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Editorial note

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The present issue of *TURKIC LANGUAGES* starts with a paper dealing with some general problems of linguistic Turcology. László Károly sketches the history of the Turkic intervocalic velars, which clarifies a number of important historical phenomena. One crucial question is the chronological ordering of degemination and voicing in the Kipchak languages.

Two papers concern the Kazakh language. Henryk Jankowski deals with contacts between Kazakh and Russian in modern Kazakhstan, describing the overwhelming dominance of the Russian language. Standard Kazakh, which is relatively little influenced by Russian, mostly functions in strictly limited situations. The article provides a number of illustrative examples of the typical linguistic behavior of Kazakhs in various settings.

Talant Mawkanuli and Virginia Martin present a linguistic and historical analysis of a letter in “Turki”, written by a member of the Kazakh elite to a Russian imperial officer in the 19th century. The authors are involved in a long-time project with the aim of illustrating the evolution of the literary languages used by the Kazakhs from the 18th until the early 20th century. The letter analyzed here shows the complex linguistic identity of the former literate Kazakh elite.

Two papers concern modern Uyghur. Aminem Memtimin and Irina Nevskaya deal with depictive predicates in modern Uyghur. Turkic languages express the same types of depictive predicates as found cross-linguistically. They share many techniques to express them, but also display some remarkable differences. In Uyghur, they may be adverbial adjuncts syntactically, while fulfilling a predicative function semantically.

Omer Dawut presents a study of early and recent English loanwords in modern Uyghur, suggesting a classification of their main types and describing their adaptation to the phonological structure of Uyghur.

Two papers deal with Turkish. Margarete I. Ersen-Rasch comments on the structure of Turkish relative clauses referring to the 3rd person. She demonstrates that nouns with possessive suffixes can, under certain circumstances, occur as genitive-marked subjects, and formulates rules for the choice between the *-(y)An* participle and participles of the possessive type, e.g. *-DIĞI*.

Hasan Kaili, Aytaç Çeltak, and Marianthi Georgalidou analyze complement clauses in the Turkish variety spoken by Greek-Turkish bilingual children on the island of Rhodes, more specifically the reasons for the use of clauses of the VO finite type copied from Greek. It is concluded that the children have a good command of different types of Turkish complement clauses, though there is a mismatch between this competence and the actual use of the clauses.

Thomas E. Payne reports on a workshop dealing with the typology of the languages of Europe and Northern and Central Asia (LENCA), organized as part of the 45th Societas Linguistica Europea meeting in Stockholm, August 2012. This workshop continued a tradition that began in 2001, a series of international symposia of which the last one took place in 2006 in Tomsk. The second symposium was held in Kazan in May, 2004. A collection of articles based on this symposium, dealing with various aspects of grammatical relations and argument structure, has just appeared: "Argument structure and grammatical relations. A crosslinguistic typology", edited by Pirkko Suihkonen, Bernard Comrie, and Valery Solovyev (John Benjamins, 2012).

Finally, Béla Kempf reviews Jan-Olov Svantesson's book on the Kalmyk dictionary compiled by the Swedish missionary Cornelius Rahmn (1785-1853).

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The prominent Russian Turcologist Èl'vira Aleksandrovna Grunina, passed away in Moscow on August 5, 2012, at the age of 86, after long and serious illness. She was Doctor of Philology, distinguished professor emeritus of the Lomonosov Moscow State University, and a leading member of the Russian Committee of Turcologists. She was born in Moscow on November 26, 1926. She finished her PhD ("candidate") studies at the Oriental Institute of the University of Moscow in 1949 and was employed there from 1952 on. In 1975, I had the privilege to make her personal acquaintance in Moscow. From 1983 to 1995, professor Grunina was the head of the department of Turkic philology at the Institute for the Study of Asian and African Countries.

Professor Grunina made important contributions to linguistic Turcology. She took a serious interest in theoretical linguistics, particularly in the semantics of grammar. Her PhD thesis (candidate dissertation) deals with complex sentences in modern literary Uzbek ("Сложноподчиненное предложение в современном узбекском литературном языке", 1952), which was later partly integrated in a volume devoted to studies on the grammar of Turkic languages ("Исследования по грамматике тюркских языков", 1961). Her monograph on the Turkish indicative ("Индикатив в турецком языке в сравнительно-историческом освещении") was published in 1975. She also contributed most actively to the monumental collective comparative grammar of the Turkic languages in six volumes ("Сравнительно-историческая грамматика тюркских языков").

In her publications, professor Grunina deals with the semantic structure of indicative temporal forms, the role of the impersonal verb forms in complex sentences, the history of the semantic development of the marker *-miş*, theoretical questions of Turkic voice categories, etc. At the university, she lectured on the comparative grammar of the Turkic languages, theoretical questions of the Turkish grammar, the history of Turkish, Turkish lexicology, written records of Turkish and Uzbek, problems of translation, and many other significant issues.

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