

MIDDLE ARMENIAN AT THE CROSSROAD OF ORIENTAL LANGUAGES

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Introduction

Formation of Middle Armenian and the language contact

The restoration of Armenian statehood in the 10th-12th centuries during the reign of Bagratuni and the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia spurred economic growth. Cities became hubs of international trade due to new development and foreign trade. Armenia was an intermediate link between the East and the West, in which the economy and culture developed¹. The formation of Middle Literary Armenian coincided with the abolition of Arab rule, the restoration of Armenian statehood and economic-cultural growth. The second period of the development of the Armenian language begins in the 10th century, the earliest period of Middle Armenian, which was used as a literary language from the 12th until the 16th century². Middle Armenian developed in two sub-periods: Cilician period (12th-14th c.) and the 15th-16th centuries³. The Cilician Armenia declared Middle Armenian as its official language when the Armenian Renaissance in science and art began. In the field of literature, spiritualism and secularism intertwined, forming new ideologies. The revival of literature began in the 10th century with the "Book of Lamentations (Narek)" by the Armenian poet, mystic Saint Gregory of Narek (Grigory Narekac'i, c. 950-1003/1011).

Since Arabic and Persian influenced Middle Armenian the most, Turkish often served as an intermediary for Arabic and Persian loanwords in Middle Armenian. Persian and Arabic words cannot be distinguished, especially since

¹ Սաֆարյան 2016, 144:

² Այտընեան 1866, 142-146:

³ Զահուկյան 1987, 26:

the main part was used equally in Persian, Arabic and Turkish; the three languages were closely related in the post-Islamic period, which was certainly influenced by the religious factor. Many studies have examined Arabic, Persian and Turkish language contacts, especially loanwords, including: Heinrich Hübschmann's *Armenische Grammatik* (1962); Josef (Joseph) Karst's *Wörterbuch des Mittelarmenischen (Handschrift)* (1940-1942) (WMA); Antoine Meillet's *Etudes Armenologiques* (1978); Jost Gippert's *Iranica Armeno-Iberica Studien zu den iranischen Lehnwörtern im Armenischen und Georgischen* (1993); F. Kraelitz-Greifenhorst's "Die arabischen, persischen und türkischen Wörter im Buche gegen die Mohammedaner des Gregor von Tat'ew" (1927); John A.C. Greppin's "A Medieval Arabic-Armenian Botanical Dictionary" (1995); and Franciscus à Mesgnien Meninski's *Linguarum Orientalium Turcicae, Arabicae Persicae institutiones seu grammatica Turcica etc.* (1680).

It is noteworthy that the German translation of Mxit'ar Herac' i's (12th c.) work "Consolatio febrium" was an important source for Middle Armenian lexicographers (Mechithar's des Meisterarztes aus Her (1181) "Troost bei Fiebern". Nach dem Venediger Drucke vom Jahre 1832 zum ersten Male aus dem Mittelarmenischen übersetzt und erläutert. von Dr. med. Ernst Seidel. Leipzig Verlag von Johann Ambrosius Barth 1908⁴).

Folk and cultural or literary loanwords

Middle Armenian assimilated foreign words in two ways: through (1) direct communication with different peoples in Armenia and (2) cultural ties. In Middle Armenian, the number of loanwords from Arabic, Persian, Greek, Turkish, French, Latin, Georgian and Syrian reached considerable proportions, due to the expansion of the Armenian people's social and political relationships after the 10th century⁵.

- Relations with neighboring tribes and peoples: Persians, Arabs and Seljuks to the east; Georgians to the north; and Arabs, Syrians and Kurds to the south.

- During the period of Armenian Cilicia with Italians, French, Germans, Greeks and Arabs.

⁴ By the way, the first printed dictionary in Armenian, "Dictionarium Armeno-Latinum", was compiled by Francisco Rivola, 1621, Milan, and the second edition in 1633 in Paris.

⁵ Աղնարկներ 1972, 197:

- Relations with Greeks, Syrians and Italians living in the country.
- The kings and nobility of Cilicia had trade and political relationships with the neighboring crusader states of Europe, the kingdoms of Cyprus and Antioch, as well as the Mongol authorities.

Rapprochement and strong growth in trade stimulated the assimilation of languages. The economically and culturally developed trading cities Ani, Kars, Yeznka, Adana and Mamestia became important centers of international trade, where Armenian, Persian, Greek, Italian, Spanish and Arab merchants traded side by side. The progress of trade was a fertile ground for close communication between different languages, which increased their chances of interaction.

Foreign words entered Middle Armenian through cultural ties. Armenian intellectuals knew many languages. They translated valuable works into Armenian and analyzed and interpreted them, which led to many scientific words and terms passing from Arabic, Greek, Persian, Italian, and French to Middle Armenian. These types of loanwords were different from direct contact loanwords. "Cultural loans are labels that accompany new social activities and cultural acquisitions. They often refer to community functions and institutions.... Generally speaking, cultural loans may be regarded as items that enrich the lexicon of a language"⁶. Cultural words passed mainly through literature, hence literary borrowings; the words of ordinary life were passed through spoken language, and are therefore referred to as folk borrowings.

Language Contact and Loanwords in Middle Armenian

Multidisciplinary literature of Middle Armenian has important scientific significance. Middle Literary Armenian has a bountiful collection of rich and beautiful literature, independent and translated works, handwritten memoirs, lithographic inscriptions and folk songs. The main features of Middle Armenian were formed in the 10th century; it differed from Old Armenian in its phonetics, grammar and the main manifestations of vocabulary. In parallel with the new linguistic paradigm, Middle Armenian adopted many loanwords⁷.

In addition to old loanwords, the Middle Armenian vocabulary was constantly supplemented with new loanwords. Arabic, Persian, Greek, Turkish,

⁶ Matras 2009, 150.

⁷ Karst 1901, Այտընեան 1866, Ակնարկներ 1972, Ղազարյան 1960, Ղազարյան, Ավետիսյան 2009:

French, Latin, Georgian and Assyrian were the main sources of these new terms. Arabic and Persian loanwords are more intense in the early Middle Armenian period, especially in medical works. There was a higher quantity of Arabic loanwords, found in a number of independent and translated literary and scientific works, plus many loanwords from Persian, Greek, Turkish, Latin, Georgian and Syrian⁸.

Middle Literary Armenian contains hundreds of Iranian words not found in classical Armenian. Most of these loanwords came from modern Persian, because the period of modern Persian (from 10th c.) coincides with that of Middle Armenian (12th-16th c.). Several ancient word forms from the Middle Iranian languages Pahlavi and Zend have been a part of the Armenian vocabulary since ancient times, and were used in Middle Literary Armenian. Persian words are found in the literary language of Armenia itself, as well as in the middle literary version of Cilicia. Persian borrowings are mostly folk loanwords that were passed on orally.

It should be noted that, *"the Iranian word layer of ancient Armenian is qualitatively different from the Iranian word layer of Middle Armenian. Middle Armenian borrowings were not inherited in modern Armenian, while most Iranian borrowings from ancient Armenian were an important part of the main vocabulary of the Armenian language"*⁹. The issue is important from the point of view that Armenian-Iranian and Armenian-Arab cultural, literary, scientific, political and economic relations developed and the linguistic interactions expanded during the Middle Ages.

The relationship between the Armenian and Turkish peoples started in the 11th century: First with the Seljuk Turks, then with the Mongol-Tatars, Uzbek Tatars, Turkmen, and finally with the Ottoman Turks. Armenia was in contact with the Seljuk-Turkish Aq-Qoyunlu tribes, who settled in Azerbaijan. The Armenian state of Cilicia was also in constant contact with the Turkish authorities in Damascus, Iconium and Nicaea.

The first period of Middle Armenian includes hardly any Turkish loanwords. Instead, it took mostly from Tatar or Mongolian. Turkish words became more common in the second stage of the Middle Literary Armenian development, especially in the works of the 16th-18th centuries, due to the new revival

⁸ Ակնարկներ 1972, 31:

⁹ Հովհաննիսյան 1990, 5:

of Turkish elements and the founding of the Ottoman Empire. Most of the Turkish loanwords stem from verbal communication and are thus folk loanwords. H. Ačařyan considers ancient literary Armenian to have borrowed 170 Turkish words, which decreases sharply to only 20 words in modern Armenian. Note that some Arabic and Persian loanwords in Armenian came through Turkish. R. Łazaryan mentions in his work "Vocabulary of Middle Armenian" that only from the 13th century onwards, in some works, Turkish words gradually entered in parallel with Mongol-Tatar loanwords. The linguistic influence of Turkish on the Armenian language increased unprecedentedly during the 14th-15th centuries, as the Ottoman Empire was founded and became one of the preeminent powers in the region¹⁰.

Compared to Ancient Armenian, Greek had a relatively weak influence in the Middle Armenian period, yet many Greek words entered medieval Armenian literature with the continuing influence of Greek science and culture.

The Latin and Italian words are found mostly in the middle literary language of Cilicia, especially in historiographical, theological and juridical works, and refer to religion, military, office, law and life. French words, like Latin and Italian words, are mostly found in the literary middle Armenian of Cilicia. The French loanwords were made as a result of various economic, religious, political, commercial and cultural ties between Cilicia and European countries. Contact between the French and Armenian languages expanded during the Cilicia period. During the 12th-14th centuries, most French borrowings in Middle Armenian were made from the Old French period (9th-14th c.). French words are found mainly in administrative, official and historical literature and were mostly passed through colloquial language.

Most of the French loanwords are specific only to Cilician Armenian, as a typical fact of its administrative relations. A small part of the French loanwords spread throughout Middle Armenian through literature¹¹.

There are a small number of Italian loanwords compared to the borrowings from French. Polish loans came in mainly through the court records of Polish-Armenians in Middle Armenian.

Note that the ancient Armenian-Georgian neighborhood, as a result of political and cultural relations, was the basis for many loanwords in both lan-

¹⁰ Աճաթյան 1951, 258-259:

¹¹ Ակնարկներ 1972, 31:

guages. Old and Middle Armenian borrow words from Georgian that are mainly related to everyday life and are used in the vernacular and various dialects.

Syrian borrowings, which are mainly words of everyday use, are much less present in Middle Armenian than in Old Armenian. The Syrians and Armenians have had socio-economic relations for centuries. Middle Armenian also borrows a few words from Hebrew, which are attested in medieval literary sources. Hebrew words were borrowed both in writing and orally, mainly through Greek. A significant portion of these loans is nouns. *"The high borrowability of nouns is thus primarily a product of their referential functions: nouns cover the most differentiated domain for labeling concepts, objects, and roles"*¹².

A review of sources on the lexical borrowings of Middle Armenian

To date, the vast majority of Armenian studies have examined Old and New Armenian, leaving the issue of borrowed words in Middle Armenian not properly studied. Note, however, that many manuscripts related to the Middle Armenian period have been published, which have not been previously included in the study of borrowings. As many manuscripts from the Middle Armenian period have been published and dictionaries compiled in recent decades, the study of Middle Armenian loans has become more important and accessible. A number of loanwords have been used infrequently and are incomprehensible in these sources. That is why they received different comments. On the other hand, some lexical borrowings are specific to Middle Armenian and are also used in modern Armenian.

The etymologies about lexical borrowing, which were mainly published in the following works, are important for the study of the borrowed vocabulary of Middle Armenian. Armenian Iranologist linguist Hr. Ačařyan compiled a valuable Armenian etymological dictionary, which mainly presents the etymologies of old Armenian vocabulary. Ačařyan divides the bibliography of the Armenian language into five periods in the preface of the dictionary (Golden Age, post-Golden Age or post-Armenian, Lower or Middle Armenian, provincial Armenian, New Armenian) and mentions that the words of the first two periods are only available in this dictionary. He clarifies that the words of Middle Armenian are not in the dictionary at all¹³.

¹² Matras 2009, 168.

¹³ Աճառյան 1971, 7:

Middle Armenian dictionaries

Many of the lexical borrowings in Middle Armenian are found in the following dictionaries dedicated to Middle Armenian¹⁴. In chronological terms, the first dictionary of Middle Armenian was written by Norayr (Néandre de Byzance) (1845-1915) *DICTIONNAIRE DU MOYEN ARMÉNIEN D'après les écrits des XI-XVIIe siècles*, 1885, Geneva (Göteborgs Stadsbibliotek, N 1, 2, 3, 4) (Minasyan, 1983). The dictionary was completed in 1885 and published in 2000 in Geneva¹⁵. In the period 1940-1942, German linguist and Armenologist Y. Karst (1871-1962) wrote "Wörterbuch des Mittelarmerischen"¹⁶, which remains unpublished to this day. (We worked on Karst's "Wörterbuch des Mittelarmerischen" in 2010-2014 at the Yerevan Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, Matenadaran.) R. Łazaryan (1978) and H. Avetisyan (1992) published the "Dictionary of Middle Armenian" in two volumes; in 2009 it was republished in one volume. Finally, in 2014, Norayr Poqosyan published "Norahayt ba'er vaqasxarhabryan aqbyurnerum" (16-18th centuries)", Yerevan.

It should be noted that some of the etymologies given by authors of Middle Armenian dictionaries are antiquated, or even wrong and obsolete. For example, in Norayr Poqosyan's dictionary¹⁷ the etymology of a number of words is wrong¹⁸. Karst's and Łazaryan's dictionaries¹⁹ have many confusions

¹⁴ Մալեք Մոհամմադի 2016:

¹⁵ Neandre 2000, 3 (ԲԱՀ):

¹⁶ Տաշյան 1900, 17-20, Աբգարյան 1995, 183-186, Գագինյան 2008:

¹⁷ Պողոսյան 2014:

¹⁸ Զոռիաթ Etym.=arab. pers. zaher(?) «երևելի, բացորոշ» (Պողոսյան 2014, 72) Զոռիաթ 'generation, offspring' Etym.=arab. pers. ذرية doria. (Malekmohammadi), Խասատար Etym.=arab. pers. xās-dār(?) (Պողոսյան 2014, 94), Խասատար 'litigant, plaintiff, libellant, demandant, complainant'. Etym.=pers. خواستار xāstār «Պահանջող կողմ, պահանջող». (Malekmohammadi), Ղատաղայ, գ. Մունետիկ (?) (Պողոսյան 2014, 129) Ղատաղայ 'Barred, Forbidden, Illegitimate, Illicit' Etym.= turk. kadağan (syn. Yasakli, memnu 'obsolete'), pers. غداقان ġadaqan. (Malekmohammadi), Մուադին, արաբ. պարսկ. mo'adel (?), մկ. ա. Համարժեք, հաւասար, նման: Թէ դաւի ունէնան, մուադին մենք ենք, պարոնտէրին հետ բան չունին: (Պողոսյան 2014, 141) Մուադին Etym.=arab. pers. مدعى mo-da'i 'complainant, plaintiff' Բողոքող, հայցվոր». Comp. դաւի Etym.= arab., pers. دعوى da'vī 'action, case, cause, suit' հայց, դատական գործ (Malekmohammadi), Պատ-ի Պարիթ, պարսկ. bād-i bārid, գ. (թժշկ.) Յուրտ քամի(?): Եւ ցաւ մի այլ կա, որ իրենն պատ-ի պարիթ կասեն (Բունիաթ 1987, 95) (Պողոսյան 2014, 170) Պատ-ի Պարիթ, n., 'carminative'. med. Etym.=pers. بادبر bādbor, composed of pers. bād 'Wind', pars. Bor, bordan 'remove'. Եւ ցաւ մի այլ կա, որ իրենն պատ-ի պարիթ կասեն (Բունիաթ 1987, 95) (Malekmohammadi), Սահարի sahari արաբ. sihr «հմայուել» (?), ա. Կախարդուած, հմայուած: Սահակն

and errors related to the origin of loans²⁰. Therefore, the etymologies must be supplemented by modern etymologies in all of the languages: Persian, Arabic, Turkish, Greek, Latin etc. Based on the mentioned sources, a list of loanwords is given at the end of this article.

It is noteworthy that in 1972 the Ačaryan Language Institute published a comprehensive study on lexical borrowings of Middle Armenian²¹.

The unpublished Karst dictionary is more extensive than other Middle Armenian dictionaries. Etymological-linguistic analyses and references to sources, textual examples and authorial evidence are considered to be the advantages of this dictionary. On the other hand, there is no evidence for many words in the dictionary and the source is not mentioned. In fact, the Karst dictionary is the historical-etymological dictionary of Middle Armenian, where special attention was paid to the etymology of plant names and medicinal plant names used in Middle Armenian. The dictionary describes their origins in Arabic, Persian, Georgian, Greek, Latin and other languages. The Karst dictionary mainly presents the parallels of words in Indo-European and non-Indo-European languages. In the etymological analysis, he wrote in the Persian, Arabic and Georgian alphabets as well as those of other languages. Karst is fluent in ancient languages such as Old Persian, Greek, Latin and Old French and represents the origins of borrowing from those languages. Note that Karst

ասէ՛ ի սահարին սաֆրայէն և պաղամէն լինի (Բունիաթ 1987, 64): (Պողոսյան 2014, 178), Սահարի, Etym.=pers. سردى sardi 'cold' (Temperamentum) Four fundamental personality types: sanguine, choleric, melancholic, and phlegmatic (Two are cold and the other two are hot) (Malekmohammadi). Ըստ հին բժշկության, մարդու օրգանիզմում եղած չորս հեղուկներից երկուսը սառն են, իսկ մյուս երկուսը տաք: Արյան, ավշի, լեղու և սև լեղիի: Մարդիկ ըստ խառնվածքի (Temperamentum) տիպերի, բաժանված են չորս խմբի՝ սանգվինիկներ, ֆլեգմատիկներ, մելանխոլիկներ և խոլերիկներ:

¹⁹ Ղազարյան, Ավետիսյան 2009:

²⁰ Ալթուն, ի, n., Etym.=(pers.?) Turk. altın 'golden Ոսկի': Եւ ինքն էր այլունին ցեղերուն (ԱԱԱԱ, 554) (ՄՀԲ 2009, 19) Ահմար, adj., Etym.=(pers.?) arab. احمر aḥmar 'Red, կարմիր'. Այն որ քիպրիթի ահմարն է, ինքն ճոհար է /ԱԱԱԱ, 230/ (ՄՀԲ 2009, 25) Աղտա aqta, n., Etym.=(turk.?) arab. أَقْدَا aqda 'մածուկ, քուրճ'. Զծոյթն, զմեղոն և զդաղծն ի մէկ եփէ՛, որ աղտա լինի /Ալէք., 31a/ (ՄՀԲ 2009, 33) Աճապ (Արդոյք?) Etym.=arab., pers. عجب 'ajab 'wonder, strange, զարմանալի, տարօրինակ' Դու աճապ քաղցր ու լատի՞՛ Ես խօսելով, որ զշաքար ի քո շրթանցդ կու ծախես /ԿԵ, 167/: Անձինն էր շապկի ոսկոր, աճապ ո՞նց հագաւ նա վալայ /ԼՔ, 63/ (ՄՀԲ 2009, 35):

²¹ Ակնարկներ 1972:

presents a significant part of his etymological analysis based on the information of Ačařyan dictionary.

R. Łazaryan and H. Avetisyan used about 200 medieval works in their dictionary, which includes definitions and explanations of about 23,000 words²². Compared to the extensive Armenian bibliography, this dictionary leaves many words out of course. To date, many manuscripts related to the Middle Armenian period have been published and their vocabulary has not been included in the dictionary²³. The Łazaryan and Avetisyan dictionary has more loanwords than other dictionaries, especially compared to the Neandre (Norayr) De Byzance dictionary.

Reflection of Armenian-Iranian language contacts in Armenian Iranian-Armenian language contact in the 5th century (Old Armenian period)

Armenians have had direct relations with their neighbor Iran since ancient times. In fact, Armenia was under Iranian influence from the period of conquest by the Achaemenid kings until the beginning of its literature (5th c.)²⁴. *"It can be said that the history of Armenian-Iranian contact dates back to the time of the first information about the Iranian people, especially if the Armenians were one of the main peoples of the Urartian state"*²⁵. Even the name Armenia was first recorded in the Bisitun Inscriptions of Darius the Great in Iran (522-486 BC).

Middle Iranian language (Parthian, Pahlavi) was officially used in the Armenian court and among the upper classes. In a description of the different languages of the world, the fifth-century Armenian historian Eřiřē considered Persian to be an elegant language.

In terms of Armenian-Iranian linguistic relations during the Armenian pre-writing period, it should be noted that the court of the Armenian Arsacid Dynasty²⁶ (sometimes called the Arshakuni Dynasty) conducted its correspondence in Iranian (Parthian) and Assyrian when the inventor of the Armenian

²² Վարդանյան 1988:

²³ Մկրտչյան և այլք 1993, 195:

²⁴ Մեյլե 1978, 108:

²⁵ Զահուկյան 1987, 492:

²⁶ Կորյուն 1941, 36:

alphabet, Mesrop Maštoc', was in the court. Daily contact with foreign language papers and edicts inspired his desire to have Armenian writing as well²⁷. Greek or Roman influence seems to have been very weak in ancient times. All the borrowings that classical Armenian made from Greek have a church-religious and scientific content. Most of them do not seem very old. This indicates that the West had an insignificant influence. On the other hand, the Parthian nobility had a great impact, which is confirmed by linguistic evidence. In *Armenische Grammatik*, Hübschman examines most of the Armenian borrowings from Iranian languages before the Sasanian period²⁸. In other words, most of the Iranian borrowings of ancient Armenian come from Parthian dialects²⁹.

The Question of the Transfer of Loanwords

Quantitative classification of Iranian lexical borrowing of the 5th-11th centuries shows that these borrowings mainly date to the 5th century. Most of the words evidenced from that century were used in all periods of the Armenian language, enriching its vocabulary. According to Armenian Iranologist Hovhannisyan, most Iranian loanwords were borrowed earlier and used from the pre-written period³⁰. Borrowings from written sources mainly refer to the Iranian religion, administrative state and royal structures. These are state administrative terms that have passed into Armenian through documentary correspondence.

Hübschmann does not classify Iranian loans by period, as in many cases it is impossible to differentiate³¹. Instead, Hübschmann divides the Armenian-Iranian linguistic commonalities into two layers: native and borrowed. Native words are common words that come from the Indo-European or pre-Armenian, regardless of Iranian. These words seem to have semantic similarities with the Iranian parallels but follow the Indo-European-Armenian phonetic patterns. The Armenian-Iranian commonalities, which the Armenian language borrowed as a result of long-term contact with the Iranian language

²⁷ Մուշեղյան 2006, 213:

²⁸ Մելե 1978, 108:

²⁹ Մելե 1978, 121-122:

³⁰ Հովհաննիսյան 1990, 169:

³¹ Հյուբշման 2003, 14:

es, are considered borrowed. They follow the Iranian phonetic patterns of Indo-European.

Ačařyan presents other ways to differentiate the commonalities of languages³².

a. When a common word is compound and its components do not exist independently in a language, then the word is borrowed.

b. When one of language has parallels in the related languages for the given common word, and the other language does not, the word is borrowed in the second language.

c. When a word has a foreign language origin and follows the phonetic patterns of a third language, then it is borrowed from that intermediate language.

Middle Armenian loanwords

Transition of Middle Armenian loanwords

In the Middle Ages, most loans were folk loanwords. Such loanwords entered the vocabulary of Middle literary Armenian from the vernacular language and different dialects of the time. It is often difficult to distinguish folk loanwords from literary loanwords³³. Many Iranian borrowings entered the Middle literary Armenian vocabulary, the source of which is modern Persian. As it was mentioned, the period of New Persian dates back to the 10th century, therefore Middle Armenian borrowed lexically from New Persian.

A significant portion of Arabic borrowings in Middle Armenian passed through Persian, which phonetic patterns confirm. Such loans were considered Iranian. Persian and Arabic words cannot be distinguished, especially since the main part was used equally in Persian, Arabic and Turkish.

A large part of Persian borrowings of Middle Armenian are still used in both Eastern and Western Armenian dialects.

Armenian-Arabic language contact in the Middle Armenian period

Arabic loanwords in Armenian

Most of the borrowings in Middle Armenian are Arabic words. Ačařyan brings 702 words from Arabic to Armenian in his dictionary. German Armenologist Josef Karst's unpublished "Wörterbücher des Mittelarmenischen" lists

³² Աճառյան 1940, 225-226:

³³ Ղազարյան 2001, 14:

1231 (976+255) Arabic loans. Most Arabic loanwords are literary loanwords. Because Arabic was popular in the Middle Ages in a number of sciences: mathematics, astronomy, chemistry, medicine. Arabic texts on various branches of science were translated into many European as well as Eastern languages between the 10th and 17th centuries. Medical science was a particularly popular advanced field in medieval Armenia. Arabic names, astronomical, chemical terms, plant names, medicinal names appeared in the Arabic translations, spread among the people and accepted by the society. A number of words were used in professional fields, and many times literary loanwords remained unused in books.

There are Arabic folk borrowings in Middle Armenian literature, which were once more widely used than literary borrowings. The issue of superpower plays a big role in the issues of literary and folk loanwords. Before the Arabian conquest of Armenia, the Armenian people were related to the Arabic language in the southern regions, where many Arab tribes settled. However, when the Arabs conquered Armenia after the Armenian uprisings of 774-775, they began to migrate en masse to Armenia and settled in the provinces around Lake Van. Arab tribes were brought to and settled in Armenia in the period 786-809³⁴.

From the 9th century, the Armenian authorities fought against the Arabs in Armenia. During Arab rule, Armenians lived in the same neighborhoods as Arab tribes and borrowed directly from Arabic until the 10th century. Traces of Arabic remain preserved in Armenian dialects to this day. However, Armenians and Arabs have lived together since the 7th century in areas such as Mesopotamia and Syria. Cilician Armenia shared a border with the Arab sultans of Damascus and Aleppo.

It can be concluded that the Arabic loanwords of Middle Armenians in Armenia are not directly from Arabic, but perhaps penetrated through the mediation of neighboring Persian³⁵. Arabic words rarely appeared in Armenian literature after the 9th century, because the only literary language of that time, Old Armenian, retained its old patterns and the authors avoided borrowing new words. In fact, Arabic loanwords date back to the 12th century, when there was no Arab influence in Armenia.

³⁴ Տեր-Ղևոնդյան 1965, 62:

³⁵ Աճադյան 1951, 183, 186:

H. Hübschman and Hr. Ačařyan generally deny the existence of Arabic origin in Armenian before the 9th century³⁶. However, according to ĵahukyan, *"there are a number of words mentioned in the 9th century literature that is close to Arabic. The academicians prove his conviction with the existence of Arab tribes in the border areas of Iran and Byzantium near the southern regions of Armenia before the 7th century"*³⁷.

Conclusions

This article analyzes historical-comparative research on linguistic contact of the Armenian language in the old and middle period of the Armenian language development as well as Arabic, Persian and Turkish loanwords of middle Armenian. The analysis shows that Middle Armenian mostly borrowed Arabic words. Arabic and Persian had the greatest influence during the Middle Armenian period, while Turkish often served as an intermediary for Arabic and Persian loanwords of Middle Armenian.

Persian and Arabic words cannot be distinguished, especially since the main part was used equally in Persian, Arabic, and Turkish. In the post-Islamic period, Arabic, Persian and Turkish were closely related. Certainly, a strong influence of the religious factor. As for the Arabic borrowings of Middle Armenian, recall that a significant portion of those borrowed words passed through Persian. On the other hand, many Persian loanwords from Middle Armenian are still used today in both Eastern and Western Armenian dialects. As the New Persian period dates back to the 10th century, Persian loanwords in Middle Armenian came from this version of Persian.

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The transliteration of the fonts

| Armenian | | | Persian | | | Arabic | |
|----------|----|-------|---------|-----|----|--------|----|
| Ա | ա | a | ء | ء | ء | | |
| Բ | բ | b | ا | ا | a | ا | a |
| Գ | գ | g | آ | آ | ā | آ | ā |
| Դ | դ | d | ب | ببب | b | ب | b |
| Ե | ե | e | پ | پپپ | p | | |
| Զ | զ | z | ت | تتت | t | ت | t |
| Է | է | ē | ث | ثثث | t̄ | ث | t̄ |
| Ը | ը | ə | ج | ججج | j̄ | ج | j̄ |
| Թ | թ | t' | چ | چچچ | č' | | |
| Ժ | ժ | ž | ح | ححح | h̄ | ح | h̄ |
| Ի | ի | i | خ | خخخ | x | خ | x |
| Լ | լ | l | د | د | d | د | d |
| Խ | խ | x | ذ | ذ | ḏ | ذ | ḏ |
| Ծ | ծ | c | ر | ر | r | ر | r |
| Կ | կ | k | ز | ز | z | ز | z |
| Հ | հ | h | ژ | ژ | ž | | |
| Ձ | ձ | j | س | سسس | s | س | s |
| Ղ | ղ | ł | ش | ششش | š | ش | š |
| Ճ | ճ | č | ص | صصص | ṣ | ص | ṣ |
| Մ | մ | m | ض | ضضض | ḍ | ض | ḍ |
| Յ | յ | y | ط | ططط | ṭ | ط | ṭ |
| Ն | ն | n | ظ | ظظظ | ẓ | ظ | ẓ |
| Շ | շ | š | ع | ععع | ʿ | ع | ʿ |
| Ո | ո | o | غ | غغغ | ḡ | غ | ḡ |
| Չ | չ | č' | ف | ففف | f | ف | f |
| Պ | պ | p | ق | ققق | q | ق | q |
| Ջ | ջ | j̄ | ك | ككك | k | ك | k |
| Ռ | ռ | ř | گ | گگگ | g | | |
| Ս | ս | s | ل | للل | l | ل | l |
| Վ | վ | v | م | ممم | m | م | m |
| Տ | տ | t | ن | ننن | n | ن | n |
| Ր | ր | r | و | و | v | و | h |
| Ց | ց | c' | ه | ههه | h | و | w |
| Ու | ու | u | ي | يبي | y | ي | y |
| Ի | լ | v | | | | ة | t̄ |
| Փ | փ | p' | | | | | |
| Ք | ք | K' | | | | | |
| Եվ | և | | | | | | |
| Օ | օ | ō | | | | | |
| Ֆ | ֆ | f | | | | | |

ՄԻՋԻՆ ՀԱՅԵՐԵՆԸ ԱՐԵՎԵԼՅԱՆ ԼԵՃՈՒՆԵՐԻ ԽԱՉՄԵՐՈՒԿՈՒՄ

Մոհամմադ Մալեք Մոհամմադի (Իրան, Սպահան)

Ամփոփում

Լեզվական շփումների առումով միջին հայերենը բացառիկ երևույթ է միջնադարյան մշակույթի կարևորագույն դրսևորումների հարցում: Տարբեր լեզուների հետ երկար տարիների շփումների և համադրության շնորհիվ միջին հայերենը վերցրել է հազարավոր փոխառություններ, որոնք հարստացրել են հայոց լեզվի բառապաշարը նոր հասկացություններով: Այդ գործընթացը սկսվել է X դարից՝ գիտության, գրականության և արվեստի բնագավառներում Հայկական վերածննդի դարաշրջանից, երբ հոգևոր և աշխարհիկ ուղղությունների միահյուսումը նոր զաղափարախոսությունների ձևավորման պատճառ դարձավ: Միջին հայերենը կարելի է համարել արևելյան և արևմտյան աշխարհների լեզուների խաչմերուկ, որին անդրադառնալով՝ ուսումնասիրել ենք միջին հայերենի փոխառությունները ազգակից և ոչ ազգակից լեզուներից, ինչպես նաև այն լեզվական գործոնները, որոնք ազդում են փոխառելիության (borrowability) հանգամանքի վրա (Haspel-math 2008, 43):

Քննել ենք նաև տարբեր լեզուների ազդեցությունը միջին հայերենի վրա, մասնավորապես հայերենի, արաբերենի, պարսկերենի և թուրքերենի լեզվական առնչությունները:

Բանալի բառեր՝ լեզվական շփում, միջին հայերեն, ստուգաբանություն, փոխառություններ, արաբերեն, պարսկերեն, թուրքերեն:

СРЕДНЕАРМЯНСКИЙ НА ПЕРЕКРЕСТКЕ ВОСТОЧНЫХ ЯЗЫКОВ

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Резюме

С точки зрения языковых контактов среднеармянский уникален в плане отражения средневековой культуры, поскольку вообрал в себя множество заимствований, обогативших лексику армянского языка новыми понятиями. Этот процесс восходит к X веку – к эпохе расцвета армянской науки, литературы и искусства, когда единение духовного и светского направлений послужило основой для формирования новой идеологии. Среднеармянский можно считать перекрестком восточного и западного миров, в контексте которого рассматриваются заимствования из родственных и

неродственных языков, вошедшие в лексику среднеармянского языка, равно как и те языковые факторы, которые оказывали влияние на процесс заимствования.

В частности, речь идет о влиянии различных языков на среднеармянский язык, особенно о лингвоотношениях между армянским и арабским, иранским и турецким.

Ключевые слова – языковые контакты, среднеармянский язык, этимология, заимствования, арабский, персидский, турецкий.

MIDDLE ARMENIAN AT THE CROSSROAD OF ORIENTAL LANGUAGES

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Abstract

In terms of language contact, Middle Armenian (12th-16th c.) is an exceptional phenomenon as the most important feature of the Medieval culture. Middle Armenian adopted thousands of lexical borrowings as a result of many years of communication and convergence with different languages, which enriched the vocabulary of the Armenian language with new concepts.

In fact, this process began in the 10th century with the Armenian Renaissance in science, literature and art. The interweaving of religion, spirituality and secularism caused new ideologies to form. Middle Armenian was a linguistic crossroads of the Eastern and Western worlds, which we show by discussing the lexical borrowings from related and unrelated languages, as well as factors that influence "borrowability" based on loanword typology (Haspelmath 2008, 43).

This article discusses the impact of different languages on Middle Armenian, especially linguistic relations between Armenian as well as Arabic, Iranian and Turkish.

Key words – Language contacts, Middle Armenian, etymology, loanwords, Arabic, Persian, Turkish.