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ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RUSSIAN AND CHINESE LANGUAGES

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Abstract

This article is devoted to the question of the genetic relationship of the Chinese and Russian languages. Using the well-known law of logic, by which, if A = B and B = C, then A must be equal to C, the authors show that Russian language, a part of the Slavic group of Indo-European languages, can be considered akin to the Chinese as the Chechen language, along with other North Caucasian languages. This sensational theory related to the Chinese language was proposed by Sergey Starostin. To prove the validity of the question of the kinship of the Russian and Chechen languages, the authors identified more than 70 verbal correspondences in them. However, due to the limited volume of the article, it had to be divided into approximately two equal parts. In this first part of the article, only 50 verbal parallels are considered. The authors plan to study the remaining 20 verbal parallels in their next publication. The total number of verbal parallels identified in the study includes "verba dicendi", verbs of movement, verbs with «burning» semantics, verbs denoting labor actions, and verbs that are not included in a particular thematic group due to their uniqueness. The authors "naturally" do not give any Chinese correspondences to the Russian-Chechen parallels under consideration, suggesting that the supporters of S. Starostin's Sino-Caucasian theory do so, relying entirely on their high competence in the field of Chechen-Chinese language relations.

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1. Introduction

The hypotheses about the kinship of the North Caucasian (NC), Sino-Tibet (ST) and Proto-Yenisei (PY) language families, as Starostin (2007) writes, were expressed before him. However, there was no scientific basis for their proof before, because this requires a "combination of three conditions: 1) the availability of sufficient vocabulary mapping; 2) the presence of a lot of these comparisons, a system of regular phonetic correspondences; 3) the presence among these mappings sufficient number of so-called "basic vocabulary"" (p. 265). These requirements could not be met due to the lack of Proto-Nord-Caucasian, Proto-Yeniseian and Proto-Sino-Tibet reconstruction. Currently, according to Starostin (2007), they are, first of all, in the person of the Etymological Dictionary of the North Caucasian Languages (1994). We do not presume to judge the Proto-Yenisei and Proto-Sino-Tibet reconstruction, which is far from our scientific interests, but we cannot but express our doubts about the North Caucasian reconstruction, on which the Sino-Caucasian theory is based.

In NCED, archetypes are quite often restored based on the convergence of etymologically incompatible roots. For example, for the hand, the PEC root *kwil?i is reconstructed on the basis of Nakh *ko, Avaro-Andian *kwo-, Tsez *kwirV, Lak ka, Lezgin. *kwil, Khin. kul. The Lezgin material does not belong here and should be considered separately together with the Chechen kuol 'bush; family', Akhvakh koli 'sheaf', Lezgin kul 'a bunch of grapes; the bush', Rutul kul, Tabasaran kul 'branch; bush', Agul kul 'branch', Archin kul, Khinalug kul 'hand', which are inseparable from PIE *kuel- / *kuol- 'pack, crowd; genus': Skrt. kula 'blood relatives' (Vagapov, 1994).

In contrast to the UC *kul 'brush, tuft; bush; family' for the actual 'hand' should be reconstructed PEC *k(w)a 'hand', oblique *k(w)ar: Nakh *ka-r, Avaro-Andian *kwa, (Avar kwer, Bezhtin ko, Gunzib koro, Lak ka, kwa 'brush' with the involvement of unaccounted-for guineas by Starostin. kve 'handle', Botlikh, Godob. kora 'udder', Dargva /Kubachi/ kve 'hand, handle', Lezgin kve 'wooden stick, pen'. In terms of not very distant etymology, this also includes PIE *kar 'hand; to do': Skrt. kara, Yidga kər 'hand', Ossetian *kær 'hand '(in kæl-mærzæn 'handkerchief'), Vakhan *kar 'arm' (in kal-bun 'armpit'), Iran. *kar- 'to do' (Makovsky, 2004).

The situation is no better in NCED and with the PNC archetype *fiwVgəbV 'a kind of cereal' (Nakh *?a(gV)b, Avaro-Andian *hagib, W.-Cauc. *bagəna), because for its restoration, instead of the clearly related here Chechen bažan 'genus of rye', a very distant was attracted Nakh ?au 'groats; millet; fish roe', related to PIE. *iau- 'a kind of grain (barley, millet)' (Ossetian jæw 'millet', Shugnan yav 'millet', Avestian yava, Skrt. yavas, Yaghnob yaw, Soghdian yaw 'barley'). Instead of having no etymological basis for the PNC *fiwVgəbV, you should restore the PNC *bagana 'rye': Nakh *bagan 'a kind of rye' (Chechen bažan, dial. božo), Avaro-Andy *bagV- (Avar ogob 'rye' < *bogo, Karatin beč'in 'barley'), W.-Cauc. *bagana (Vagapov, 2011).

2. Problem Statement

The research problem is to consider the hypothesis on North Caucasian, Sino-Tibetan and Proto-Yenissean language families based on comparison of reconstructed roots, the accuracy of which about Proto-Caucasian roots in many cases questionable. This can be seen from the above mentioned several

illustrative examples, the number of which can be increased tenfold. Especially alarming is the fact that the restored roots are not accompanied by specific lexical material, which could be used to check, if not the correctness, then at least the plausibility of the reconstruction. Chechen-Russian (more broadly, East Caucasian-Indo-European) lexical parallels make Starostin's Sino-Caucasian convergences look very pale, so the task that we set ourselves in this article is to demonstrate this by the example of Russian-

3. Research Questions

Chechen verbal correspondences.

The subject of the article is more than 70 of the most striking Russian-Chechen verbal parallels. Verbs are interesting because, as practice shows, they belong to the least permeable part of the vocabulary of the national language.

4. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the article is to demonstrate the factual material (a series of verbs), on the basis of which it is possible to speak with confidence about the genetic proximity of the Russian and Chechen languages, and about the absence of such between the Chechen and Chinese languages.

5. Research Methods

The paper uses comparative-historical and comparative-typological methods of research.

6. Findings

Russian-Chechen parallels

- 1. Slav. *batati 'to beat', L. batuere, PIE. *bat- 'to beat, hit' ~ Nakh *b-at-uo 'to beat, knock down (butter), roll (wool, etc.)'.
- 2. Slav. *baxati 'to talk, chat, brag': Sloven. baxati 'to brag', etc. (EDSL-1) ~ Chechen bāxa 'to speak, repeat'.
- 3. Russian бекать 'bleat, mumble', Ukr. бекати 'cry like a goat, bleat', 'roar', Bulg. beka 'bleat', Czech bekati 'bleat, mumble indistinctly' ~ Chechen б-иека 'hum, ring, voice, chatter'.
- 4. **Вякать**, векать, веча́ть 'scream', Sloven vekati 'to shout', PIE **uek* 'to speak, sound, voice' (Fasmer, 1973) ~ Chechen в-иека 'вякать, to hum, to voice, to sound'.
- 5. Russian dial. дековать 'to make noise, whoop it up', дековаться 'fun', Ukr. дікати, дейкати 'say', Slav. *děkati 'to speak, repeat after someone, mimic, mock', PIE *deik- 'to make sounds, speak' ~ Chechen д-иека 'to hum, to voice, to sound'.
- 6. Ячать, якнуть 'to groan, call for help', Serbo-Croatian *jeчamu*, *jeкa* 'echo', Bulg. *екна* 'sound of wailing', Slav. *jekati 'to sound', PIE **iek* 'to make sounds, speak' ~ Chechen й-иека 'to rattle, hum, ring, sound, voice, chatter'. In the Chechen биека, виека, диека, йиека is one and the same verb with different characteristics of the class (the genus). A fact that speaks for itself.

- 7. **Велеть, велю**, Bulg. *велю* 'speak', Serbian dial. *вèльу* 'say', PIE. *al- // *el- // *uel- 'to conjure, speak' (Makovsky, 2004; Pokorny, 1959) ~ Chechen **āла** 'to tell, say, олу 'say, speak', *аьллар* 'command (announced) will'. Initial *v* in the Slavonic languages is the prosthetic sound.
- 8. Russian argo. вёрзаться 'restlessly move, turn in one place, fidget', верзо́, верзо́ха / верзу́ха 'back side' (SRNG-4) ~ Chechen v-ierza 'turn around, turn (into)', pres. в-оьрза (= вёрза), trans. в-иерзо 'to turn', в- is a class marker. Cf. the same Nakh verb with different cl. markers \tilde{u} -, ∂ in pairs of Russian \tilde{e} рзать \tilde{u} иерза, \tilde{u} оьрза 'turns', ∂ ерзать ∂ иерза.
- 9. Russian **ёрзаться** 'moving restlessly, tossing, turning in one place' (SRNG-9) ~ Chechen *й-иерза* 'turn (into)', pres. *й-оърза*.
- 10. Russian гайкать / / кайкать 'to shout', Old English ceigan 'to call', PIE. *kik -, *kek -, *kuk- 'to shout; to cry, to voice' (Makovsky, 2004). ~ Nakh *qajka: Chechen qajqa 'to call; shout', dial. qajka.
- 11. Russian **гикать**, dial. **кекать** 'make sounds (about birds), shout, quack', *кикать* 'make a cry (about birds)', Old Russian *кикати* 'to shout', PIE. *kik-, *kek- 'to shout; cry, voice' (Makovsky, 2004). ~ Nakh iter. *keka / *qeka, kika / *qika: Chechen *κχийκα* / / *κχийκα* 'to call; shout; quack (about birds)', Tush. qikaⁿ 'to call' (Chrelashvili, 2007).
- 12. Old Russian **гряду, грясти**, Russian *нагрянуть* (Slav. *gredo, *gredti 'go'), L. gradior 'to step', PIE. *ghredh- (EDSL-7) ~ Chechen **ghuorta**, iter. **ghierta** 'to resist, strive, try, force, strain', dSaghierta 'to advance'.
- 13. Sloven. **vegati** 'shake, swing'; OE. *wecgan* 'shake, swing', German. *wiegen* 'swing' ~ Chechen **v-iega** 'shake, tremble', **v-ieguo** 'shake', *v-* is a class marker.
- 14. Russian дыгать 'to bend, to wander', Ukr. ∂ыготати 'to tremble', Pol. dygotać 'shake, shake' (Fasmer, 1973) ~ Chechen ∂-иегуо 'to shake', *d* is a class marker.
- 15. Давить, удавить, LLuž. dajis, dawis, Bulg. davya, AS. doian, Goth. diwan 'to die' ~ Chechen daian 'to kill', pres. doia, Aqqi deva, Tushin dYevan (Chrelashvili, 2007), d- is a class marker.
- 16. Slav. *дагати 'to burn' (cf. OCzech. dahneti, degneti, Litv. degu, degti 'to burn', Germ. *daga 'shine', Avest. daga 'burn') ~ Nakh. d-āga 'to burn', d- is a class marker.
- 17. Двигать 'to move', Bulg. дигьм 'to remove (from the table); transfer', Maked. дигне 'to raise; to steal, to steal', Slav. *dvigati 'move, move; steal, steal' (EDSL-5) ~ Chechen d-iga 'lead, steal', d-igna 'stole', d- is a class marker.
- 18 Slav. *dergati 'pull, pinch', Russian. pull, dial. to dargate, L. trahere, AS. tergan 'pull', Latv. dragāt 'tear, beat' (Makovsky, 2004) ~ Chechen larga 'cut' (Tushin lark'an, iter. lerk'an), derived from the original form *dargan // *dergan 'pull, pinch (wool)', related to t'argha 'wool' < *dargha 'pull out'. For transition d > l cf. diega ~ liega 'to bow', da\a ~ la\a 'twist, to connect', doca ~ Ing. loca 'short'. A similar phonetic process is also observed in Indo-European languages, in particular, in Latin and Afghan.
- 19. Slav. *derzati 'dare': Russian дерзать, дерзить (дерзкий), Bulg. дерзая, Polish. darznaċ ~ Chechen диерза 'turn towards, defy', дуьхьал-диерза 'resist, stand face to face, disobey, rebel; cheek, sauce', д- is a class marker. Here also PIE. *derg- 'to turn': Arm. darjaw 'wandte sich um, kehrte zurück', Alb. derdh 'gießt (aus), vergießt'; PIE. *terk- 'to turn' (Pokorny, 1959) < *derk- // *derg-: Germ. drehen 'twirl, turn', OHG. dwerah, twerh 'oblique'.

- 20. **Ехать**, **еду** ~ Chechen **йаха** (йэха) 'go, drive', **йоьду** (ёду) 'goes, drives', *й* is a class marker.
- 21. Russian курить, окуривать from кур 'a smoke', курьба 'smoking' (Fasmer, 1973) ~ Chechen кІур ба^н 'to smoke', кІур туоха 'fumigate' from кІур 'a smoke'.
- 22. Slav. *lajati, laju, Russian лаять, лай, Bulg. лая 'bark, scold', dial. лайь 'to speak maliciously', лае 'to bark, swear', Greek laiein, OIc. la, Irish. liim 'I scold, accuse', Goth. laian 'illudere' (EDSL-14). ~ Nakh *lavan / *lajan 'speak, scold, scold, revile' > *lajⁿ > *lejⁿ > Chechen лие^н 'speak, scold' (Matsiyev, 1961), Ing. лие, Tushin лаван, iter. леван 'to speak, call' (Kadagidze & Kadagidze, 1984).
 - 23. Лата́ть ~ Chechen лата йан 'patch up' > латуо, iter. лиета йан > лиетуо.
- 24. Russian dial. ла́хать 'run, scour', Blr. ла́хаць 'run, search' ~ Chechen лаха¹ 'search, find', iter. лиеха.
- 25 Russian dial. легать 'to duck to the ground, bend, lie down', Old Russian легати 'lay', Czech lehati 'down, droop to the ground, to fall' ~ Chechen лиега 'to bow down, fall'.
- 26. Лелеять, pres. лелею 'cherish, foster, surround with cares' ~ Chechen лиелая^н, pres. лиелайуо 'to care (for children, the sick), cherish'.
- 27. Лечить, Serbo-Croatian lijèkati 'лечить', Polish. dial. lekaċ 'to cure witchcraft, spell disease', Goth. lēkinōn, Swedish. läka; Greek: lekeo 'to speak' ~ Chechen лиекха iter. 'to sing; play an instrument; deceive, charm the teeth'. Hence the Russian лекарь 'healer' ~ Chechen лиекхар 'peren. incantation, babbling'. Forms with the vowel "a": OE. lacnian 'to treat', OHG. lahhi 'doctor', lachinon 'to treat', Latin loquor 'to speak' ~ Chechen лакха '1. to play an instrument; 2. to talk, chat, deceive' (single action).
- 28. **Листать** ~ Chechen **листа** 'листать, turn over the pages (to), leaf over / through', *mIелиста* 'wind on', *cxьалиста* 'unwind'.
- 29. Slav. *lyzati sę: Bulg. лѝзам се 'to slide, roll on the ice', Serbo-Croatian dial. лѝзати 'slide on ice, skate', lizat 'crawl, move on the ice ' (EDSL-17) ~ Nakh лийза (līza) 'tread carefully, sliding foot', ловза 'tread with your foot, sliding foot'. Hence the Russian ski, lit. 'sliders, скользилки'.
- 30. Любить, Serbo-Croatian *пьубити* 'to love, kiss, desire, lust', Indo-Arisch. libha-, lubha- 'shamelessness, voluptuousness, passion', Skrt. lubhyati 'desires', lobhayati 'arouses desire', Latin lubido, libido '(passionate) desire', OE. lufian 'to love', E. love, PIE. *leubh- 'to want, lust' ~ Chechen lovkha // lovha 'to be aroused, to desire, possess (about passion)', lojkhana // lojhana, lijhana 'excited, voluptuous'.
 - 31. Ляцать 'catch with nets' ~ Chechen лаца 'catch', iter. лиеца 'catch, capture'.
 - 32. Мерцать ~ Chechen марца, iter. миерца 'sear, tar', 'мерцать, flicker'.
- 33. **Могу**, **мочь**, недомогать, Sloven magati 'could', Slavic *magati, *pomagati (EDSL-17) ~ Chechen мага 'could, may', ца мага 'to be unwell' > цамгар 'malaise, illness'.
- 34. **Радеть** (cf. *радивый нерадивый), Serbo-Croatian *радити* 'to work, do', Slav. *ardeti (Shansky, 1985) ~ Chechen арда 'to do, act', pres. орду.

- 35. Слепить 'dazzle with bright light', ослепить, Ukr. липати 'blink', L.-Luž. lipotaś 'flicker, blink, sparkle', Slovak. lipotat' 'тлеть, flicker' (EDSL-15) ~ Chechen iter. лиепа 'to shine, sparkle, glimmer, blink', аорист лийпи, лапа 'to flash, sparkle'.
- 36. Стать, встать, устать (st < tt), Kurdian westan 'stand; be tired', Greek histemi, Avest. histaiti, Old Persian hišta 'stands (up)' ~ Chechen **хІуотта** (huotta) 'stand, stand up; be tired' (Ing. уотта, Tushin отта^н), iter. **хІитта** (hitta).
 - 37. Стегать 'to quilt', стёганый ~ Chechen тиега 'sew, quilt', тиегна 'sewed, quilted'.
- 38. Стелить (with s-mobile), настилать 'lay, spread, cover', Latv. tilât 'spread out, lay' ~ Chechen тилла 'lay, spread, cover' from дилла 'lay'.
 - 39. Стеречь, стерегу 'guard, watch' (with s-mobile) ~ Chechen тиергуо йан 'guard, watch'.
- 40. **Тесать, тешу** (OCzech tasiti 'chop, slash', Slav. *tesati, *tasiti 'chop, slash' (Fasmer, 1973) ~ Chechen д-**ā**ша 'brave', pres. д-**ō**шу, past. д**ё**ши, *д* is a class marker.
- 41. **(С)тихать** (за-тихать 'quiet'), Slav. *tixati ~ Chechen тхьийса (< *thiesa) 'to fall asleep' 'затихать, засыпать, впадать в дремоту', Tushin *mēxьа 'sleep'.
- 42. -тухать (затухать, потухать 'to fade out'), тухнуть, Sloven. potuhniti, tuhnem 'extinguish, subside', Slav. *tušiti / *tuxnoti 'extinguish (fire), soothe, make quiet' ~ Chechen тхьовса 'doze off, fall asleep', Tushin тохьа 'sleep' (Kadagidze & Ivanov, 1984). Cf. Lith. tausiti 'calm down', Latv. dusêt 'doze off, rest', Old Russian tusna 'calm', tusnan 'calm down', OIc. dusa 'keep calm', MLG. dusen 'doze', Avest. tušna-, tušni Skrt. tūṣnim 'quiet' (Fasmer, 1973), túṣyati 'he is content (calm)'; tōṣayati 'calms down', PIE *taus- // *tous- 'calm down' (Pokorny, 1959; Ivanov, 2008). Ultimately, PIE. *teus- // *tous- 'subside, calm down', in our opinion, is a deaf version of PIE *deus- // *dous- 'blow, breathe, sigh, rest' (Slav. *duxati / *dyxati), corresponding to Proto-Nakh *d-eusan // *d-ousan // *d-usan 'blow, inflate' with class marker d-.
- 43. **Трясу, трясти(сь), (со)трясать(ся)**, Slav. *tresti, Skrt. trasati 'trembles', Iran. *tarsa 'to tremble', PIE. *ters- // *tres- 'shake, tremble, shiver, afraid' ~ Chechen **тарса** 'begin to neigh', iter. **тиерса** 'to neigh'. Cf. Russian *ржать* from *држать 'to tremble'.
- 44. **Тужить**, Ukr. тужити 'to cry with lamentations', Bulg. *тыжа́*, Serbo-Croatian. *тужити* 'to mourn', Sloven. tôžiti 'to complain', Czech. toužiti 'to complain, lament; yearn' ~ Chechen **tovža** 'to lean, lie down', **tijža** 'to cry with lamentations, to mourn'.
 - 45. **Тузить** ~ Chechen туса 'give a thrashing; sharpen the scythe with a whipping'.
- 46. **Хвастать(ся)** 'boast (of)' ~ Chechen **хаста-ван** > хастуо 'praise', *umep.* **хиеста-ван** > **хиестуо** 'praise, exalt'.
- 47. **Хотеть** 'want'~ **хиета** '1. to feel; 2. to want', dial. **хата**, *ма-хетта ца хилча ма-торра* (proverb) if it does not work out as you want, then as much as possible.
- 48. **Худеть**, **исхудать**, **худой**, Polab. *cheude* (Fasmer, 1973) ~ Chechen **худа** 'suck, absorb, retract', Ing. *хувда*, Tushin *xonImIa*, iter. *xenImIa* (Kadagidze & Kadagidze, 1984); Chechen **худа-вала** 'to lose weight, grow thin', **худа-велла** 'lost weight, grown thin', Nakh ***хеуда** / ***хоуда** / ***худа** 'suck, absorb' (Vagapov, 2011). For development of the meaning cf. *крыша прохудилась* 'the roof is leaking', *canoги прохудились* 'the boots are leaking', i. e. 'they began to pass water'; *худощавый*, *худосочный* 'one, who does not hold the life-giving juice'.

49. Хале́ть 'die, wither', ха́лить, уха́лить 'die' (Fasmer, 1973) ~ Chechen ха̄ла 'numb; wither', *yIe хала* 'lose (glory)', *йиш хала* 'lose your voice, get hoarse'. The metathesis form of this word is Chechen лаха² 'to become numb, to wither': куьйгаш лаха 'to wither about the hands'.

50. Church-Slav. **цёстити** 'to clean', Sloven. céstiti 'castrate', listje céstiti 'to break off leaves', Old Slav. *цёстити се* 'to be cleaned', *цёста* 'road' (EDSL-3) ~ Chechen **цаста** 'cut, plan', form of the same type-ciesta, hence *цастар* 'slice, piece'), iter. **циеста**.

7. Conclusion

According to the studied research material, the following conclusions can be drawn. More than 70 similar Russian-Chechen verbal parallels were identified. Of these, only 50 verbs were included in this first part of the article due to the limited scope. Thematically, the verbs of sound were among them (адать, бахать, вякать / векать, бекать, декать, велеть, днал. гыргать 'греметь', хвастать), verbs of labor activity (дбать, дергать, драть, дерибать, латать, лечить, лечить «сдирать кору», ляцать, радеть, стегать, стеречь, стелить, тесать, цестить), verbs of movement (гряду / грясти, двигать, ёрзать / вёрзаться, ехать, *лызать 'slide, roll on ice') as well as the verbs of various semantics. Many of the Chechen verbs changed according to grammatical classes, numbers, and the root vowel (in other words, in an inflectional way) form specific pairs of verbal action, all of which excluded their borrowing from Russian or any other language. The etymologies of the Russian verbs брать, дерзать / дерзить, худеть, etc. were clarified. Thus, the above mentioned facts created difficulties for the hypothesis of the entry of the Nakh languages into the Sino-Caucasian macrofamily, bypassing the Indo-European ones. If the proponents of the Sino-Caucasian theory, despite the irrefutable facts, insist on the kinship of the Chechen and Chinese languages, then the Sino-Caucasian macrofamily should also include the Slavic (IE) languages.

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