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Reviews

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This book by A. Sumru Özsoy bears both a Turkish and an English title, *Türkçe / Turkish*, suggesting that texts, explanations of grammatical phenomena and glosses are given in both languages. The laconic title itself does not, alas, give any clue concerning the content and aim of this publication. At least a subtitle would have been needed in order to set us on the right track. As explained by the author in the *Foreword*, the book aims at providing the reader with an analysis of the complex syntactic structures in Turkish.

Özsoy's book is the only textbook on Turkish morphosyntax written for students at the intermediate and advanced level. Its potential readership also includes general linguists interested in the structure of Turkish. Linguists with a basic knowledge of Turkish can find useful information on Turkish syntax. The book is divided into 15 lessons, each of which consists of a dialogue presenting the morphosyntactic structures that are explained in the given lesson. A great number of varied exercises help the students to use the newly learned structures. The lessons end with short readings of different genres. Two appendices, a list of the glosses occurring in the book and an index of morphosyntactic forms complete the volume.

The most innovative part of this highly useful book is the presentation of complex clause structures. Diathetic forms, such as passive, causative, reflexive, reciprocal are presented with detailed descriptions of the clause structures in which they are used. One of the main difficulties in learning embedded nominal clauses is to understand the differences between clauses based on infinitives, participles or other verbal nouns, such as the ones formed with the suffix *-(y)Iş*. Özsoy gives well-structured, comprehensive descriptions of the structures and their meanings used in direct and indirect speech as embedded statements, embedded questions, sentential subjects, and sentential predicates. Many well-designed exercises teach the relevant clausal structures together with semantically defined classes of predicates, which differ in their preference of taking, for instance, object clause complements based on infinitives or participles. Relative clauses and gerundial clauses are explained in great detail.

In addition to the structural description, some lessons are based on functional notions. Özsoy applies a functional approach, for instance, when presenting forms and

structures with modal meanings, such as permission, ability, probability, obligation, wish, etc. She gives a clear description of the meanings of the affirmative and negated forms of *-(y)Abil-*. Structures denoting reason, purpose, contrast and inference are described in Lesson XI. In Lesson VIII, Özsoy formulates rules accounting for the use of different types of relative clauses, such as headed and headless structures, relative clauses based on subject participles and object participles. Special attention is paid to the use of *ki* as complementizer and conjunction, and as a means to express surprise and emphasis. Much of the grammatical information presented in this book is hardly available in any other form. Özsoy's own research on Turkish syntax and many years' experience presenting it in an interesting and easily understandable way constitute the unique value of the volume. Turcologists will also find it useful to consult this book in order to find Turkish equivalents for English linguistic terms. In the near future, a set of cassettes and a booklet containing keys to the exercises will complete the book. The volume can be ordered via e-mail from the publisher bupress@buvak.org.tr.

Arienne M. Dwyer. Review of Gunnar Jarring. *Central Asian Place-names – Lop nor and Tarim area – An attempt at classification and explanation based on Sven Hedin's diaries and published works*. Stockholm: The Sven Hedin Foundation, 1997. 524 pages. Hardcover. ISBN 91-85344 37 0.

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For those long captivated by the early Western exploration of Eastern Turkestan, the place perhaps most shrouded in myth has been Lopnor. This region, once a marshy, wooded area on the eastern edge of the arid Tarim basin, was popularized by Sven Hedin with his account of the area's eponymous "wandering lake". Less than fifty years ago, there were still swamps and large stands of virgin forest there, and a fishing folk driven out of their homeland by natural and man-made climatic changes. The Lopliks spoke one of the most interesting of the seven-odd dialects of modern Uyghur; their isolation allowed large amounts of medieval Eastern Turkic to be preserved in the dialect, while other features point to sustained contact with Kïrghïz and Mongol nomads. Since the Lopnor dialect has been extinct for thirty-odd years, new materials on this dialect are particularly valuable.

The current work is based on published and unpublished materials of Sven Hedin's extended trips to the Tarim Basin (1896, 1899-1902, 1927-1935), including unpublished diaries with meticulously-recorded toponyms. Between Kashgar and Khotan alone, Hedin (with the help of his secretary Mirza Iskender) noted over five

hundred place names. Most materials were collected at the end of the 19th century, but Hedin apparently worked on them until his death in 1952 (ii). Ambassador Jarring is to be commended for the considerable time and effort it must have taken to comb through the materials, organize, regularize, translate and analyze them.

This volume is much more than a list of place-names, as Ambassador Jarring's characteristically modest title would seem to imply. It actually approaches a sort of early modern Central Tarim Turkic language dictionary, including many lexemes noted by Hedin (mostly nouns and verbs) not occurring in toponyms. As Hedin notes, since Tarim toponyms are generally composed of a substantive preceded by an attribute, e.g. *Qaračumaq* 'Black Cap,' a sizeable portion of the lexicon can be studied by collecting toponyms.

The work is organized lexicon-style to facilitate such study: each lexeme is listed separately as a head-word and glossed in English. Source reference codes (e.g. HCI:3) precede Hedin's own transcription (e.g. *Kara-tschumak*); when the lexeme occurs in toponyms, a list of these follows. Helpfully, compound toponyms are redundantly listed under all relevant simplex headwords, hence *Qaračumaq* is listed both under *qara* and *čumaq*. Jarring has added cross-references to entries of other relevant Uyghur dialect and comparative Turkic dictionaries as well as his own extremely useful annotations and clarifications.

Hedin's transcriptions, based on speakers in many locales over the span of nearly forty years, show significant variation; those variants due to speaker differences (as opposed to error) can be found in modern Uyghur dialects today, such as *e* ~ ɛ, *ö* ~ *u*, *u* ~ *ü*, *r* ~ *j*. Jarring's foreword introduces phonetic and morphological features of Hedin's system and the language he recorded. The compiler offers us completely regularized headword forms, with Hedin's variant transcriptions (e.g. *ökte* ~ *ökti*, *ökte, öktti* 'pool') immediately following. Variant pronunciations (e.g. *beš* ~ *biš* 'five') are noted and cross-referenced. The volume is thus of interest not only to etymologists and cultural historians, but also to phonologists. And lest the relative-clause fetishists in Turkology claim there is nothing here for them, we should note the inclusion of phrasal and sentence-level toponyms, such as *Qara öčke ölturgän* [*agil*] 'Where the Black Goat was Killed,' *Sarïq buqa öldi* '[Where] the Yellow Bull Died,' and *Tarïšï sïndï köl* 'The Lake where the Oar was Broken.'

These "full sentence place-names," as Jarring calls them, actually fall into a class of "microtoponyms", used only in that specific locale and for a limited time, and known only to those living there. While strictly speaking these are so fleeting and limited they may better be considered ad hoc descriptions rather than toponyms, they furnish important syntactic information, and shed light on the psychology of place-naming. Names encompassing whole lakes, deserts, or the entire lengths of rivers were quite foreign to the Loplïks. Nonetheless, some of the local terms have gained a wide currency elsewhere and now designate entire systems: the *Tarim Basin* (Standard Uyghur *tarïm oymanlïšï*), the *Tarim River* (*tarïm darïyasi*). As Hedin points out, *tarïm* simply denotes 'river' (vi). Lopnor place names, reports Hedin, were as fluid as the landscape itself, and as a river-basin changed shape, so did its

name: "The names become, as it were, like the lakes themselves—overgrown with reeds; new basins come into existence and acquire new names" (id.).