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IRK BİTİG’DE ZARF VE ZARF YAPILARI

ADVERBS AND ADVERBIAL CONSTRUCTIONS IN THE IRK BITIG

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Öz

Irk Bitig, bir bütün olarak eski Türk runik yazısı ile kitap şeklinde yazılıp bize ulaşan tek eserdir. Dunhuang yakınlarındaki Bin Buda Mağaraları’nda bulunun bu eser, çeşitli *ırklardan* (fallardan) oluşur. Irk Bitig’te yer alan bu falların sayısı 65’tir ve eserde bir de hatime (kolofon) bulunmaktadır. Her falın sonunda çeşitli yorumlar mevcuttur. Eser “ny” Mani diyalekti olan eski Uygur diyalekti ile yazılmıştır. Eserin yazılış tarihi tam olarak bilinmemektedir. Bu makalenin amacı, 65 fal ve bir hatimededen oluşan Irk Bitig’te zarf ve zarf yapılarını ele alıp incelemektir. Bu bakımdan, makale üç ana bölümden oluşmaktadır. Birinci bölümde, Irk Bitig’teki zarf ve zarf yapılarının işlevleri ele alınmış. İkinci ve üçüncü bölümde ise zarf yapıları ve zarflar, yapı ve anlam bakımından incelenmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Irk Bitig, zarflar, yapı, anlam, işlev.

Abstract

In a single piece, the Irk Bitig is the only text that has written in the form of a book in Old Turkic runic alphabet and survives. This book, which was found in the Halls of the Thousand Buddhas near Tun-huang, consists of various *ırks* (omens). This omen book contains short interpretations of 65 *ırks* and a colophon. It was written Manichaean “ny” dialect. Namely, the book has Old Uighur dialect characteristics. It is not known when the Irk Bitig exactly has written.

The aim of this article is to examine adverbs and adverbial constructions in the Irk Bitig. Therefore, the article consists of three main parts. In the first part, I will dwell on the function of adverbs and adverbials. In the second and third part, I will investigate their structure and meaning.

Keywords: The Irk Bitig, the adverbs, the structure, the meaning, the function.

Introduction

The Irk Bitig is the only text written in the form of a book in Old Turkic runic alphabet and still survives. This work, which was found in the Halls of the Thousand Buddhas near Tun-huang, consists of various *ırks* (omens). This omen book contains short interpretations of 65 *ırks* and a colophon. These *ırks* are interpreted as good (*edgü ol*) or bad (*yabız ol / yablak ol*).

The Irk Bitig is the most important book that has written in runic alphabet on paper because of the fact that this omen book is the most complete book. For this reason, it is very valuable to make new studies on the book. Since Vilhelm Thomsen, a number of studies have been published by some researchers on the Irk Bitig (Tekin 1993: 2). In addition, a doctoral dissertation was conducted by Fikret Yıldırım in 2013 (Yıldırım 2013).

Talat Tekin gives information about the high and wide of the book in his own research:

The Irk Bitig (British Museum, Or. 8212) is a little book consisting of fifty-eight leaves or twenty-nine small sheets, about 13.6 cm. high and about 8 cm. wide. The sheets are glued together at the end one by one. (Tekin 1993: 1)

As Tekin mentioned below, the Irk Bitig begins on the reverse page of the fifth leaf and ends on the fifty-seventh leaf. It comprises 104 small pages. The title of the book is placed as *ırk bitig* on page 101 (Irk Bitig 66).

*The Turkic text begins on the reverse page of the fifth leaf and ends on the fifty-seventh leaf. With the exception of these two leaves, all the others are written on both sides. Thus, the Turkic text comprises 104 small pages. The last two pages contain a colophon written in red ink. It seems that the first nine and the last three pages of the book were originally blank; but later they were filled with writing in Chinese. Moreover, the last three pages of the Turkic text, together with the margin of the pages 1 and 101 were covered with Chinese writing. The title of the book appears as *ırk bitig* on page 101.* (Tekin 1993: 1)

Although there are various publications on the Irk Bitig, there is no study on the adverbs and adverbial constructions. Thus, I will try to examine adverbs and adverbial constructions in this study. I will state them in three main headings: function, structure and meaning. These are as follows:¹

1. Function: Adverbs in the Irk Bitig functionally qualify verbs, verbals, adjectives and sentences. The main function of these adverbs are to modify verbs. Furthermore, these may explain verbals, adjectives and sentences.

a. Adverbs modifying verbs: In general, adverbs like *terkleyü*, *katıgtı*, *kop* qualify verbs.

er terkleyü kelir "A man comes hurriedly." (Irk Bitig 7) (Tekin 1993: 11)

katıgtı bā edgüti bā tir "Fasten it firmly and well!, it says." (Irk Bitig 14) (Tekin 1993: 13)

karı üpgük yıl yarumazkan etdi "An old hoopoe sang before (the new) year dawned". (Irk Bitig 21) (Tekin 1993: 15)

oğlu yutuzı kop ögirer tir "His sons and womenfolk all rejoice, it says." (Irk Bitig 29) (Tekin 1993: 17)

¹ The omens have been based on Talat Tekin's *Irk Bitig The Book of Omens* and his translations.



b. Adverbs modifying verbals: These adverbs qualify verbals in terms of the manner, degree, time and place.

altun kurugsakımın *kılıçın* kesipen özüm[in] yul [in]intin başımın yul ebintin tir “Cutting my golden stomach with a sword, pluck myself out of (its) hole (and) pluck my head out of its house, it says.” (Irk Bitig 8) (Tekin 1993: 11)

kün ortu yütürüp tün ortu kanta negüde bulgay ol tir “After having lost it at midday, where and how would it find it at midnight? it says.” (Irk Bitig 24) (Tekin 1993: 15)

āk at karşısın *üç bolugta* talulapan agınka ötügke ıdmiş tir “A white horse, having chosen its adversary in three states of existence, sent it to a dumb for praying, it says.” (Irk Bitig 19) (Tekin 1993: 13)

c. Adverbs modifying adjectives: These adverbs just qualify adjectives in terms of the degree.

antag küçlüg men “I am so powerful.” (Irk Bitig 3) (Tekin 1993: 9)

añıg edgü ol “(The omen) is extremely good.” (Irk Bitig 5) (Tekin 1993: 9)

antag alp ermiş “He was so tough and powerful.” (Irk Bitig 40) (Tekin 1993: 19)

d. Adverbs modifying sentences: As a whole, adverbs qualify sentences.

kin yana edgü bolur “Later it becomes good again.” (Irk Bitig 57) (Tekin 1993: 25)

oglı yutuızı kop ögirer tir “His sons and womenfolk all rejoice, it says.” (Irk Bitig 29) (Tekin 1993: 17)

yana sakınmış kelmiş “(Later) he thought it over (and) came back.” (Irk Bitig 58) (Tekin 1993: 25)

2. Structure: The structures of adverbs and adverbials consist of lexemes, converbs, inflected morpho-syntactic units, word groups, postpositional phrases and adverbial subordinate clause. In the Irk Bitig, converbs are the most commonly used forms in terms of structure. Then, it is followed by the other forms.

a. Lexeme: Generally, adverbs are composed of lexical items.

yana teñri kutınta *üçünç yılda kop esen tükel* körüşmiş “And again, by the grace of Heaven, they all met in the third year, safe and sound.” (Irk Bitig 15) (Tekin 1993: 13)

bars kiyik *eñleyü menleyü* barmış “A tiger went looking for wild game and prey.” (Irk Bitig 49) (Tekin 1993: 21)

b. Converbs: Converbs are the basic forms of verbals. These converbs explain verbs in terms of the manner, degree, time and place.

-(X)pAn: *kan olurupan* ordu yapmış “After having ascended the throne, a khan built a royal camp.” (Irk Bitig 28) (Tekin 1993: 17)

-(X)p: *kugu kuş kanatına urup* anın kalıyu barıpan ögiñe kañıña tegürmiş “The swan placed (him) on its wings (and) flew up with him. (Thus) it brought him to his mother and father.” (Irk Bitig 35) (Tekin 1993: 19)

-mezken: The structure of *mezken* is an unexpected form in this period because it should be used with the verb *ermek* “to be” [-mez + (er)ken]. That is, the word should be written as follows: “*tükemez erken*”.



tanım tüsi takı *tükemezken* taluyda yatıpan tapladukumin tutar men sebdükümin yiyür men “I am a predatory eagle with golden wings. Although the feathers of my body are not yet fully grown, lying down by the sea, I catch what I please (and) I eat what I like.” (Irk Bitig 3) (Tekin 1993: 9)

-*matın*: kamşayu *umatın* turur tir “They stand still without being able to move, it says.” (Irk Bitig 25) (Tekin 1993: 15)

-A (a, e): kuş og(l)ı *uçā* āztı kiyik oğlu yügürü āztı kişi oğlu yorıyu āztı “The young birds lost their way of flying, the young deer lost their way of running (and) the children lost their way of walking.” (Irk Bitig 15) (Tekin 1993: 13)

-(y) i: edgü söz sab *elti* kelir tir “He comes bringing good tidings, it says.” (Irk Bitig 7) (Tekin 1993: 11)

-(y) U (u, ü): yirin öpen *yügürü* barmış “(Then), thinking of its place, it went running (towards it).” (Irk Bitig 16) (Tekin 1993: 13)

-*gınça*: tokuz kat üçürgün *topulgınça* teritzün tir “They sweat until your nine shabracks be pierced, it says.” (Irk Bitig 50)

-*galı*: oyma er oğlanın kisisin tutug urupan oş iç *oygalı* barmış oğlın kisisin utuzmaduk yana tokuz on boş koñ utmış “A man whose job is to hollow out slaughtered animals, staking his sons and womenfolk, went to hollow out internal organs and intestines (of slaughtered animals). So far from losing his sons and womenfolk he yet won ninety loose sheep.” (Irk Bitig 29) (Tekin 1993: 17)

c. As an inflected morpho-syntactic unit: Inflected morpho-syntactic units involving the instrumental, equative, locative, adverbial suffixes qualify verbs.

1. with the instrumental -(X)n: *eligin* tutmış “(The khan) caught it with (his) hand.” (Irk Bitig 63) (Tekin 1993: 27)

2. with the equative -ça: *ança* bilinler edgü ol “Know thus: (The omen) is good.” (Irk Bitig 58) (Tekin 1993: 25)

3. with the locative -DA: kün ortu yütürüp tün ortu kanta *negüde* bulgay ol tir “After having lost it at midday, where and how would it find it at midnight?, it says.” (Irk Bitig 24) (Tekin 1993: 15)

4. with the adverbial -tl: *katıgtı* ba *edgüti* ba tir “Fasten it firmly and well!, it says.” (Irk Bitig 14) (Tekin 1993: 13)

d. Word groups: In the Irk Bitig, these are divided into two parts.

1. Synonymous word groups: *esen tükel* (safe and sound)

yana teñri kutınta üçünç yılda kop *esen tükel* körüşmiş “And again, by the grace of Heaven, they all met in the third year, safe and sound.” (Irk Bitig 15) (Tekin 1993: 13)

arıp oñup (exhausted and wilting): özlük at oñ yirde *arıp oñup* turu kalmış “A favorite horse came to a standstill in a desert exhausted and wilting.” (Irk Bitig 17) (Tekin 1993: 13)

ögire sebinü (rejoicing and happily): *ögire sebinü* kelir “He comes (back) rejoicing and happily.” (Irk Bitig 30) (Tekin 1993: 17)



köçürü konturu (to nomadize and settle down): *köçürü konturu* kelir “He comes (back) permitting (his soldiers) to nomadize and settle down (wherever they please).” (Irk Bitig 34) (Tekin 1993: 17)

otsuz subsuz (without water and grass): *otsuz subsuz* kaltı uyın “How shall I be able (to manage) without water and grass?” (Irk Bitig 45) (Tekin 1993: 21)

eñleyü menleyü (wild game and prey): bars kiyik *eñleyü menleyü* barmış “A tiger went looking for wild game and prey.” (Irk Bitig 49) (Tekin 1993: 21)

2. Antonymous word group: *yarın kiçe* (in the morning and evening)

yarın kiçe altun örğün üze olurupan menleyür men “In the morning and evening, I enjoy sitting on the golden throne.” (Irk Bitig 1) (Tekin 1993: 9)

yarın kiçe eşür men “(Early) in the morning and (late) in the evening I amble along.” (Irk Bitig 2) (Tekin 1993: 9)

e. Postpositional phrases: Postpositional phrases qualify verbs in terms of the manner, degree, time and place.

tegi: yiliñe kudursuğıña tegi yagrıpan kamşayu umatın turur tir “(The horse), having galled up to its mane (and) its tail, stands still without being able to move, it says.” (Irk Bitig 16) (Tekin 1993: 13)

üçün: bars yıl ekinti ay biş yigirmike taygüntan manıstantakı kiçig di[n]tar burua guru eşid[ip] *içimiz isig sangun itaçuk üçün* bitidim “In the Year of Tiger, on the fifteenth (day of) the second month, I, the young pious (disciple) staying at the Tay-gün-tan monastery, after having listened to the burua guru (the spiritual master of presage), wrote (this book) for our affectionate big brother General İtaçuk.” (Irk Bitig 67) (Tekin 1993: 27)

āra: [bulıt] āra kün tugmış *busanç āra* menji kelmiş tir “(Suddenly) sun rose among (the clouds) and joy came in the midst of depression, it says.” (Irk Bitig 52) (Tekin 1993: 23)

üze: boz bulıt yorıdı *bodun üze* yagdı “A gray cloud passed; it rained over people.” (Irk Bitig 53) (Tekin 1993: 23)

f. Adverbial subordinate clause: The suffix *-ser* modifies the main verb in the sentence concerning time.

ebiñerü kelser özi ātanmış ögrünçülüğ atı yitiglig kelir tir “When he comes home, he comes as a famous (and) joyful (warrior), (and) his horse as a capable (mount), it says.” (Irk Bitig 55) (Tekin 1993: 23)

3. Meaning: In terms of meaning, adverbs consist of interrogative adverbs, adverbs of place/direction, adverbs of time, adverbs of manner, and adverbs of degree. These are as follows:

a. Interrogative adverbs: As a whole, interrogative adverbs are used to get information in the sentence.

kün ortu yütürüp tün ortu kanta neğüde bulgay ol tir “After having lost it at midday, where and how would it find it at midnight? it says.” (Irk Bitig 24) (Tekin 1993: 15)

neçük yorıyın tir “How shall I walk along? it says.” (Irk Bitig 45) (Tekin 1993: 21)

köneki nelük tonğay “Why should her pail freeze?” (Irk Bitig 57) (Tekin 1993: 25)



otsuz subsuz *kaltı* uyn “How shall I be able (to manage) without water and grass?” (Irk Bitig 45) (Tekin 1993: 21)

b. Adverbs of place and direction: These adverbs explain verbs in terms of the place and direction.

-gArU: kul sabı *beğnerü* ötünür kuzgun sabı *tenrigerü* yalbarur “The slave's words are a request to his master; the raven's words are a prayer to heaven.” (Irk Bitig 54) (Tekin 1993: 24)

üze: üze tuman turdı “The fog was hanging above.” (Irk Bitig 15) (Tekin 1993: 13)

asra: asra toz turdı “The dust was rising below.” (Irk Bitig 15) (Tekin 1993: 13)

c. Adverbs of time: Adverbs like *kün ortu*, *üçünç yılda*, *bars yıl* qualify verbs in terms of the time.

kün ortu yütürüp *tün ortu* kanta negüde bulgay ol tir “After having lost it at midday, where and how would it find it at midnight? it says.” (Irk Bitig 24) (Tekin 1993: 15)

yana tenri kutnta *üçünç yılda* kop esen tükel körüşmiş “And again, by the grace of Heaven, they all met in the third year, safe and sound.” (Irk Bitig 15) (Tekin 1993: 13)

bars yıl ekinti ay biş yigirmike taygüntan manıstantakı kiçig di[n]tar burua guru eşid[ip] içimiz isig sangun itaçuk için bitidim “In the Year of Tiger, on the fifteenth (day of) the second month, I, the young pious (disciple) staying at the Tay-gün-tan monastery, after having listened to the burua guru (the spiritual master of presage), wrote (this book) for our affectionate big brother General İtaçuk.” (Irk Bitig 65) (Tekin 1993: 27)

d. Adverbs of manner: These adverbs are employed to explain verbs by qualifying them.

tığıg tertrü kişemiş “They fettered a roan horse crosswise.” (Irk Bitig 39) (Tekin 1993: 19)

ança bilinler “Know thus.” (Irk Bitig 55) (Tekin 1993: 23)

otsuz subsuz *kaltı* uyn “How shall I be able (to manage) without water and grass?” (Irk Bitig 45) (Tekin 1993: 21)

e. Adverbs of degree: Adverbs of degree are used to modify verbals, nouns and adjectives.

āk at karşısın *üç boluğta* talulapan ağınka ötüğke ıdmiş tir “A white horse, having chosen its adversary in three states of existence, sent it to a dumb for praying, it says.” (Irk Bitig 19) (Tekin 1993: 13)

bu ırk başnta *āz* emgeki bar “At the beginning of this omen there is a little pain” (Irk Bitig 57) (Tekin 1993: 25)

üküş atlıg ögrünçün yok “You don't have the pleasure of a man bearing many titles.” (Irk Bitig 36) (Tekin 1993: 19)

Conclusion

There are many grammar books² involving adverbs in Old Turkic however these are not present exactly their adverbial constructions in terms of the function, structure and meaning. Thus, I have examined both adverbs and adverbial constructions in this article.

² See (Gabain 2003), (Erdal 2004), (Eraslan 2012), (Tekin 2016).



As a result, adverbs and adverbials in the Irk Bitig functionally qualify verbs, verbals, adjectives and sentences. Structurally, these consist of lexemes, converbs, inflected morpho-syntactic units, word groups, postpositional phrases and adverbial subordinate clause. In terms of meaning, these are composed of interrogative adverbs, adverbs of place/direction, adverbs of time, adverbs of manner and adverbs of degree. As is seen, adverbs and adverbial constructions are frequently used in the Irk Bitig.

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