

**A SKETCH OF THE TURKI
LANGUAGE AS SPOKEN IN
EASTERN TURKISTAN (KASHGAR
AND YARKAND). IN TWO PARTS,
PART I**

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ROBERT BARKLEY SHAW

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PART I**

A SKETCH
OF THE
TURKI LANGUAGE
AS SPOKEN IN
EASTERN TURKISTAN

(Kashghar and Yarkand)

BY
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*Political Agent, late on special duty at Kashghar,
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In Two Parts.

WITH LISTS OF NAMES OF BIRDS AND PLANTS BY J. SCULLY, Esq.,
SURGEON, H. M. BENGAL ARMY (*late on special duty, at Kashghar*).

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عربي علم فارسي شكر هندي نمك تركي هنر

"Arabic is Science; Persian is Sugar;
Hindi is Salt; *Turki is Art.*"—

Oriental Saying.

"It is a real pleasure to read a Turkish Grammar even though one may have no wish to acquire it practically. The ingenious manner in which the numerous grammatical forms are brought out, the regularity which pervades the system of declension and conjugation, the transparency and intelligibility of the whole structure, must strike all who have a sense of that wonderful power of the human mind which has displayed itself in language.

.....An eminent orientalist remarked: 'We might imagine Turkish to be the result of the deliberations of some society of learned men'; but no such society could have devised what the mind of man produced, left to itself in the steppes of Tartary, and guided only by its innate laws, or by an instinctive power as wonderful as any within the realm of nature"—
Max. Müller "Lectures on the Science of Language," Vol. I, Lect. VIII.

CORRIGENDA AND ADDENDA.

- Page 4, l. 22, for p. 24 read pp. 28, 29
 " 8, l. 6, (of note) for p. 50 read p. 58.
 " 15, l. 13, for (side) read (face)
 " 18, l. 4, for *sakla-* read *saqla-*
 " 52, l. 6, after post-positions *add* and takes possessive affixes
 " 53, l. 8, after (s) *insert*: The Future Participle itself is often used as a noun of the agent; e. g. *bil-gu* 'that which makes known,' 'a sign'; *dah-gu* 'an opener,' 'a key.'
 Also add to note * :—E. g. *sdo'q* (adj.) 'cold,' *sdo'q-ug* 'coldness'; from the verb *sdo-mdq* 'to be cold.'
 " 55, below l. 12, Add :—Of the two forms ending in *ku* and '*k*' (or '*gh*') respectively (whether used substantively or adjectively) the former generally conveys an active meaning, and the latter a passive; e. g. *bil-gu* 'that which makes known,' *bil-ih* 'that which is known,' 'knowledge'; *dah-gu* 'an opener,' 'a key,' *dah-ug* 'opened,' 'open' (adj.).
 " 65, l. 10 from below, after *nari* insert—*or ? dri*
 " 69, last line, for "then" read "now"; and after "then," insert—*dri* "moreover, again"
 " 71, l. 8, after "singly," insert—"each"
 " 95, l. 3, for his hundred desires read the face of desire
 " 96, l. 22, for go forth read go up onto the minaret
 " 102, l. 3, Add :—He caused the Qoràn to be read through, and bestowed the merits of this on the souls of the martyrs.
 " 102, l. 9, for defeated read conquered
 " 104, l. 13, for the skirt of his robe read his stirrup
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PREFACE.

The Turkish tongues are of singular interest to the student of language. They are to him, what the mountains which surround their birth-place are to the geologist; who there can observe many of the vastest operations of nature and their results, naked as it were, and not veiled by the superficial covering which in other less barren countries makes the investigation and tracing out of the various formations so laborious a task.

The Indo-European languages are like an ancient building, where frequent restorations have interfered with the original design, and where finally a universal coat of plaster has destroyed all outward distinction between old and new. In the Turanian structure, on the other hand, every tool-mark is still fresh, the places where the scaffolding has rested are still visible, and we can almost trace each course of the stone-work to its origin in the quarry whence it was hewn.

It may seem strange that a language developed by the rude and nomad tribes of Central Asia, who in their own home have never known how to reduce it to rule (or rather to distinguish the laws through which they themselves had unconsciously formed it), should present in fact an example of symmetry in complexity such as few of the more cultivated forms of speech exhibit. Although its own people would have one believe that it is subject to no rule and almost purely arbitrary (their only notion of grammar being that of Arabic and Persian with which the *Túrki* cannot be made to fit); yet in reality a few simple and transparent rules suffice to account for all its permutations. These rules, possessing an accumulative power, are enough to produce the immense variety of forms noticeable in the Eastern *Túrki*.

We are now learning to believe that even in languages such as Greek, German, or even English, every seeming irregularity is really the result of laws, some of which we know and can trace in their action, and some of which are yet to be discovered. But in *Túrki* we

can see them ; it is as if the centuries were to flow backwards, and we could watch the building of the Pyramids and solve by ocular demonstration the doubts of the learned as to the method by which the vast blocks were transported from the quarries, and placed in their present positions. We can even detect in some instances a commencement in this Turanian tongue, of the process by which the Aryan languages have been polished down and enamelled, as it were, till they reached their present condition.

Viewed in this light the study of the Eastern Túrki is seen to have an interest which is not to be measured by the amount of the commercial or other intercourse likely to be facilitated by it. For the Turkish tongues, a journey eastward is pretty nearly equivalent to a study of the earlier forms of an Indo-European language. In either case we get nearer to the source ; and the less literary character of the former makes it easier to approach its origin in space than in time. Rémusat, in his "Langues Tartares"*, truly says : " Le dialecte de Constantinople est celui de tous qui s'est le plus enrichi, je pourrais dire appauvri, par l'introduction de mots Arabes et Persans ; et l'on n'en rencontre que fort peu dans la langue des Túrks voisins de la Chine, où l'on peut, pour cette raison, espérer de retrouver l'antique langue Túrke dans un état plus voisin de sa pureté primitive."

Valikhanoff (the son of a Kirghiz chief in the Russian service, whose name, Valí Khán, with the affixed Russian patronymic ending *off*, is significant of Russia's progress among those tribes) writes : † "The language.....spoken in Káshghar is altogether unknown to European savants", and Prof. Vámbéry, in quoting him, adds that this language "has incontestably the most primitive words and formations amongst all Turkish forms of speech." ‡

In the Turkish of Káshghar and Yarkand (which some European linguists have called *Uighur*, § a name unknown to the inhabitants of those towns, who know their tongue simply as *Túrki*), we can obtain a glimpse backwards at a state of the language when the noun (which in Western Turkish is almost inflected) was but a rude block, labelled if necessary by attaching other nouns, &c., to show its relation to the

* Page 250, edition 1820.

† See Messrs. Michel's "Russians in Central Asia."

‡ Vámbéry's "Chagataische Sprach-studien," p. 8.

§ This would seem in many cases to be a misnomer as applied to the modern language of Káshghar.

remaining words of a sentence, as in Chinese. Of these attached words we can still see the meaning and special force, and can even use some of them as independent parts of speech (see below in Chapter III and Chapter VII, Numerals). It requires scientific dissection to extract and realize the meaning of the genitive element in the Latin word "rosa," for instance; but the Túrki genitive *ulus-nung* ("tribe's," lit. "tribe property") bears its origin on its face, and it cannot be very long ago that the word "nung" or "nung" would have been used freely to mean "goods" or "possessions," as it is in the *Kudatku-Bilik** (translated by Prof. Vámbéry). The mark of the accusative *ni* is at the present day in common use as an independent pronoun signifying "what."

When we follow these affixes into Western Turkish, they seem to have lost their initial consonants, and to have sunk into mere inflectional terminations.†

At the early period above referred to, the verb was perhaps a mere noun of action, destitute of any conjugation, although afterwards labelled by means of certain syllables (originally independent words) to indicate the several times and modes of the action. Such compound words, which could hardly be considered verbs, would apply equally to the *agent*, the *action*, and the *object* acted upon. In this stage the Túrki verb would have answered to the description of the same part of speech in an allied tongue: "The Tibetan verbs must be regarded as denoting, not an action or suffering or condition of any subject, but merely a *coming to pass*.....they are destitute of what is called in our languages the active or passive voice, as well as of the discrimination of persons, and show nothing beyond a rather poor capability of ex-

* E. g. *ula nung* "bestow (thy) property."

† This will be seen by an inspection of the following comparative statement:—

	Root.	Káshghari Post-positions.	Osmanli terminations.
Nom.	<i>dt</i>
Gen.	<i>dt</i>	<i>ning</i>	<i>-ung (uñ)</i>
Dat.	<i>dt</i>	<i>gañ</i>	<i>-añ</i>
Acc.	<i>dt</i>	<i>ni</i>	<i>-i</i>
Abl.	<i>dt</i>	<i>din</i> &c.	<i>-dín</i> &c.