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“Meskhetian” Turkic endangered language varieties in Kazakhstan: sociolinguistic situation and linguistic features

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Outline of the Lecture

1. General information about “Meskhetian” Turk.
2. International project “Interaction of Turkic Languages and cultures in the post-Soviet Kazakhstan”
3. Paradoxes of Self-Identification of “Meskhetian” Turk
4. Language documentation of endangered Turkish varieties in Kazakhstan and some prominent linguistic features
5. Sociolinguistic situation of Turkic varieties
6. Perspectives of research
7. Conclusion

Introduction

- Kazakhstan is an interesting area for sociolinguistic and linguistic research. It is a home for 126 different ethnicities, one-third of which are representatives of different Turkic ethnicities [1, 2]. The linguistic map of Kazakhstan provides unique materials for documenting different idioms and language variants of small ethnic groups still functioning in multiethnic Kazakhstan.
- The Turkish ethnic group (the so-called Meskhetian Turks) is one of the most numerous living in multiethnic Kazakhstan at the present time. Unable to return to their homeland in Georgia, the Turkish people were scattered across many countries: Russia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, the United States, and Kazakhstan [1].

The goal of Lecture

In our lecture, we pay a special attention to Oguzic Turkic endangered languages, represented by “Meskhetian” Turk living in Kazakhstan since the time of their deportation.

“Meskhetian” Turkic ethnicities in Georgia : Territory of their Residence

“Meskhetian” Turkic ethnicities in Georgia lived in two regions:

- Samtskhe-Javakheti area
- Adjara area

Turkic population of Samtskhe-Javakheti area

Turkish population mostly lived in the south of the Samtskhe-Javakheti district. The areas of their residence

Akhalsikhe (Meskhetia)

Aspindza

Akhalkalak (Javachhetia) regions [8, 14].

Samtskhe-Javakheti area of Georgia



Turkic population of Adjara region

Turkish population of Adjara mostly lived in the coastal area of the Black Sea.

The areas of their residence was Batumi region. Their ancestors were shepherds nomadizing along the Black Sea (Rize / Ajara), including the area of Batumi.

Adjara region



“Meskhetian Turk”: Who are they?

I. “Meskhetian Turks” are the Muslim population of Samtskhe-Javakheti district.

There are different points of view on their ethnic background in the scientific literature.

- Georgian scholars consider “Meskhetian” to be Georgians assimilated by the Turks and converted to Islam [9].
- Russian scientists put forward the theory that “Meskhetians” were formed by mixing of different Turkic ethnic groups [9, 10].
- Turkish scholars base their opinions on both historical and linguistic data and believe that the Meskhetian Turks have Kypchak roots, but during the Ottoman period all the Turkic peoples in the territory in the long living together gradually merged and formed a single ethnicity [11].
- A similar theory about their origin is the opinion that “Meskhetians” were formed as a result of the mixing of the Turkish and Georgian nationalities, which was under the political and cultural influence of the Turkey [12, p.33-44].

“Meskhetian Turks”: Who are they?

II. “Meskhetian” Turk - the residents of Adjara region as well, represented by Batumi Turk (**Batum Türkleri**) and Turkish speaking people of the Black Sea coastal area (**Kara Denizli**)

Reasons of migration to Kazakhstan

In November 1944, under the secret decree No. 6279, there was the violent deportation of the entire Muslim population of Meskhetia and Javakhetia, as well as the Muslim population of the coastal area of the Adjara district.

According to official data, there were 92,307 people, including Meskhetian Turk, Hemshilli, Batumi Kurd and Terekeme. They were transported by cattle-trains to Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan) [15].

Most of the deported ethnicities in 1944 were rehabilitated in the 1960ies. However, Meskhetian Turk from Georgia and Crimean Tatar had not been in the list of rehabilitated peoples.

Crimean Tatars were allowed to return to the Crimea later, but Meskhetian Turk were unable to return to their historical homelands until recently.

Areas of residence in Kazakhstan

Representatives of Turkish ethnic group currently reside in the southern regions of Kazakhstan:

Almaty oblast' (region);

Jambyl oblast'

South Kazakhstan oblast'

International project “Interaction of Turkic Languages and cultures in the post-Soviet Kazakhstan”

Kazakhstani-German International project “Interaction of Turkic Languages and cultures in the post-Soviet Kazakhstan” was conducted by two Kazakhstani and two German Universities during the period of 2014-2018:

- L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian University and M.H. Dulaty Taraz State University (Kazakhstan)
- Free Berlin University and Frankfurt University (Germany).

International project “Interaction of Turkic Languages and cultures in the post-Soviet Kazakhstan”

The main goal of the International project is to conduct research on the sociolinguistic situation of non-Kazakh Turkic groups as well as to make documentation of endangered Turkic varieties in Kazakhstan.

Results of Field Research

In the period 2014-2017 several expeditions were organized to different regions of Kazakhstan.

The idioms of **Axiska Turk** and **Xemšilli Turk** were studied for the first time in the framework of an international project.

Kazakhstani Ahiska and Xemšilli idioms, comprising numerous sub-varieties, have preserved until now very ancient Turkish dialects, not affected by the reforms of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in the Republic of Turkey. Ahiska and Xemšilli people lived in isolation from the main bulk of their ethnic community in Turkey for about 70 years.

Such isolation gives the possibility to Turkish sub-groups to keep archaic features of ancient variants of native language in Kazakhstan.

At present, rapid processes of cultural and linguistic assimilation of Kazakhstani Turkish, both by Kazakh and Republican Turkish, make these varieties moribund.

Ethnic self-awareness in “Meskhetian” communities

Independence gained by the Central Asian republics played an important role in the growth of ethnic self-awareness in “Meskhetian” communities and allowed them to return to the historical roots of ethnicity [18].

In 1991 in Almaty, a “Turkish Center” was founded , which proclaimed Turkey to be the protector of the “Meskhetian” Turk.

The Turkish language was declared as the "sole standard language" of Kazakhstani Turk .

An international weekly newspaper “AHISKA” is published in Almaty (ahiska60mai.ru).

Standard Turkish is taught at schools as an optional subject to Kazakhstani Turk.

From that time Ahiska and **Xemşilli started** to change their nationalities in passports.

One of the reasons for changing nationality in passes was protection of Turkey of Ahiska and other Turkish sub-groups.

Ethnic self-awareness in “Meskhetian” communities

“Meskhetian Turk” began to designate themselves as Ahiska as it was customary at the time of the Ottoman Empire. Ahiska’s community consists of two main sub-groups: Yerli and Terekeme.

In everyday life, **Axiska designate themselves as Ottoman Türk (Osmanli).**

Ahiska: biz esas Tırkije xalq, Tırk toprağınanux
[SJT_Axiska_Merke_270915_2b]

‘We are real Turk from Turkic land’

‘Мы настоящие турки, с турецкой земли

In contemporary period Ahiska consider that the designation of their ethnicity as **Meskhetian** is incorrect.

“Meskhetian Turk”: Kara Denizli and Batum Türkleri

Turkish population living in Adjara are represented by two sub-groups: Kara Denizli and Batum Türkleri .

Kara Denizli are different Turkish speaking people from the coastal area of the Black Sea. The major group is represented by Laz Turk.

Batum Türkleri is Turkish population from the Batumi region (Adjara). Turkish speaking community in Adjara were represented by Hemshilli. Hemshilli Turk are usually confused with the Hemshinli people, who are defined as ethnic Armenian converted to Islam, and Armenian speaking Christian Hemshinli.

Hemshilli: Confusion of Self -Identification

Hemshilli Turk are usually confused with the Hemshinli people, who are defined as ethnic Armenian converted to Islam, and Armenian speaking Christian Hemshinli. The community of ethnic Armenian is the residents of Turkey and Batumi region of Georgia.

There are three groups of Henshilli:

- 1) Turkish speaking Hemshilli,
- 2) Armenian speaking Muslim Hemshinli
- 3) Armenian speaking Christian Hemshinli.

All of them are living in the same neighborhood in Hemshin region (Turkey) and in Batumi area (Adjara). Settlement area Hemshilli served for their designation as Hemshinli/Hamshenis/Hamshetsi (**Simonian, Hovann H., 2007**)

Hemshilli: Confusion of Self -Identification

The ancestors of Hemshinli/Hamshenis/Hamshetsi were shepherds nomadizing along the Black Sea coastal area (Rize / Ajara), including the area of Batumi.

We use a **Xemšilli** spelling for Turkish speaking Hemshilli with respect to our respondents' self-designation, and in order to avoid confusion with Muslim Armenian speaking Hemshinli.

Xemšilli: Research Data

In 1920-s after the Soviet borderline with Turkey was closed. Xemšilli Turks and Muslim Armenian Hemshinli had to stay in the Batumi region, from where they had been deported to Kazakhstan.

The following data of field research confirms the fact we got from the interviewer Hasan Sarymamed-ogly, 96 years old, a resident of Rovnoe village, Jambyl oblast, born in the area of Hemshilli’:

Xemşilli: Research Data

- (1) Nətfən xəmşili jazıldı ki? – **‘Why are we written (in the passport) as Xemşilli?’**
- (2) ɔni aŋlatajum: erməni dɔnmə Məsləmanlar var. erməni dɔnmə Məsləmanlar var – ‘I can explain it: there were Armenian who were Muslims. Armenian who were Muslims’
- (3) biz xəmşili kəjəndən gəldux xəmşilijux – ‘We came from Xemşilli village (region) **we are Xemşilli**’
- (4) xədə xəmşili kəj adunu jazdirmiş - **‘the name of the village Xemşilli** was written (in the passports).
- (5) Atalarımız Türkiyə dağlara - bizim bu səj tərəfide - Sovjet vaxtında gidejdilər – ‘Our ancestors came to the territory of the Soviet Union from the mountains of the Turkish side.’
- (6) Türkiyə tərəfi gidej miydunuz? – ‘Have you ever been to Turkish side?’
- (7) Sonra granitsa kikitlendi daxa kovermedilər Türkiyə tərəfinə - ‘As soon as the borders were closed, we were not allowed to cross it.’
- (8) Oraya qovermedilər, pasaportları aldular – We were not allowed, they took away our passports’

Xemşilli: Research Data

(9) Xemşilli: Atalarımız Türkiye dağlara - bizim bu şej tərəfide -
Sovjet vaxtunda gidejdiler

'Наши деды с турецких гор на эту нашу сторону, в советское время
ходили'

'Our grandfathers from Turkic mountains to our side in the Soviet time
passed by'.

(10) Sonra granitsa kikitlendi daha kovçermədiler Türkiye tərəfine

'Потом граница закрылась с тех пор больше не пускали в сторону
Турции'

'Later the borderline was closed, after that, we have not been allowed to
go to Turksh side'

Xemšilli: Confusion of Self -Identification

Xemšilli designated themselves as Turks and started to register in contemporary Kazakhstani official documents as Turks. However, in their Birth Certificates and Soviet passports, they are registered as Xemšilli.

In their local community, Xemšilli self-designate as **Eski Türk**.

On the question about the differences between Eski Türk and Ottoman Türk (Osmanli) the eldest interviewers answered that it is quite the same.

- (4) *biz eski türki osmanli türki* (Xemshilli_Taraz_260714_IGK_V02)
- We are Ancient (old) Turk Ottoman Turk

Ahiska and Xemšilli's Cross-Designation

We have observed interesting and rather curious facts on cross-designation from the representatives of each sub-group.

Axiska people designate Xemšilli as **Çadır Kurtleri**.

Xemšill designate Axiska as **Gürdgı** (data from the field research Jambul oblast' in 2015).

Representatives of each idiom do not want to designate the opposite side as Turkic people.

Axiska: **Xemšilli-memšilli Türk deĵil**

Xemšilli-memšilli (are) not **Türk**

Xemšilli: **Axiska-maxiska Türk deĵil**

Axiska-maxiska (are) not **Türk**

(data of field research in Jambul oblast' in 2015)

Corpus creation

One of the main tasks of the project was corpus creation. A corpus of collected texts in these varieties has been created and archived on the server of the Language Archive at the Max Planck Institute in Nijmegen (the Netherlands).

Corpora of video and audio recordings have been created for several further Turkic languages spoken in Kazakhstan as well. But the most urgent tasks was corpora creation of the endangered languages. Linguistic documentation of endangered languages of Kazakhstan presents a new and promising direction for Kazakhstani linguistic research, which has not been done ever before.

Data Processing

Data processing is the most time-consuming part of the research, consisted of several stages:

- Audio and video materials had been recorded during several expeditions.
- Transcription of the data. A transcription was made for each individual passage of oral speech, then the texts were translated into English.
- Morphological analyzes. A representative sample of the texts was morphologically analyzed. Here are a few extracts from those recordings.

(6) *Axiska.*: bir Qur t̄ajuu dijirler, reka Qur , Qura a Qura , onun bəjuna jurdu, ana baba ḡuni aqlamaq, suzlamaq, mallar aqluyurdu bizim aḫorda mallar agluyurdu [IAN_Ahiska_Taraz_22032015_04] - ‘They say the Qur river, reka (the river) Qur, (we) went along the river, not only my parents were crying, weeping, the cattle were crying, in (our) barn, the cattle were crying’.

(7) *Xemšilli.*: o gün vəgən döldi srazu kitlədələr [SJT_Hemshilli_Taraz_250615_01] – ‘That day (when) the wagon (was) filled up, (it was) immediately locked up (outside)’.

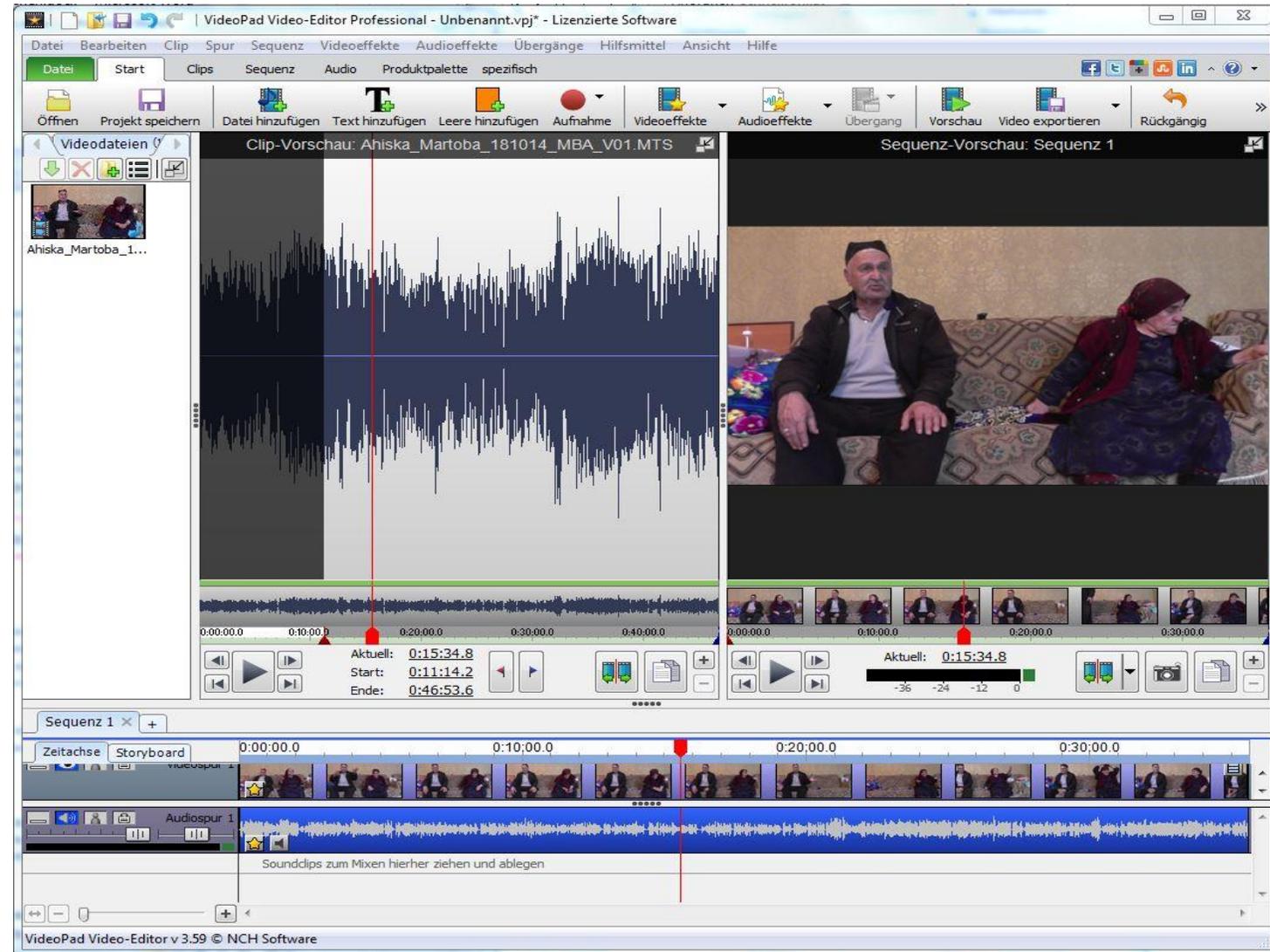
(8) *Xemšilli.*: Dəmax, əlməsin dije bir partfa – t̄ərnuyj əkmək olijdi - sijax əkmək, oni v̄erdilər [SJT_Hemshilli_Taraz_250615_01] - ‘So that we would not die, one piece of black bread - black bread was given (to us)’.

Data Processing

- The Arbil program was used to systematize the language data, create and administer metadata for each file. It allows viewing the storage units in the archive; importing and exporting metadata and editing them; creating a new corpus and sub-corpus of the data with their metadata; administering file access settings for different groups of users and, if necessary, anonymizing the data.

Documentation of Endangered Turkish Varieties in Kazakhstan

VideoPad Video Editor was used for editing audio or video material.



Morphologic analyses

‘Field Linguist’s Toolbox’ is used for morphologic analyses.

\id	006
\ref	006:045
\per	
\bx	nærædæ oxumaj qurtardus şej
\ltr	närädä oxumaj qurtardis şäj
\mb	närä -DA oxu -mA -(j)I qurtar -DI -Iz şäj
\ge	where -loc study -verbal noun -akk save -pst -2pl thing
\ps	interrogation -case v -verbal noun -case v -tense -pers.end n

Where did you study?

\bx	u institut näj qurtardus
\ltr	u institut näj qurtardis
\mb	o institut nä(j) qurtar -DI -Iz
\ge	3sg institute what save -pst -2pl
\ps	pron (pers) n interrogation v -tense -pers.end

Which subject did you study?

\bx	bæn Gurtardum ot:uz jäd:inji jilda pedagozi mistot
\ltr	bän gurtardim ot:už jäd:inji jilda pedagoži institut
\mb	ben qurtar -DI -(j)im ot:uz jäd:inji jil -DA pedagoži institut
\ge	1sg save -pst -1sg thirty seventh year -loc pedagogics institute
\ps	pron (pers) v -tense -pers.end num num n -case n n

I graduated from the institute of pedagogics in the year 37.

\lx	\ps	\ge
danış	v	consult
dava	n	cause
davaj	ptcl	imp
dävät	v	invite
dävlät	n	state
dağ	n	mountain
degül	v	not
dekabr	name (month)	december
depirtirivat	v	deport
-DI	tense	pst
di	v	say
dijä	cvb	by saying
-DIK	ptcp	ptcp
dil	n	language
diläk	n	wish
din	n	religion
-Dir	ptcl	cop
direktur	n	director
dişört	n	T-Shirt
dolar	n	Dollar
dördünji	num	fourth
dört	num	four
dost	n	comrade
doxsan	num	ninety
doxsaninji	num	ninetieth
doxuz	num	nine
doxuzunju	num	ninth
dudax	n	lips
dünja	n	world

Scheme of linguistic data processing

Рисунок 1 – Работа с видео файлами в программе «VideoPad»



AXISKA_ANDAISBATIR_280914_NIA_AD1

[...] [hanımı nereden aldınız] xanımın [çok güzel hanımdır] xanımmın [şu brez zor | niye zor | neden zor] [çalışım xanımın unen biz evden belc | jañ rus | xanım belc mijdı pısterele | bar ma lade jañ rıxıy ban fiskurnızd oxrıjında gılrtdım buşqıvede oxrıjırdı bene gos Gojmıt bu [çok güzel] o vaxıt o vaxıt o vaxıt bızdc belc o zemanda jtmıj dox uzda seksenırdı jıñ erda]

Рисунок 2 – Расшифровка надписи в международной системе транскрипции IPA

Расшифровка записи - это одна из наиболее трудоёмких задач исследования. На рисунке 2 представлен пример расшифровки записи, иллюстрированной на рисунке 1. Расшифровка образцов устной речи производится в международной системе транскрипции IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet).



Для систематизации языковых данных, создания метаданных к каждому файлу используется программа Arbil, которая, в частности, позволяет:

- Просматривать единицы хранения в архиве;
- Импортировать и экспортировать метаданные и редактировать их;
- Создавать новые корпуса и подкорпуса данных с их метаданными;
- Администрировать параметры доступа к файлам для разных групп пользователей и при необходимости анонимизировать данные.

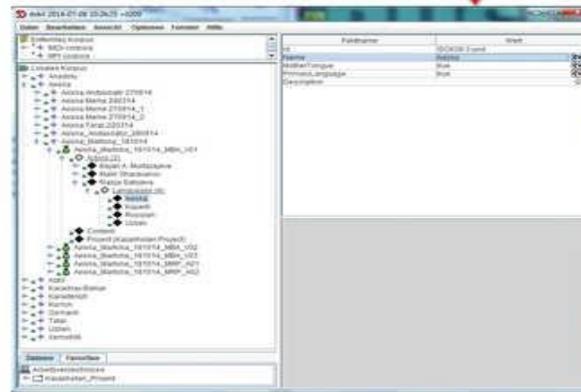


Рисунок 4 – Программа Arbil

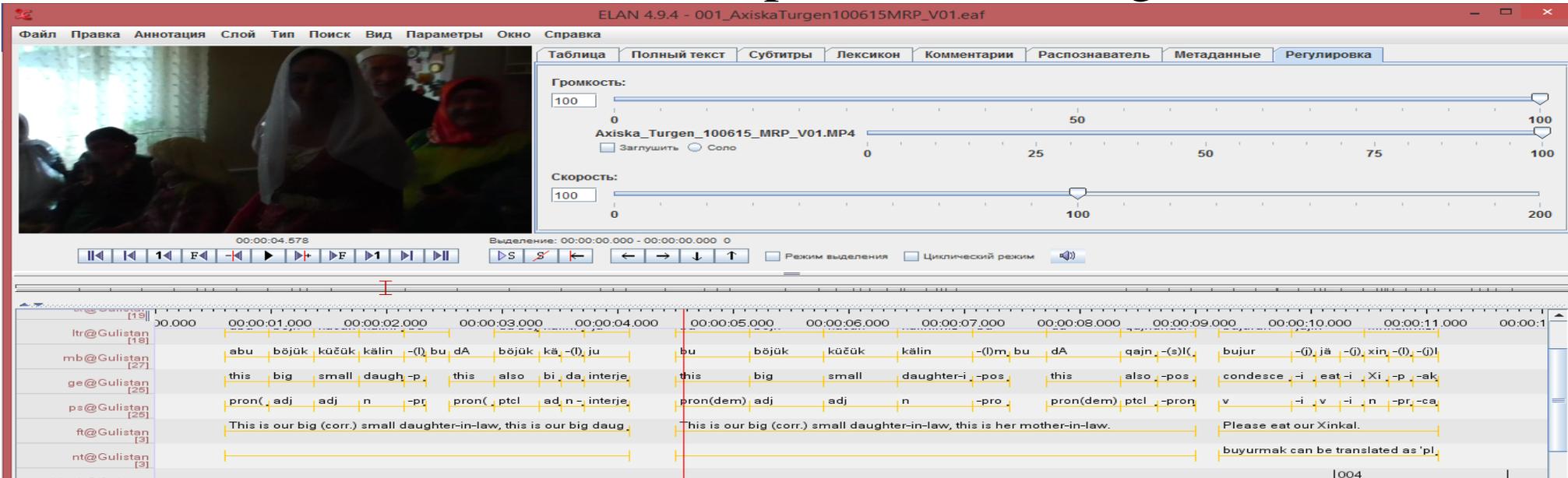
Рисунок 3 – Фрагмент текста в программе Toolbox



Следующим этапом является создание текстовой и словарной базы данных в программе Toolbox, которая позволяет делать морфологическую разбивку, определять функциональный класс слова и глоссировать его полуавтоматически, т.е. в случае различной разбивки на морфемы программа предлагает выбрать один из вариантов. Новые слова автоматически добавляются в электронный словарь, который пополняется по мере заполнения базы текстовых данных и анализа текстов. На следующем рисунке представлен фрагмент текста, в программе Toolbox, которая также выполнена немецкими участниками проекта.

Morphologic analysis in the ELAN program

In order to be able to use the video recordings together with interlinear analysis, also on-line, the data were further imported into the ELAN programme. ELAN allows synchronization of the video, audio, and interlinear annotation and their reproduction along the timeline



The screenshot displays the ELAN 4.9.4 software interface. The window title is "ELAN 4.9.4 - 001_AxiskaTurgen100615MRP_V01.eaf". The menu bar includes "Файл", "Правка", "Аннотация", "Слой", "Тип", "Поиск", "Вид", "Параметры", "Окно", and "Справка". The main interface is divided into several sections:

- Video Player:** Shows a video frame of a group of people. The current time is 00:00:04.578.
- Audio Controls:** Includes a volume slider (0-100) and a speed slider (0-200). The audio file is "Axiska_Turgen_100615_MRP_V01.MP4".
- Timeline:** A horizontal timeline at the bottom shows the duration of the video and audio.
- Interlinear Annotation Table:** A table with multiple rows representing different layers of annotation. The first row is the video transcript, and subsequent rows show morphological analysis and translations.

Layer	00:00:00.000	00:00:01.000	00:00:02.000	00:00:03.000	00:00:04.000	00:00:05.000	00:00:06.000	00:00:07.000	00:00:08.000	00:00:09.000	00:00:10.000	00:00:11.000	00:00:12.000													
itr@Gulistan [18]																										
mb@Gulistan [27]		abu	böjök	küčük	kälin	-(l) bu	dA	böjök	kä	-(l) ju	bu	böjök	küčük	kälin	-(l)m	bu	dA	qajın	-(s)l(bujur	-(l) jä	-(l) xın	-(l) -(l)			
ge@Gulistan [25]		this	big	small	daugh	-p	this	also	bi	da	interje	this	big	small	daughter-i	-pos	this	also	-pos	condesce	-i	eat-i	Xi	-p	-ak	
ps@Gulistan [25]		pron(adj	adj	n	-pr	pron(ptcl	adj	n	-interje	pron(dem)	adj	adj	n	-pro	pron(dem)	ptcl	-pron	v	-i	v	-i	n	-pr	-ca
ft@Gulistan [3]		This is our big (corr.) small daughter-in-law, this is our big daug.											This is our big (corr.) small daughter-in-law, this is her mother-in-law.				Please eat our Xinkal.									
nt@Gulistan [3]																	buyurmak can be translated as 'pl									

Peculiarities in Phonology of Ahiska Turkish

- **breaking of the vowel harmony in Yerli :**

Ahiska Turkish	Standard Turkish
Buni	bunu
tuzli	tuzlu
ʃæmdi	şimdi
Jatup	yatıp

- **usage of open vowel æ in Yerli Ahiska, ε in Hemshilli, instead of e in Standard Turkish**

Ahiska Turkish	Hemshilli	Standard Turkish
ævlær	εvlær	evler
Tæpæ	tεpε	tepe
Gælin	gεlin	gelin
Gældux	gεldux	geldik
Getilær	gεtilær	Gittiler
dillær	diller	diller

- **the usage of the sound [ɣ], which is not used in Standard Turkish**

Yerli Ahiska Turkish	Standard Turkish
oɣlan	oğlan
Türk topraɣı	Türk toprağı
çodɣuɣı	çodzuğı
Allaɣa şukur	Allaħa şükür

- **the usage of the sound [q] instead of [k] in Standard Turkish**

Yerli Ahiska Turkish	Standard Turkish
Qız	Kız
dił biraz qurıluur	dil biraz kırılır
eŋ büyük Qurban bajramı	en büyük Kurban bayramı

- **the usage of the sound [x] instead of [k] in standard Turkish**

Yerli Ahiska Turkish	Standard Turkish
jox	jok
gældux	geldik-
jatıjorux	yatıyoruz

- **the usage of voiced consonants instead of unvoiced in Standard Turkish (Rind-Pawłowski M., Şahingöz E., 2016: 283)**

Yerli Ahiska Turkish	Standard Turkish
durna	turna
geçi	keçi
bazar	pazar

- **the usage of unvoiced consonants instead of voiced in Standard Turkish (Rind-Pawłowski M., Şahingöz E., 2016:284)**

Yerli Ahiska Turkish	Standard Turkish
tayi	dayi
toğri	doğri
tuy	duy
köl	göl

Diminutives expressing respect are used as honorific forms according to the models of Kazakh diminutives:

Hasan – Haseke

Iskander – Sake

Jalal – Jake.

Kinship terms in the language of Turkish Ethnicities

(Aliev, 1978) (interviewers: Davriš-ova Gulistan, Almaty:2015, Jalal Sarymamed-oğly: Taraz, 2015)

Kinship terms of blood		
Ahiska Turks	Hemshilli	STL
dædε - grandfather	bɤjɤq baba	dede
nænε - grandmother	bɤjɤq ana	baba anne
baba - father	baba	baba
anε - mother	ana / nænε	anne
oğul - son	oğlum	oğul
qız - daughter	qızım	kız
torun– grandson/daughter	torunim torunı	torun
torunin toruni– grand-grand son/daughter		torun çocuğu

e.g. bänim ašindi iki tänä ävdäki **torunlarım** iki tänä (Ahiska_Andasbatir_270914_NIA_A01 ab 27:40.3)

Kinship terms on the sideline

Kinship terms on the sideline

Ahiska

taji– uncle by mother’s side

hala – aunt by mother’s side

æmi - father’s brother

abla– uncle’s wife (жена дяди)

bibi– father’s sister (сестра отца)

jegen– nephew (племянник)

Hemshilli

daji

teyze

ɛmiçe

gɛlin

hala

jegen

STL

Dayı

teyze

amca

yenge

hala

yeğen

Terms of relationship by marriage

Terms of relationship by marriage		
Ahiska	Hemshilli	STL
qoza– husband	qoza	koca
qari – wife	qariš	karı
gəlin– sister-in-law	gəlin	gelin
əništa– son-in-law	əništa	enişte
görüm– sister-in-law	baldyz	görümce
əlti– sister-in-law (brother’s wife)	gəlin	elti
Jenğæ– woman, accompanied by a daughter-in-law into the house of the groom	Jenğe	yenge
qajyn – brother-in-law		
bazənaχ – brother-in-law (husband’s brother)		
baldyz– sister-in-law (husband’s sister)	qajın/ qayın birader	kayın birader
qajnata – father-in-law	bazənaχ	bacanak
qajnana - mother-in-law		
dɯŋğur – matchmaker	baldyzym	görümce
qirva a man, who stands near the boy at the circumcision		
	qajnata	
	qajnana	kaynata
	dyngyr	kaynana
	qirva	dünür
		kirve

Peculiarities in Lexicon of Ahiska

Archaic forms of Yerli Turkish is represented in the lexicon.

padišax is referred to the highest authority

sædir – a place of honor in the house

kæča - large felt mat

anaxtar - key

xuzmætkær- wage-worker (наемный работник) (Алиев, 1978: 25)

maxmudja – golden coins, which have been used as necklace (data from field research May, 2015 – Almaty)

The surnames of Ahiska and Hemshilli Turks differ from each other.

Ahiska **Turks have surnames of Arabic, Persian or Georgian origin** with Russian suffixes marking the gender – *ov/-ev* - for masculine; *-ova/-eva* - for feminine:

Surnames of Arabic or Persian origin

Ismail-ov Rovšan (m);

Asi-ev Šahismail Ahmetuly (m);

Isa-ev Ajimurat Alybaba-evich (m);

Davriš-ova Gulistan Suleimanqyzy (f);

Aziz-ova Heiria Mukadinovna (f),

Ahmed-ova Fatima (f) (Almaty, 2015)

surnames of Georgian origin:

Čaç-i-dze Asija, Ber-i-dze Ismail (Merke, 2014), Papa-dze Dijarbek (Taraz, 2017)

Kik-nadze Ibragim, Gogola-švili Ravil (Aliyev, 1978)

Xemšili and Laz Turkish people have the names and surnames of Arabic and Persian origin as well but the ending -ogly is used instead of Russian suffixes without gender differentiation (Taraz, 2014; 2015).

Jalal Sarymamed-oğly (m);

Iskander Bešli- oğly (m);

Izmir Hadjidursun oğly (m);

Šadia Sarymamed-oğly (f);

Naima Hadjidursun oğly (f),

Asia Moldahasan-oğly (f);

Šukri Moldahasan-oğly (f).

There are 5 surnames among Hemshili:

In everyday life, name's shortening is popular both for Ahiska and Karadenizli Turks. They are used as diminutives:

Israfil → Iso (m)

Šähmändär → Šamo (m);

Tæfrik → Tæfo (m);

Farida → Fado (f);

Fätima → Fato (f);

Maral → Meriko (f);

Jeiran → Janiko (f).

Electronic database with Sociolinguistic Data

An electronic database with sociolinguistic data was also created in the course of the project.

It allows for filtering the data according to 191 parameters (age, education, occupation, migration history, ethnic identity, language use, language attitudes, etc.) that can be combined according to the users' needs.

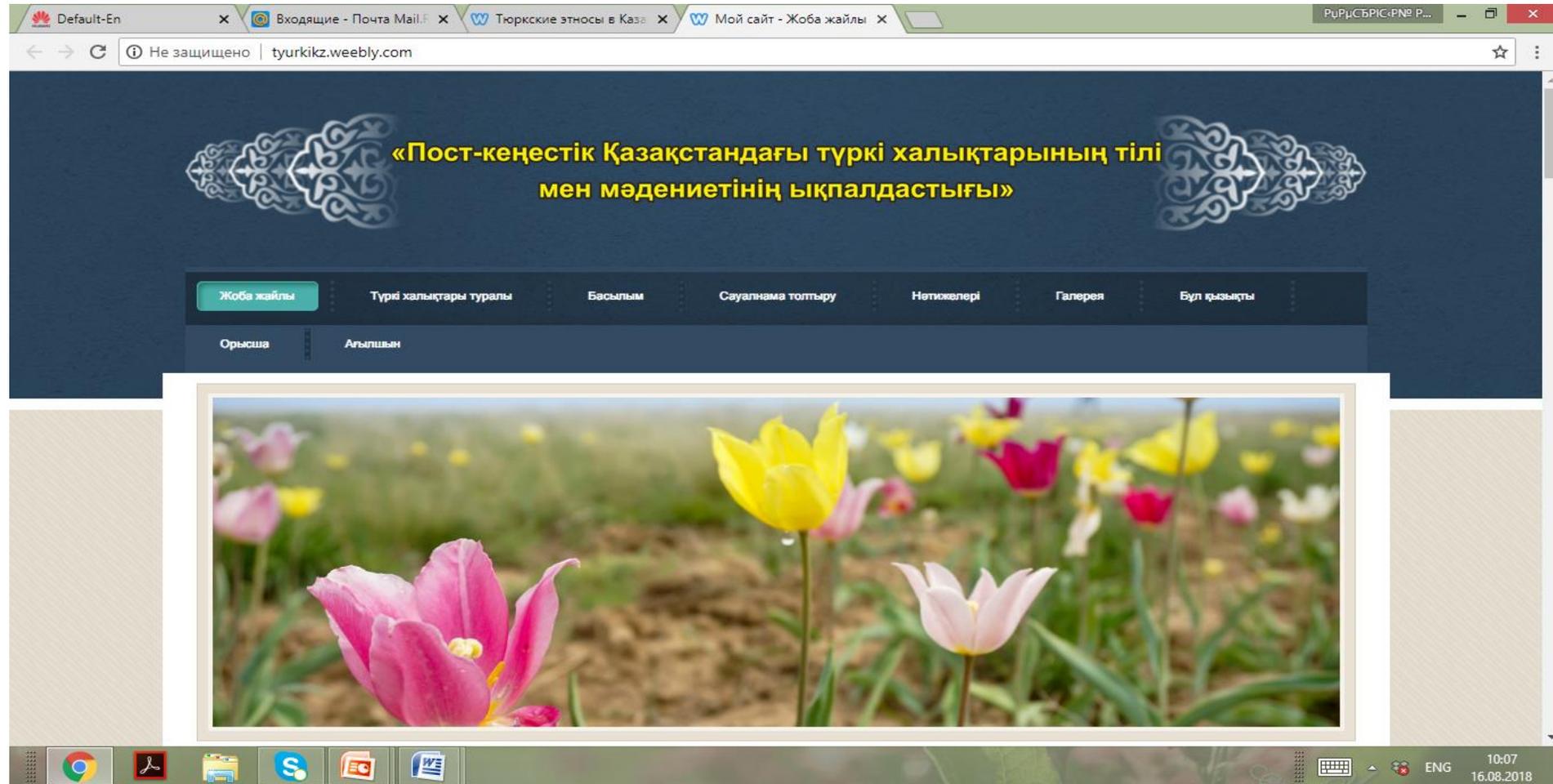
The answers of the respondents are recorded in the database after completing the questionnaire. All the information is stored on the Google Drive server on the homepage of the project. The stored information is preserved in two forms: in the table form in the form of visualization of a filter's results

Data visualization

Data visualization is a visual representation of the questioner's information. The data of survey can be visualized in a form of diagram, graphs, charts, thus the table form for showing the results with filters is not enough for observation. The Google Chart API tools has been chosen as a tool for charting based on Java Script programming language.

All the data had been separated for 6 subgroups for convenience of visualization. If you choose “ethnic belonging in passport” subgroup, so you can adjust filter which automatically shows diagrams at the project's web-site www.tyurki.weebly.com.

Homepage



The screenshot shows a web browser window with several tabs open: "Default-En", "Входящие - Почта Mail.F", "Тюркские этносы в Каза...", and "Мой сайт - Жоба жайлы". The address bar shows "Не защищено | tyurkikz.weebly.com". The main content area has a dark blue background with a central title in yellow and white text: «Пост-кеңестік Қазақстандағы түркі халықтарының тілі мен мәдениетінің ықпалдастығы». The title is flanked by decorative white patterns. Below the title is a navigation menu with buttons for "Жоба жайлы", "Түркі халықтары туралы", "Басылым", "Сауалнама толтыру", "Нәтижелері", "Галерея", and "Бұл қызықты". Below the navigation menu are two language options: "Орысша" and "Ағылшын". The main content area features a large image of a field of tulips in various colors (pink, yellow, white) with a white border. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows icons for Google Chrome, Adobe Reader, File Explorer, Skype, and Microsoft Word, along with the system tray displaying the time "10:07" and date "16.08.2018".

Default-En x Входящие - Почта Mail.F x Тюркские этносы в Каза... x Мой сайт - Жоба жайлы x РҮРҮСБҮІС:РНӨ Р... x

Не защищено | tyurkikz.weebly.com

«Пост-кеңестік Қазақстандағы түркі халықтарының тілі мен мәдениетінің ықпалдастығы»

Жоба жайлы Түркі халықтары туралы Басылым Сауалнама толтыру Нәтижелері Галерея Бұл қызықты

Орысша Ағылшын

10:07 16.08.2018

Database

Faculty members of the Department of Computer Science of L.N. Gumilyov ENU created a website of the project containing also a sociolinguistic database with the results of the survey:

www.tyurki.weebly.com

The table form of our database

Отметка времени	Жасыңыз (Сіздің жас	Қай елдің азаматы болы	Сіз қай этносқа жата	Төлқұжат бойынша / По паспорту	Өзіндік таным бойы	Ұлты / Национально	Сіздің әкеңіздің / Ва
17.09.2013 15:20:37	46	Қазақстан	турки	турки хемшилы	турки хемшилы	турки	турки хемшилы
17.09.2013 15:59:51	46	Қазақстан	карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы
17.09.2013 17:07:50	19	Қазақстан	карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы
17.09.2013 17:32:55	75	Қазақстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18.09.2013 10:22:22	19	Қазақстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18.09.2013 11:11:31	52	Қазақстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18.09.2013 11:34:32	48	Қазақстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18.09.2013 11:47:17	73	Қазақстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18.09.2013 11:59:08	75	Қазақстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18.09.2013 12:28:44	33	Қазақстан	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки
18.09.2013 12:40:06	26	Қазақстан	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки
18.09.2013 12:48:56	27	Қазақстан	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки
18.09.2013 13:24:51	28	Қазақстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18.09.2013 15:24:18	21	Қазақстан	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки
18.09.2013 16:05:36	14	Қазақстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18.09.2013 18:20:46	55	Қазақстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18.09.2013 18:41:21	75	Қазақстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18.09.2013 18:57:32	25	Қазақстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18.09.2013 19:11:14	40	Қазақстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
19.09.2013 9:28:11	57	Қазақстан	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки
19.09.2013 9:37:49	54	Қазақстан	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки

Example of using filters

e.g., select the column C (Citizen of what country are you?) from the dropdown list.

The screenshot shows a Google Spreadsheet interface. The spreadsheet has columns A through H. Column C is titled "Қай елдің азаматы болып табыласыз / Гражданином какой страны вы являетесь". A dropdown menu is open over column C, showing a list of countries: Казахстан (checked), Азербайджан, Каракалпакстан, Киргизия, and нет данных. The spreadsheet data includes columns for time, name, ethnicity, passport type, and national identity.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Отметка времени	Жасыңыз / Сіздің жасыңыз	Қай елдің азаматы болып табыласыз / Гражданином какой страны вы являетесь	Сіз қай этносқа жата / Вы к какому этносу принадлежите	Төлқұжат бойынша / По паспорту	Өзіндік таным бойы / Самоидентификация	Ұлты / Национально	Сіздің әкеңіздің ұлты / Этническая принадлежность отца
2	17.09.2013 15:20:37		турки	турки хемшилы	турки хемшилы	турки хемшилы	турки	турки хемшиль
3	17.09.2013 15:59:51		карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы
4	17.09.2013 17:07:50		карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы
5	17.09.2013 17:32:55		татары	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
12	18.09.2013 10:22:22		татары	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
14	18.09.2013 11:11:31		татары	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
15	18.09.2013 11:34:32		татары	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
16	18.09.2013 11:47:17		татары	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
17	18.09.2013 11:59:08		татары	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18	18.09.2013 12:28:44		узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки
19	18.09.2013 12:40:06		узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки
20	18.09.2013 12:48:56		узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки
22	18.09.2013 13:24:51		татары	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
24	18.09.2013 15:24:18		узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки
26	18.09.2013 16:05:36		татары	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
29	18.09.2013 18:20:46		татары	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
30	18.09.2013 18:41:21		татары	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
31	18.09.2013 18:57:32		татары	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
32	18.09.2013 19:11:14		татары	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
33	19.09.2013 9:28:11		узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки
34	19.09.2013 9:37:49		узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки
35	19.09.2013 9:46:42		узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки

Data Visualization

Another possibility of the database usage is filtering the data with Visualization of the responses' results.

- All the data are divided into 7 subgroups:

Subgroup 1 - Nationality as in passport

Subgroup 2 - Nationality as in passport: women

Subgroup 3 - Nationality as in passport: men

Subgroup 4 - Ethnic self identification

Subgroup 5 - Ethnic self identification: women

Subgroup 6 - Ethnic self identification: men

Subgroup 7 - Answers to open-ended questions

Data visualization

О проекте

Краткая история

Культура

Заполнить анкету

Результаты опроса



«Взаимодействие тюркских языков и культур в постсоветском Казахстане»

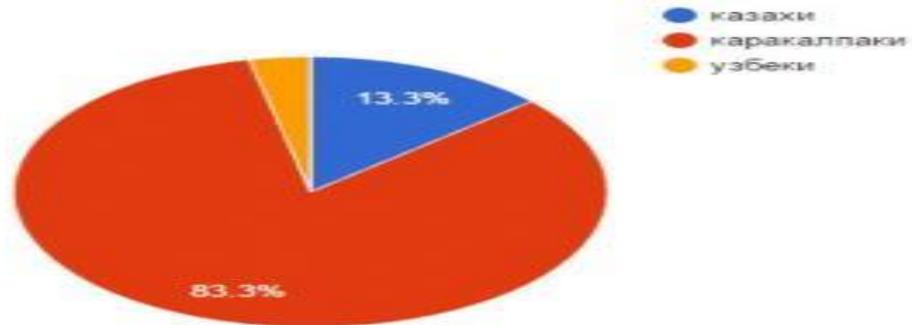
Проект предполагает активное вовлечение в научное исследование студентов бакалавриата, магистрантов и докторантов. Студенты вышеназванных университетов, а также волонтеры из числа профессорско-преподавательского состава вузов могут принимать участие в проекте. Студенты, участвующие в международном проекте, будут иметь возможность пройти производственную практику в рамках этого проекта.

[Читать подробнее...](#)

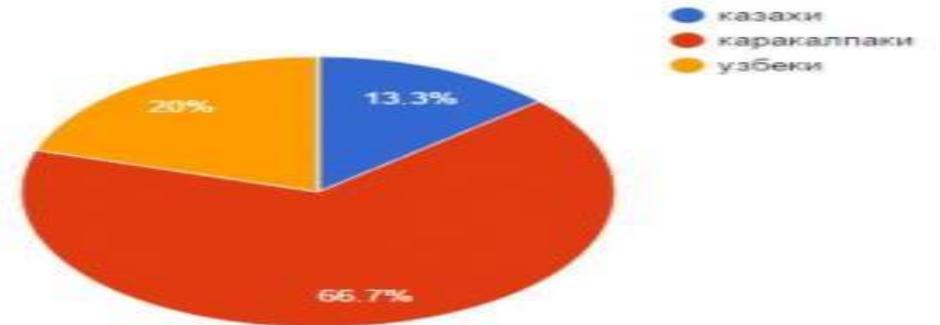
Подгруппа 1 - Этническая принадлежность по паспорту

Каракалпаки (количество 30)

Этническая принадлежность по паспорту



Национальность матери



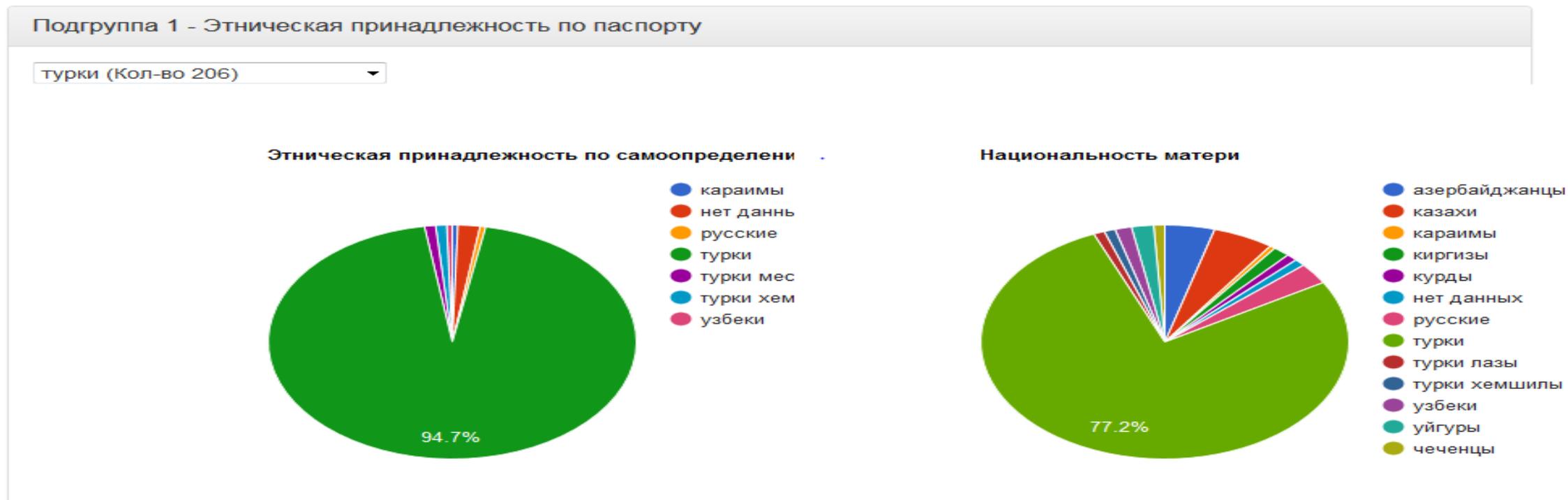
Turkish community

Analysis of the sociolinguistic data

Nationality by passport

In the post-Soviet Kazakhstan, all people are free to define their nationality in passports.

In our database 206 interviewees are Turks by their nationality as defined in their passports. Most Turk self-identified themselves as Turk. Besides, Kazakhstani Turkish population self-identify themselves as Hemshilli and Meskhetian 1% each, as Karaim – 1 (0,5%), Uzbek 1 (0,5%), and Russian 1 (0,5%).



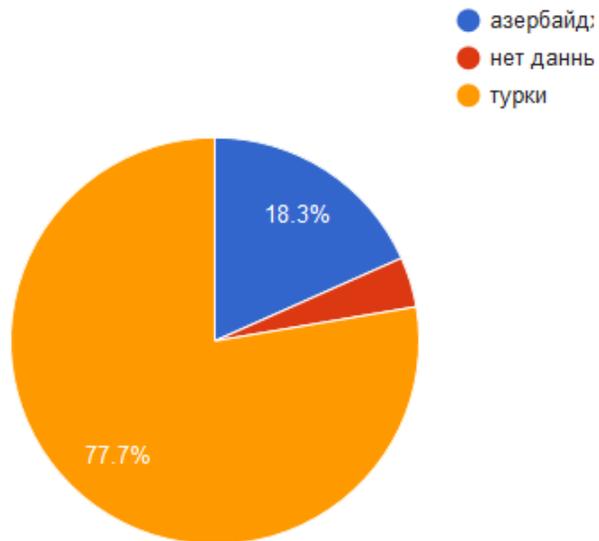
“Mesketian”: Nationality by self-identification

251 respondents identified themselves as Turk while **18,3 %** of them are registered in their passports as Azeri.

Подгруппа 4 - Этническая принадлежность по самоопределению

турки (Кол-во 251)

Этническая принадлежность по паспорту

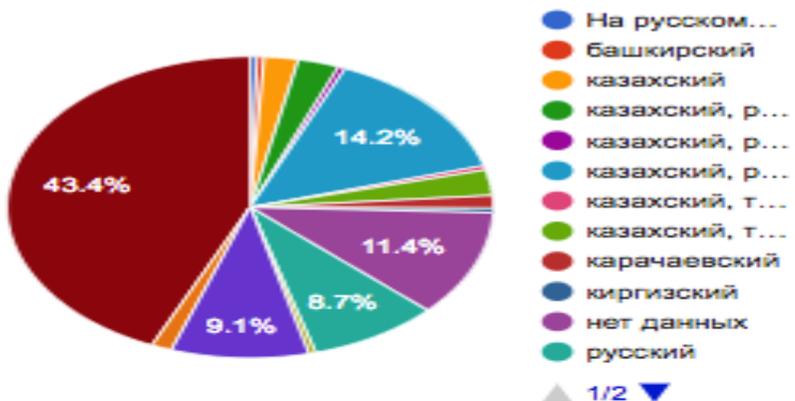


Национальность отца

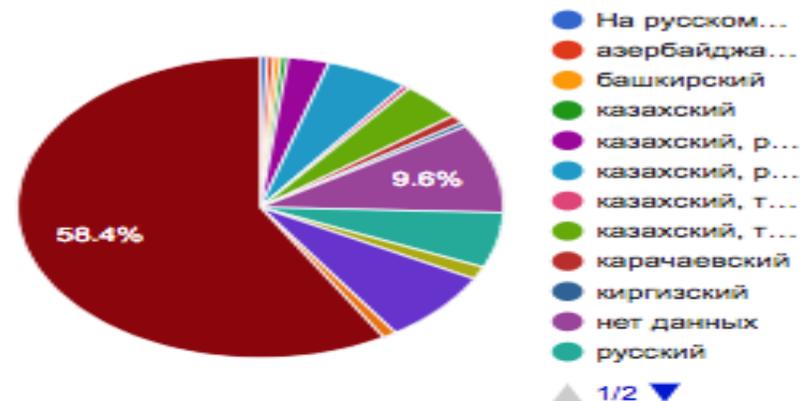


Language proficiency

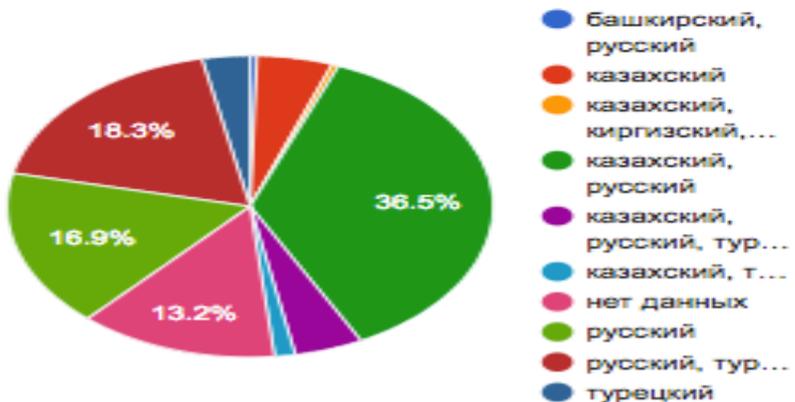
Язык, на котором говорят в семье с детьми школьниками



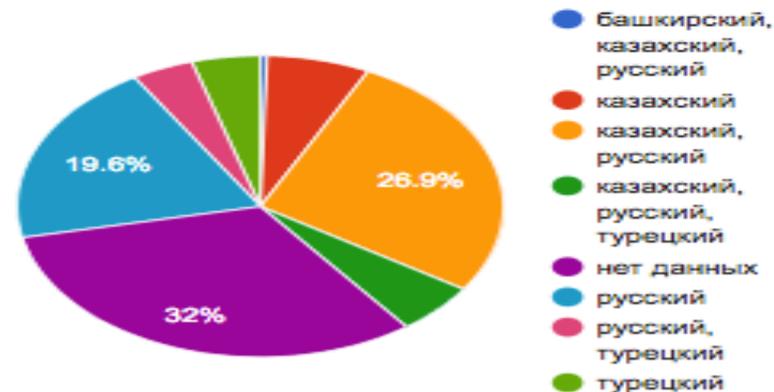
Язык, на котором говорят в семье со взрослыми



Язык общения на работе



Язык, который используется в сервисной сфере (магазины, рынки, почта)



Native Language:Paradox Situation

The results of the survey and our oral interviews with the native speakers of Turkish varieties provide contradictory results: while the majority of the Kazakhstani Turk say that they speak their native language, they also admit that younger generations switch to Standard Turkish thanks to Turkish mass media, widely spread in Kazakhstan, and the increased mobility of these groups themselves: many young people study and work in Turkey.

Thus, it is a paradox situation: the spreading of Standard Turkish endangers the preservation of “Meskhetian” native varieties.

Conclusion

Analysis of the results of the sociolinguistic research showed that there are two large areal groups of Turk - Ahiska Turk (Jerli, Terekeme) and the Turk of the Black Sea coast (Hemshilli, Laz Turk), each with its own specific variety of the Turkish language.

“Meskhetian” Turk (Ahiska and Xemsilli) for seventy years of the residence in Kazakhstan started to identify themselves as Turk referring themselves as one big ethnicity. In our opinion, this is facilitated by a number of factors:

- consolidation of the ethnicity due to unification, and, as a result, the increase of its viability in another territory;
- acquisition of a historical ethnic homeland in the Republic of Turkey, instead of Georgia, where Ahiska and Xemsilli lived from time immemorial;
- positive conditions in Kazakhstan for the preservation of ethnic culture, language, etc;
- prospect for the emigration of the younger generation to Turkey.

Conclusion

Kazakhstan presents a very interesting area for studying Turkic communities, who came to this territory by various reasons.

Turkish Diaspora is fully integrated into modern realities of Kazakhstan, have the right to keep their language and culture.

It should also be noted that Turkish representatives consider Kazakhstan to be the most comfortable country among all the Central Asian states for preserving their culture, language (information from interviews during field research in South Kazakhstan in March 2014, September 2014, May 2016, Almaty region in June 2015). Majority of them do not want to change the citizenship, or move to other countries.



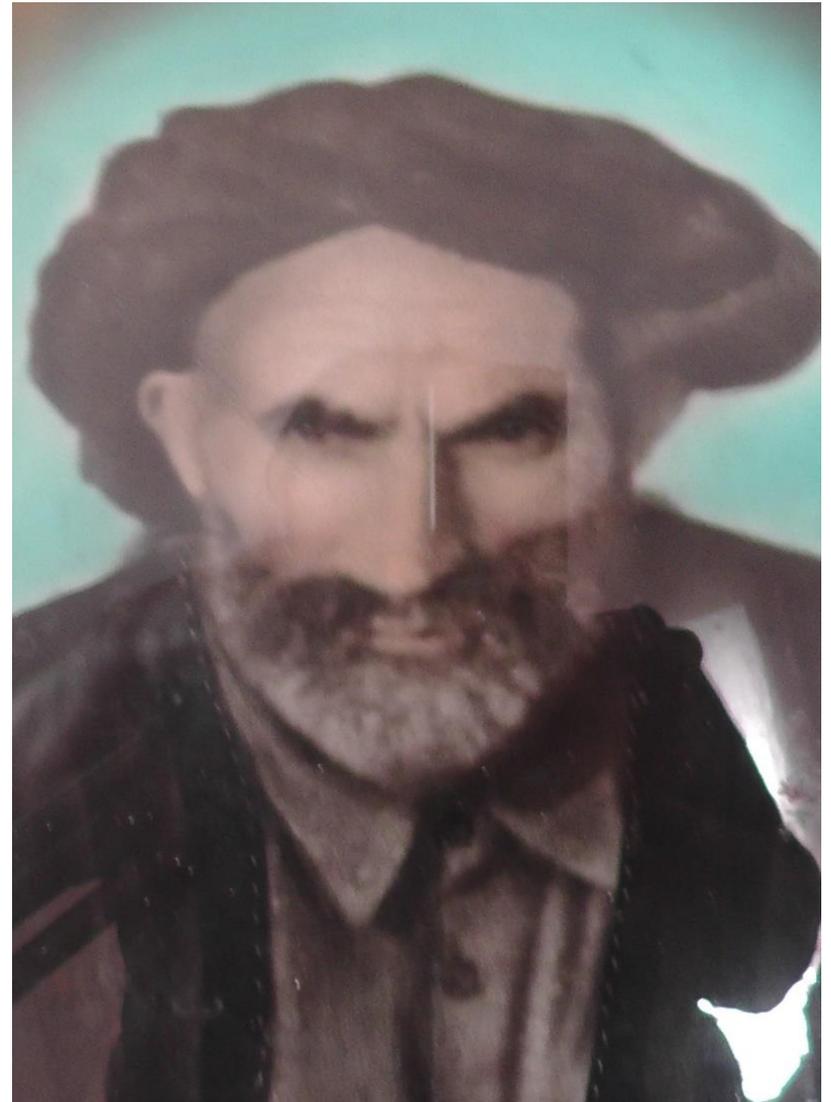
Ahiska Turks community , village Turgen (Almaty region, 2015)



Hemshilli Turks community (Taraz, 2016).



Ahiska man in the national dress



Hemshilli man in the national dress



Ahiska women in national dresses



Hemshilli women in national dresses



Ahiska family



Hemshilli family

Hemshilli old women (Taraz, 2015)



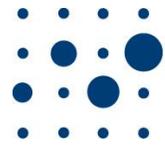
**Thank you for your
attention!**

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“Meskhetian” Turkic endangered language varieties in Kazakhstan: sociolinguistic situation and linguistic features

Questions/Answers