages. A common element of these languages is the law of synharmonism: affixes are in harmony with the root. I later studied with great interest the grammar "Qazaq tili" by Professor S. M. Isaev (Almaty "Rauan" 1996), received from Kazakh colleagues. I bought a Kazakh-Russian dictionary, which helped in learning the Kazakh language. I was given a collection of Kazakh folk tales (1959) and the work "Kazakh Fairy Tale" (Alma-Ata 1972) by Professor S.A. Kaskabasov, which served as a guide and support for comparing Hungarian and Kazakh fairy tales. I discovered common plot motifs, common elements of Minority customary law and shamanic beliefs. In the Er-Tostik tale I found the main motifs of the most typical Hungarian fairy tale Fehérlófia (son of the white mare). The most important motive was totemism. For the wonderful protagonist, the horse is a totemic ancestor".

Conclusion

To summarize, an attempt was made to conduct a scientific analysis by interviewing scientists who conducted research in the field of ethnography, history and anthropology in Central Asia, including Kazakhstan, consequently, to combine a lot of valuable information. Nowadays, as we see, by using interviewing methods, with David Somfai, an attempt was made not only to determine the scientific path of the scientist and his biography on the path to Turkology, his scientific position and mission in modern Kazakhstan, but also to create the generations of scientists who conducted research expeditions in Central Asia what was mentioned above with biography of: Sándor Csoma de Kőrös – Armin Vambery – György Almásy – István Mandoki Konur – David Somfai Kara, Agócs Gergely, Pacsai Imre, etc. After talking with Agócs Gergely, we learned mainly about folk songs, melodies, pronunciation and types of performance among the Turkic and Hungarians, in particular, the scientist's research in Western Kazakhstan, the Edil-Zhayik steppe region, about the Nogais, the methodology and experience of identifying among them the high similarity of folk songs with the folk melodies of the Hungarian people are things that can lead to further research and ethnographic discoveries in the future. Starting from

Cheremis people, he is associated with the Bashkirs, Karachays in comparison with the Nogais and gives information about their connections with the folklore and folk songs of the Magyar people.

Based on the research, writings and experience of the following professor Pacsai Imre, one can learn about the similarities between the Turkic languages and the Magyar language from a subjective point of view, linguistic findings. Most of the information direction is given from the point of view of linguistics. In particular, it is shown in detail: tescials have no grammatical gender; in phrases there is no complete agreement between the adjective and the noun; in phrases with numerals, nouns and adjectives do not take plural endings; Hungarian and Kazakh languages have an accusative case, which is not found in Indo-European languages. A common element of these languages is the law of synharmonism: affixes are in harmony with the root etc.

Thus, having studied the above-mentioned literature and analyzed the collected interviews, we came to the conclusion that interest in studying the history of Kazakhstan and Central Asia from XIX between early XX centuries and nowadays was growing. The issues that interest Hungarian scientists are: history, language, culture, religion, folklore, folk songs and the main aspects of cultural anthropology, ethnography and living history.

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