

## ABSTRACT

**Dissertation by Bagdat Daniyarovich Dyussenov  
for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) under the educational program  
“8D02209 – Oriental Studies” on the topic: “Written Monuments of the  
Mamluk Period - as a Linguistic and Cultural Source (Based on the Materials  
of “ad-Durra al-mudiya” and “al-Shuzur az-zahabiya”)”**

**General Characteristics of the Work.** The presented dissertation explores the significance of written monuments from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, created during the Mamluk period in Egypt and Syria, including dictionaries in Arabic-Kipchak languages, as linguistic and cultural sources.

**Relevance of the Study.** The study of monuments known as “Mamluk-Kipchak Written Monuments” (13<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> centuries) is an essential requirement of modern science for the development of Turkology as an integral part of Oriental Studies.

The relevance of the dissertation topic fully corresponds to the state programs of Independent Kazakhstan and the “Kazakhstan-2050” strategy, the National Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2025, and other programs. All these programs focus on considering the historical and cultural heritage of the Kipchak Mamluks, who ruled during the Mamluk period. Plans for the restoration of Sultan Baybars’ mausoleum in Damascus and his mosque in Cairo have been developed and implemented. In 2023, the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sultan Baybars was celebrated at a high level. His name has been given to many schools, mosques-madrasahs, and streets in our country. Numerous scientific and practical conferences and round tables have been held at the international and republican levels. All this testifies to the relevance of the Mamluks, their historical figures, and written monuments for the medieval history and culture of Kazakhstan.

The approach to the creation of Arabic-Kipchak dictionaries discussed in the dissertation became widespread in the territory of the Golden Horde, where numerous copies were created. During the study of the manuscripts of the dictionary “Muqaddamat al-Adab” by the Khorezm linguist Abu al-Qasim Mahmud az-Zamakhshari (1075–1144), it was clearly established that the method of interlinear translation used in it was formed based on the creation of Quranic glossaries. Quranic dictionary lists with interlinear translation became widespread in the eastern part of the Muslim world from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. Later, this tradition passed to the Mamluk state.

The written monuments of the Mamluk period play a significant role as linguistic and cultural sources.

**Object of the Study.** The object of the study is written monuments created in the 13<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> centuries in the Mamluk state, including the dictionaries “ad-Durra al-mudiya” and “al-Shuzur az-zahabiya”.

**Purpose and Objectives of the Research.** The purpose of the research is to study the written monuments of the Mamluk period, including Arabic-Turkic-

Kipchak dictionaries, as linguistic and cultural sources. To achieve this goal, the following tasks are set:

- To determine the emergence of the first Arabic-Persian-Turkic dictionaries and the method of interlinear translation in Quranic dictionaries created during the Karakhanid period;
- To study the written monuments of the Golden Horde era and the tradition of lexicography using the example of az-Zamakhshari's dictionary "Muqaddamat al-Adab";
- To trace the transformation of the lexicographic tradition from the cultural area of the Golden Horde to the Mamluk Sultanate and analyze the preservation of Golden Horde structural and semantic elements;
- To conduct linguistic analysis and interpretation of the lexical corpus of dictionaries created during the Mamluk Sultanate;
- To analyze the structure and content of the dictionary "ad-Durra al-mudiya" in the context of Arabic-Turkic lexicography;
- To analyze the manuscripts of the dictionary "al-Shuzur az-zahabiya" and its historiography; to introduce the materials of the introductory section (muqaddima) of the manuscript into scientific circulation;
- To assess the phonetic structure of the dictionary "ad-Durra al-mudiya";
- To study the lexico-grammatical features of the dictionary "ad-Durra al-mudiya";
- To investigate linguistic and cultural connections and the significance of epigraphic monuments during the existence of the Mamluk State and the Golden Horde.

**Degree of Study.** Many studies have been conducted in the fields of global and domestic Oriental Studies, Turkology, and Kipchak Studies on the written monuments of the Mamluk period. In the research work "Philologiae Turcicae Fundamenta" by Omeljan Pritsak, the section "Kipchak Languages" begins with the chapter "Language of the Mamluk Kipchaks." He identifies 12 written monuments, including three works by Abu Hayyan, which are considered "lost" (Kitab al-af'al, Zahr al-mulk fi nahw at-turk, ad-Durra al-mudiya fil-lugat at-turkiya) [1, p. 74-81].

Hungarian scholar T. Halasi-Kun was the first to divide the language of Mamluk-Kipchak written monuments into three dialects of Turkic languages: 1) Proper Kipchak; 2) Proper Oghuz; 3) Mixed Kipchak-Oghuz [2, p. 80-83].

This research proposes a new hypothesis for the first time, according to which the basis for the dictionaries created in the Mamluk state was the Quranic glossaries and copies of az-Zamakhshari's dictionary "Muqaddamat al-Adab," created in the territory of the Golden Horde. A vivid proof of this is the method of interlinear translation used in compiling the dictionaries.

The upper line contains the Arabic word written in large black letters, and below it, the Turkic equivalents are placed in smaller red letters. This tradition of dictionary compilation was formed based on the recommendations of Islamic scholars (fuqaha). The reason was that at the early stage of the spread of Islam, the translation of the Quran into other languages was prohibited. Quranic term

dictionaries in Persian arose due to the fatwas of scholars from the Bukhara school of the Hanafi madhhab – Ahmad al-Khaluai al-Bukhari and his student as-Sarakhsi – who ruled: “If the Quranic text is first written (in Arabic), and then interpretations (tafsir) and translations (tarjama) of each word are placed under the lines, there is no contradiction in this” [40, p. 422]. Later, after the adoption of Islam by the rulers of the Karakhanids, Arabic-Persian-Turkic Quranic dictionaries began to appear.

Within the framework of this study, a comprehensive analysis of the dictionaries was carried out: “ad-Durra al-mudiya,” created in the 13<sup>th</sup> century at the early stage of the Mamluk era, and “al-Shuzur az-zahabiya” – the last monument in the Kipchak language of the Mamluk period, compiled in the Ottoman era in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

In addition, epigraphic monuments of the Mamluk period, most of which represent written artifacts serving as important linguistic and cultural sources, were studied for the first time.

### **Scientific Novelty of the Research:**

- It has been established that the first Arabic-Persian-Turkic dictionaries were created based on Quran translations, and during the Karakhanid period, the method of interlinear translation in dictionary compilation appeared;

- The dictionary of az-Zamakhshari “Muqaddamat al-Adab”, based on Quranic vocabulary, became widely spread in the territory of Ulus Jochi (Golden Horde);

- The tradition of compiling interlinear dictionaries used in Ulus Jochi was transferred to the Mamluk state, where numerous Arabic-Turkic dictionaries were compiled;

- It was established that the lexical composition of the “ad-Durra al-mudiya” dictionary is very close to the modern Kazakh language;

- Thirty-six manuscripts of the “al-Shuzur az-zahabiya” dictionary were identified, confirming its wide distribution in the Middle Ages within a unified Turkic cultural space as an important written monument;

- Based on the materials of the “ad-Durra al-mudiya” dictionary, the phonetic system of the Mamluk Kipchak language was studied, revealing the presence of 8 vowel and 22 consonant sounds;

- In the “ad-Durra al-mudiya” dictionary, the Turkic layer is predominant, and the lexical fund of modern Kipchak group languages has been preserved to a significant extent;

- Many names of people of Kipchak origin were found on Mamluk epigraphic monuments preserved in Egypt. The texts of Quranic ayats, hadiths, and marsiya (funeral poems) are identical, confirming that the tradition of setting steles was transferred from the Ulus Jochi.

**Research Methods.** The historical-comparative method was used to compare written monuments in chronological context and determine their evolution. Linguistic analysis methods were applied to study linguistic features and the graphic system of dictionary texts. The archaeographic method was employed to inventory and identify lists of monuments. Paleographic analysis was conducted to

study the development and style of written samples. The spatial-temporal analysis was used to determine the areas of distribution and concordance of dictionaries. The linguistic modeling method was applied to reconstruct ancient language norms. Data were collected through the registration of epigraphic monuments, photo documentation, and the creation of estampages for copying inscriptions.

**Theoretical Significance of the Research Results.** The conceptual contribution of the dissertation work to the scientific field has been considered, as well as its influence on linguistic and cultural theories.

The theoretical novelty of the research proposes a new understanding of the phenomenon of multilingualism and cultural synthesis based on the study of language layers in written monuments of the Mamluk period. An interdisciplinary model integrating linguistic data with cultural context has been developed. It has been proven that the lexical elements of the Turkic language in Mamluk dictionaries reflect their political and cultural dominance, which contributes to the development of scientific hypotheses.

**Practical Significance of the Research Results.**

- Can be applied in the compilation of historical and etymological dictionaries of Old Kipchak and Old Kazakh languages;

- May serve as auxiliary material in teaching disciplines such as “Turkology,” “History of the Kazakh Language,” “History of Writing,” etc., in higher and specialized educational institutions;

- Applied in the development of textbooks on the historical grammar of Turkic languages and historical-comparative dictionaries;

- Certain Old Kipchak words may be used to create new terms in the modern Kazakh language.

**Main Provisions of the Dissertation Submitted for Defense:**

- The basis for the emergence of the first Arabic-Persian-Turkic dictionaries was the interlinear approach of Quranic dictionaries formed during the Karakhanid period;

- The dictionary “Muqaddamat al-Adab” by az-Zamakhshari, based on Quranic vocabulary, was widely spread during the Golden Horde period and developed the method of compiling interlinear dictionaries;

- The method of compiling interlinear dictionaries, developed in the Dasht-i Kipchak steppe, was transferred to the Mamluk state, retaining the content and form of the Golden Horde;

- During the Mamluk period in Egypt and Syria, Arabic-Kipchak dictionaries emerged, prompted by the Mamluk sultans from the Dasht-i Kipchak steppes. These dictionaries were written to establish linguistic communication between Sarai (the Golden Horde capital) and the local Arabs;

- In Oriental studies, only one Florentine version of the “ad-Durra al-mudiya” dictionary is known, although in global Turkology there are manuscripts under the same title, dominated by Oghuz and Ottoman dialects;

- Identifying 36 lists of the “al-Shuzur az-zahabiya” dictionary, it should be recognized as the most widely used and frequently copied manuscript in the

Middle Ages. It is important to introduce new data from the “muqaddima-introduction” section of the dictionary into scientific circulation;

- The phonetic structure of the Mamluk Kipchak language was studied based on materials from the “ad-Durra al-mudiya” dictionary. As a result, it was established that the phonetic nature of the dictionary is very close to the modern Kazakh language;

- Lexical and grammatical features of the “ad-Durra al-mudiya” dictionary were studied, and it was concluded that the Turkic layer is abundantly preserved in the dictionary’s lexical fund, and the phonetic, grammatical, and semantic structures have not undergone significant changes;

- Linguistic and cultural connections of the epigraphic monuments found in the territories of the Mamluk State and the Golden Horde are very close, and the Quranic ayats, hadiths, and marsiya used in these monuments were employed within a unified Turkic space.

**Approval and Publication of Research Results.** The results and conclusions of the research have been published in domestic and foreign scientific publications in the form of 9 scientific articles. Among them: 1 article in the Scopus database; 3 articles in journals included in the list approved by the Committee for Quality Assurance in the Field of Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan; 5 articles in collections of materials from international and republican scientific and practical conferences.

**Structure of the Dissertation.** The research consists of an introduction, a main section including three chapters: 1) The Emergence of the First Arabic-Persian-Turkic Dictionaries and Their Spread in the Mamluk State (11<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> centuries); 2) Written Monuments of the Mamluk Period: Dictionaries “ad-Durra al-mudiya” and “al-Shuzur az-zahabiya”; 3) Dictionaries and Epigraphic Monuments of the Mamluk Period as Linguistic and Cultural Sources; The work also includes a conclusion, a list of references, and an appendix of a Kipchak-Kazakh dictionary. The total volume of the dissertation is 199 pages.