Man In India, 98 (3-4) : 625-634

INDICATOR WORDS IN COMPARATIVE CONSTRUCTIONS IN THE YAKUT HEROIC EPIC «DYULURUYAR NYURGUN BOOTUR» BY P.A. OYUNSKIY (AS COMPARED TO THE ALTAI HEROIC EPIC «MAADAY ҚARA» BY A.G. KALKIN)

Alena Kirillovna Prokopieva*, Ayyana Alekseevna Ozonova** and Anna Mikhaylovna Zakharova***

Astract: The present paper presents comparisons formed using indicator words in Yakut and Altai. The research into the heroic epics of Yakut and Altai people revealed the most common indicator words – postpositions in Yakut and Altai as well as comparison reference and objects.

Keywords: epic, olonkho, Yakut folklore, Turkic epic, figurative, reference of comparison·

INTRODUCTION

Comparison is a structural-semantic category comparing objects and phenomena based on the similarities considering one or a set of common characteristics. We distinguish between the terms comparison and comparative construction, the latter being a comparative structure operating as comparison which is linguistically represented by syntactic constructions with a comparative conjunction within a simple or compound sentence.

The ways to express comparison in the Turkic languages have been theoretically covered in the studies of Yakut [1], [2], Tuva [3], [4], Khakass [6], Altai [6], [7], Shor [8] and other Turkic languages. Recently, functioning of comparative construction in heroic epics has been the focus of researchers [9], [10], [11].

The purpose of the paper is to reveal and describe Yakut and Altai comparative constructions formed by indicator words in simple sentences. The present paper considers comparisons taken from the Yakut heroic epic "Dyuluruyar Nyurgun Bootur" by P.A. Oyunskiy and the Altai heroic epic "Maaday Kara" by A.G. Kalkin.

"Dyuluruyar Nyurgun Bootur" is one of the best and most popular Yakut epics. It was recreated by P.A. Oyunskiy based on people's legends. With more than 36,000 poetic lines, it is the greatest Yakut epic. P.A. Sleptsov claims that "an out standing expert and a brilliant story teller perfectly and adequately captured the language and

* Institute of Languages and Culture of the Peoples of the Russian North-East, North-Eastern Federal University, Yakutsk, Russia, alonachoo@mail.ru

** Institute of Philology, Siberian Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk, Russia, ajanao@mail.ru

*** Institute of Languages and Culture of the Peoples of the Russian North-East, North-Eastern Federal University, Yakutsk, Russia, afonskaya1994@mail.ru

style of epic" [12, 358]. "Maaday Kara" is one of the best monuments of the Altai epic heritage, having 7,000 poetic lines in the interpretation by A.G. Kalkin [13, 98].

Methods

Every comparative construction possesses such obligatory components as "subject" and "reference" of comparison. The term "reference" may be used to the scale or unit referred to by the subject for any semantic-stylistic type of comparison. The reference objects may be subject nouns, i.e. nouns, personal pronouns. The subject and the object are the base of comparison, with comparison itself being interpreted as a verbal construction, the components of which allow to express an image through linguistic means.

The research was performed using the method of component analysis, the method of morpheme word division in comparative constructions, the distributive and comparative analyses.

Results and Discussion

It was revealed that the most common Yakut indicator word is курдук 'like'. Less common are дылы 'similar, like', кэриэтэ 'asif', саҕа 'the same as', тэнэ 'equalto'.

The Yakut epic "Dyuluruyar Nyurgun Bootur" shows comparative constructions formed by the indicators курдук and саҕа. The references for comparison are bionyms, phytonyms, artifacts, and celestial bodies.

In the Altai heroic epic "Maaday Kara", comparative constructions are formed using the indicators тӱӈей, кептӱ, кеберлӱ. The references for comparison are bionyms, celestial bodies, colors, metals, and natural phenomena.

Comparative Constructions with Auxiliary Indicator Words in the Yakut heroic epic

Comparison may be expressed by various auxiliary indicator words, such as Yakut post positions курдук 'like', дылы 'similar, like', кэриэтэ 'asif', саҕа 'thesameas', тэнэ 'as, asif'. Besides, auxiliary words such as буолан 'being like', быһыылаах 'looking like', айылаах 'asthough' are found. In the Yakut heroic epic the post positions курдук and саҕа are used.

Comparative constructions with the indicator курдук

The indicator курдук takes a special place among indicators of comparison. A story teller mainly used this one to describe appearance of a character, e.g. a hero:

(1) Хоппо күрдьэх курдук / Куораан далай ытыһынан (Dyuluruyar Nyurgun Bootur, 109) 'With a hand wide like a shovel'.

хоппо=Ø box=NOM

күрдьэх=Ø shovel=NOM

курдук POSTP

куораан далай wide

ытыс=а=нан hand=POSS.3SG=INSTR

(2) Эридэһиннээх үүн тиэрбэһин курдук / Энсиилээх эрилкэй турулук, / Хатааһыннаах хара чаҕыл, /Хатыы-түтүү харахтаах эбит (Dyuluruyar Nyurgun Bootur, 115) 'They say, (he) has sharp, round, with shining pupils, like in a bridle two silver rings alert eyes'.

эридэһин=нээх fanciful=ADG

үүн=Ø bridle=NOM

тиэрбэһин ring=POSS.3SG=GEN

курдук POSTP

энсии=лээх wide-ranging=ADG

эрилкэй турулук round

хатааһын=наах hard=ADG

хара чаҕыл black, shining

хатыы-түтүү sharp

харах=таах eyes=ADG

эбит EVID

Using these comparisons, a story teller describes power and strength of the hero Nyurgun Bootur the Swift. The hero's hand is likened to a broad shovel and his eyes are compared to the rings in a bridle. The reference for comparison are күрдьэх 'shovel' and үүн 'bridle', with the objects being a hand and the nose.

The following examples describe the appearance of a hero from the underworld Esekh Kharbyyr. Here, the story teller uses a stylistically colored word 'mouth', with the reference being a pit, the object being a mouth. These comparisons communicate the underworld hero's unpleasantness and ugliness.

(3) Ахпа-дьахпа курдук / Амаан-дьамаан айаҕа (Dyuluruyar Nyurgun Bootur, 231) 'Like a pit, fathomless is his mouth'.

ахпа-дьахпа= Ø pit=NOM

курдук POSTP

амаан-дьамаан fathomless

айах=а mouth=POSS.3SG

(4) Толомон маҕан күнүм / Туналҕанын курдук / Туналҕаннаах ньуурдаах (Dyuluruyar Nyurgun Bootur, 275) 'With the golden cheeks of the sunset'.

толомон маҕан snow white

күн=үм sun=POSS.1SG

туналҕан=а=н light=POSS.3SG=GEN

курдук POSTP

туналҕан=наах light=ADG

ньуур=даах face=ADG

Thereby, comparative constructions with the indicator курдук are mainly used when describing the appearance of a character.

Comparative constructions with the indicator саҕа

The auxiliary word саҕа is used for the most part to describe particular items.

In the following example snowstorm is likened to young cattle, blizzard to a young bull.

(5) Тиҥэһэ ынах саҕа / Дэриэспэ таас тибиитэ, / Кунан оҕус саҕа / Лочугурас таас буурҕата (Dyuluruyar Nyurgun Bootur, 263) ‘Hurricane with stones, gravel as big as young cattle, snowstorm with huge stones as big as a young bull’.

тиҥэһэ ынах=Ø young cattle=NOM

саҕа POSTP

дэриэспэ=Ø gravel=NOM

таас= Ø stone=NOM

тибии=тэ snowstorm=POSS.3SG

кунан оҕус=Ø young bull=NOM

лочугурас split

таас=Ø stone=NOM

буурҕа=та blizzard=POSS.3SG

In the examples 6 and 7 insects are hyperbolized: a bug as big as a one-year-old calf, a frog as big as a horse, larvae as big as a two-grass (two-year-old) calf, bugs with protruding horns as big as a three-year-old bull. The reference for comparison are a one-year-old calf, a horse, a calf and a three-year-old bull, the objects of comparison are a bug, a frog, and larvae.

(6) Торбос саҕа / Чоху кыыллардаах, / Байтаһын биэ саҕа / Баараҕай баҕалардаах (Dyuluruyar Nyurgun Bootur, 105) ‘As big as a one-year-old calf / With water bugs-beasts / As big as a horse / With big frogs’.

торбос=Ø calf=NOM

саҕа POSTP

чоху=Ø water hug=NOM

кыыл=лар=даах beast=PL=ADG

байтаһын биэ=Ø mare=NOM

саҕа POSTP

бааараҕай big

баҕа=лар=даах frog=PL=ADG

(7) Өгүрүмэр оҕус саҕа / Үрүҥ үөннээх, / Кунан оҕус саҕа / Хончоҥнос чохулаах (Dyuluruyar Nyurgun Bootur, 185) ‘With white larvae / As big as a two-grass (two-year-old) calf / With bugs with protruding horns / As big as a three-year-old bull’.

өгүрүмэр huge

оҕус=Ø bull=NOM

үрүҥ white

үөн=нээх worm=ADG

кунан оҕус=Ø young bull=NOM

хончоҥнос protruding=ADV

чоху=лаах water bug=ADG

Comparative constructions with auxiliary indicator words in the Altai heroic epic

In Altai, comparisons may be expressed by indicator words such as тӱҥей ‘the same as’, кептӱ ‘like’, кеберлӱ ‘similar to’, чылап ‘like, as’, бӱдӱштӱ ‘similar, alike’. The indicator тӱҥей is common for oral speech and literature, comparisons in the Altai heroic epic “Maaday Kara” are mostly expressed by the indicator кеберлӱ. The indicators тӱҥей and кептӱ are rarely used.

References for comparison are bionyms, celestial bodies, colors, metals, and natural phenomena. Studies suggest that Altai shows complicated sentences with a comparative phrase of the nominal type by analytical indicators of comparison, i.e. auxiliary words, verbal (process) relations are expressed by the analytical-synthetic way [10, 190].

Comparative constructions with the indicator мӱҥей

In the Altai heroic epic “Maaday Kara”, the indicator тӱҥей is not common. The objects for comparison are бӧрӱкти ‘helmet’, аракы ‘arrack’, for example:

(8) Айга тӱҥей бу чолмонду / Алтын кӱлер бу бӧрӱкти (Maaday Kara, 73) ‘With a moon like star, golden-bronze is this cap’.

ай=га moon=DAT

тӱҥей POSTP

бу this

чолмон=ду star=POSSV

алтын golden

кӱлер bronze

бу this

бӧрӱк=ти cap=ACC

Comparative constructions with the indicator кепмӱ

The storyteller of the heroic epic "Maaday Kara" mainly uses the auxiliary word кептӱ. In the example (9) hero's breath is compared to wind. The reference for comparison is wind (тыныштары), with the object being air (салкын).

(9) Тыныштары салкын кептӱ (Maaday Kara, 69) 'Their breath is like a wind'.

тыныш=тар=ы=Ø breath=PL=POSS.3=NOM

салкын=Ø wind=NOM

кептӱ POSTP

In the example (10) the mountain ridge is likened to gold, a precious metal. Altai is famous for its high mountains and ridges, therefore the mountains are compared to gold and hero's appearance to a mountain ridge.

(10) Јал-арказы алтын кептӱ (Maaday Kara, 122) 'Its mountain ridge is like gold'.

јал-арка=зы=Ø ridge=POSS.3=NOM

алтын=Ø gold=NOM

кептӱ POSTP

The example (11) describes the appearance of the hero Kogydey-Mergen. His chest is likened to a plain, his eyebrows to taiga. As the reference for comparison serve a plain (тӧжи) and taiga (айаң), the objects of comparison are chest (јалаң), an eyebrow (кабак). The comparisons represent us a strong, mighty, stately hero.

(11) Јалаң кептӱ бу ла тӧжи (Maaday Kara, 179) 'His chest, like a plain'.

јалаң=Ø plain=NOM

кептӱ POSTP

бу this

ла PTCL

тӧж=и=Ø chest=POSS.3=NOM

(12) Айаң кептӱ бу кабагы (Maaday Kara, 180) '[Thick] as taiga his eyebrows'.

айаң=Ø taiga=NOM

кептӱ POSTP

бу this

кабаг=ы=Ø eyebrow=POSS.3=NOM

The story teller compares the face of Maaday-Kara's wife Altyn-Targa to the mood and the sun. The references for comparison are the moon (ай) and the sun (кӱн), the object of comparison is the face (чырай).

(13) Ай кеб ери ол чырайы / Айга бербес алтын кептӱ / Кӱн кебери бу чырайы / Кӱнге бербес кӱмӱш кептӱ (Maaday Kara, 71) 'Her face is as round as the moon / Like gold it was that is brighter than the moon / Her face is as round as the sun / Like silver it was that is brighter than the sun'.

ай moon=NOM
кебер=и=Ø face=POSS.3=NOM
ол that
чырай=ы=Ø face=POSS.3=NOM
ай=га moon=DAT
бер=бес give=NEG.PrP
алтын=ø gold=NOM
кептӱ POSTP
кӱн=Ø sun=NOM
кебер=и=Ø face=POSS.3=NOM
бу this
чырай=ы=Ø face=POSS.3=NOM
кӱн=ге sun=DAT
бер=бес give=NEG.PrP
кӱмӱш=Ø silver=NOM
кептӱ POSTP

Comparative Constructions with the Indicator кеберлӱ

A.T. Tybykova, M.I. Cheremisina, L.N. Tybykova point out that an ancient indicator of comparison was used in epics [14, 189]. L.N. Tybykova emphasizes that comparative constructions with the indicator кеберлӱ contribute to poetic figurative comparisons in a heroic epic. It is suggested that traditional folklore symbols of beauty are mainly used as the reference for comparison [6, 9].

In the examples (14) and (17) the objects of comparison face and eyes are compared to celestial bodies (ай 'moon', кӱн 'sun', чагылган 'lightning'). These qualitative characteristics of a reference are figuratively transferred to the subject's characteristics. The face features are related to the moon characterizing its roundness, his sharp eyes to a lake, and the mouth to the half-moon.

(14) Ай кеберлӱ бу чырайы / Кӱн кеберлӱ бу бӱдӱжи (Maaday Kara, 83)

‘Moon-like his face, Sun-like his front’.

ай=Ø moon=NOM

кебер=лӱ face=POSSV

бу this

чырай=ы=Ø face=POSS.3=NOM

кӱн sun=NOM

кебер=лӱ face=POSSV

бу this

бӱдӱж=и=Ø front=POSS.3=NOM

(15) Кӧл кеберлӱ бу кӧзине (Maaday Kara, 83) ‘On lake-like eyes’.

кӧл=Ø lakeo=NOM

кебер=лӱ look=POSSV

бу his

кӧз=ин=е eyes=POSS.3=DAT

(16) Ай кеберлӱ бу чырайы (Maaday Kara, 127) ‘The face as round as the moon’.

ай=Ø moon=NOM

кебер=лӱ face=POSSV

бу his

чырай=ы=Ø face=POSS.3=NOM

(17) Көргӧн кӧзи кӧл кеберлӱ / Кӧгӧргӧн лӧ бу чагылган ‘Looking his eyes like lakes, are turning blue and shining’.

кӧр=гӧн look=PFCT

кӧз=и=Ø eyes=POSS.3=NOM

кӧл=Ø lake=NOM

кебер=лӱ look=POSSV

кӧгӧр=гӧн turn blue=PFCT

лӧ CONJ

бу this

чагыл=ган shine=PFCT

(18) Јылан-бака бу кеберлӱ / Кара черӱ турбай кайтты (Maaday Kara, 144) ‘Like snakes and frogs the black army was standing’.

јылан-бака=Ø snake-frog=NOM

бу this

кебер=лӱ look=POSSV

кара black

черӱ=Ø army=NOM

тур=бай кайтты stand=NEG.CV MOD

N.R. Bayzhanova notes that in an Altai epic a character as well as his body parts are compared to phenomena and objects of the environment, with the objects of comparison usually being celestial bodies (stars, the moon, the sun, rainbow, sunset 0, plants (flowers), relief (mountain, clearing, lake) [10, 45].

Conclusions

Yakut and Altai heroic epics "Dyuluruyar Nyurgun Bootur" and "Maaday Kara" are rich in comparative constructions. The study suggests that:

(1) The Yakut heroic epic "Dyuluruyar Nyurgun Bootur" shows auxiliary indicator words курдук and саҕа. The reference for comparison are: bionyms (харса 'bull', кырынаас 'ermine', улар 'wood grouse'), phytonyms (тиит 'larch'), artifacts (батас 'weapon (glaive type)', үҥүү 'spear', күрдьэх 'shovel', үүн 'bridle', ох 'arrow', туһах 'loop'), celestial bodies (күн 'sun'), natural phenomena (хайа 'mountain', кустук 'rainbow');

(2) The Altai heroic epic "Maaday-Kara' shows comparative constructions with the indicators тӱҥей, кептӱ, кеберлӱ in simple sentences. The reference for comparison are: bionyms (јылан-бака'snake-frog'), celestial bodies (кӱн 'sun', ай 'moon', чолмоноды 'star'), natural phenomena (алмыс 'diamond', салкын 'wind', көл 'lake'), phytonyms (агаш 'forest', барал 'marsh tree forest'), metal (алтын 'gold', кумуш 'silver', болот 'steel'), colors (кара килиҥ 'black velvet'), relief (кырлаҥ 'mountain ridge', кайа 'rock', јалаҥ 'field', айаҥ 'meadow').

It was revealed that the references for comparison in the Yakut epic are mainly phytonyms and artifacts, where as in the Altai epic these are celestial bodies and natural phenomena.

Sources of Examples

1. Maaday-Kara. Altai heroic epic. Moscow: Main editorial for oriental literature. Publishing House Nauka, 1973.
2. P.A. Oyunskiy, Dyuluruyar Nyurgun Bootur. Yakutsk, 2003.

Legend

3SG – personal affix, 3 person singular; 3PL – personal affix, 3 person plural; NOM – indefinite case; DAT– dative case; ACC – accusative case; AUX – auxiliary verb; CONJ – союз; NEG – negative form of verb, participle, adverbial participle; POSTP – postposition; PP – past participle ending with =быт; POSS – izafet,

PRTCL – particle; equality sign – morpheme joint of word-forming and form-building affixes; dash – morpheme joint of morph superposition.

Acknowledgment

The study was funded by the State project – 2016. Reference number 34.3377.2017/ПЧ.

References

E.I. Ubryatova. Studies on the Syntax of the Yakut Language, vol. 2, part 2, Compound Sentence. Novosibirsk, 1976.

I.Y. Vasiliev, The Ways to Express Comparison in the Yakut Language. Novosibirsk: Nauka, 1986.

M.I. Cheremisina, L.A. Shamina, "Expressing of comparison in the Tuva language," Languages of Native Peoples of Siberia, pp. 65-85, Issue 3, 1996.

S.B. Olchat-ool, "The ways to express comparison in the Tuva language (as in the novel by S. Saryg-ool "Angyr-Ooldun Toonzhuzu")," International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities, pp. 97-103, Vol. 1, No. 3, 2017.

E.V. Kyrzhinakova, The Ways to Express Comparison in the Khakass Language, Abstract of the candidate of sciences degree thesis. Abakan, 2010.

L.N. Tybykova, "The ways to express comparison in the Altai language," Issues of Altai Linguistics, pp. 111-125, Gorno-Altaisk, 1988.

L.N. Tybykova, Comparative Constructions of the Altai Language. Abstract of the candidate of sciences degree thesis. Alma-Ata, 1989.

Y.V. Antonova, "Comparative constructions in a simple sentence with analytical indicators of comparison in the Shor language," Bulletin of Tomsk State Pedagogical University, pp. 267-271, No. 1(116), 2012.

N.A. Anisimova, "Comparative relations in simple sentence (as in the Altai heroic epic "Maaday-Kara" translated by A. Plitchenko)," Scientific electronic journal Concept, pp. 51-55, No. 1, 2013.

N.R. Bayzhanova, "Structural and semantic features of comparisons in typical places of the Altai heroic epic," Humanities in Siberia, pp. 44-50, No. 3, 2002.

L.N. Gerasimova, S.D. L'vova, "The ways to express comparison in the epic "Udagan Uolumar and Aygir" and "Өлбөт Бэргэн" by N.T. Abramov," Herald of M.K. Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University, pp. 52-64, Series Epic Studies 2016.

P.A. Sleptsov, Stages and Issues of Yakut Linguistics, Collection of papers. P.A. Sleptsov, Ed. Yakutsk: IGIPMNS SO RAN, 2008.

T.M. Sadalova, Altai Folklore Tale: the Ethno-folklore Context and Relations to other Genres. Gorno-Altaisk: Publishing House of Gorno-Altaisk University, 2003.

A.T. Tybykova, M.I. Cheremisina, L.N. Tybykova, Syntax of Complicated Sentence in the Altai Language, 2 ed. Gorno-Altaisk: RIO GAGU, 2013.