

Contact-induced changes in Kalmyk and in local Russian¹

Language contact is a process when two varieties influence each other. However, beyond the study of linguistic area (*Sprachbund*) and contact-induced grammaticalization (Robbeets, Cuyckens 2013), still relatively little attention has been paid to the mutual interference and most studies of language contact have focused on a transfer of linguistic features from one variety to another, usually from dominant language to minority one. This study aims to describe a parallel changes within bilingual community. One of the suggestions of this paper is that stable and prolonged multilingualism affects both languages, even not only in the cases of convergent areas or mixed languages, and the comparison of such traces can provide insights into the type of contacts.

The paper deals with contact-induced language changes in Kalmyk and in the local variety of Russian in Kalmykia. Kalmyk (Mongolic language family) is one of minority languages of Russian Federation spoken in the steppe regions adjacent to the northwest shore of the Caspian Sea; it analyzes elicited materials, spontaneous conversations. It analyzes spontaneous conversations and spoken corpus of parallel texts in Kalmyk and in Russian collected from Kalmyk-Russian bilinguals in the rural part of Republic of Kalmykia during the author's fieldwork in the rural part of Republic of Kalmykia in 2008-2018.

It reveals both an interference from Russian in Kamyk and a cross-linguistic transfer of some traits from Kalmyk that are characterized for local Russian. In particular, the corpus shows many lexical borrowings from Russian in Kalmyk and there are two adaptation patterns for Russian loanwords. First is the light verb strategy with auxiliary *ke-* 'do' and infinitive of Russian verb, second accommodation strategy for NP is pattern with verb *gi-* 'say' which exhibits features of grammaticalization. The borrowing of morphology mostly concerns with transfer of Russian modal particles and adversative conjunctions. The main interference from Kalmyk to local Russian are the reduplication and the way of expressing the evidentiality which becomes obligatory in local Kalmyk Russian analogically an obligatory distinction between direct and indirect source of knowledge in Kalmyk.

Thus, there process of prominent lexical borrowing from Russian to Kalmyk and just occasionally it takes from Kalmyk to Russian. The morphological borrowing from Russian to Kalmyk are also phonological matter of elements which are easily transferable from one language into the other, while local Russian variety displays the borrowings of functional and semantic morphological patterns (cf. MAT-borrowing vs. PAT-borrowing in Matras, Sakel 2007).

References

- Matras Y., Sakel J. (eds.) 2007. *Grammatical borrowing in cross-linguistic perspective*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter
- Robbeets M., Cuyckens H. 2013. Towards a typology of shared grammaticalization. *Shared Grammaticalization. With special focus on the Transeurasian languages*. Ed. by M. Robbeets, H. Cuyckens. Amsterdam, John Benjamins. P. 1–20.

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