Evolution of Kazakh and Turkish Languages in the Context of the Image of Korkyt Ata

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Abstract

The study of modern Kazakh and Turkish languages is crucial in the context of internationalisation and globalisation, as they represent ancient Turkic cultures and national identity elements. The purpose of the study is to analyse the features of the development of the Kazakh and Turkish languages, considering the image of Korkyt Ata in the Kazakh language system. Axiomatic, comparative, and generalisation methods were used. The study reveals that the evolution of modern Turkish and Kazakh languages is a complex process that reflects the interplay between language, culture, and society. Language changes may indicate cultural shifts, including lifestyle, social interactions, and religious beliefs rooted in ancient times. The image of Korkyt Ata, present in the Kazakh language, is not just a linguistic artefact but also a deeply rooted cultural symbol. The linguistic elements used to portray him as an ancestor, wise mentor, and heroic defender form a "code" that can be understood through cultural values. Korkyt Ata's mention in the language promotes linguistic identity, cultural heritage, and belonging to an ancient culture, especially in the context of language preservation. The practical significance of this study lies in its potential to enhance measures for preserving and strengthening the cultural heritage of Turkic-speaking communities.

Keywords

Cultural heritage, linguistic identity, semantic changes, lexical units, codification of speech

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Introduction

Modern Turkic languages, Kazakh and Turkish in particular, represent a rich field for philological research, covering both linguistic aspects and cultural features of these linguistic communities (Kamola 13). Located in different geographical regions and interacting with diverse cultural traditions, Kazakh and Turkish languages are an inexhaustible source of the evolution of their vocabulary, grammar, and the influence of external factors on the speech system. In turn, the ancient Turkic languages, as a key part of the heritage of the Turkic peoples, form an extensive historical layer in which unique features and deep roots of cultural development are established. In a modern society dominated by standardised forms of communication, Turkic language systems are at risk of losing their unique linguistic features. There is a threat of a change in language status, especially among young people, which may affect the use of traditional speech forms and constructions.

Language is not only a means of communication, but also a reflection of the culture, identity, and history of the people (Johanson). In this context, the images contained in linguistic units play a key role in the development of collective memory and cultural identity (Foucault 262). Of particular interest are the Turkic images embedded in vocabulary and phraseology, which not only convey the meanings of words, but also carry deep cultural concepts. The images present in these languages become key elements of the language system and thereby form a special linguistic perception and mentality of their native speakers (Achille and Fausta 2573; Wang et al. 91). Turkic semantic categories reflect deep cultural values and traditions passed down from generation to generation. They are an integral part of the mythology, history, and daily life of the Turkic people (Zaki et al. 6). The study of these images allows tracing the evolution of cultural values in a linguistic context.

The cultural and linguistic tradition of Kazakhstan, saturated with historical and national features, finds its expression in various forms, one of which is the image of Korkyt Ata (Montrul 408). Embedded in the foundation of the Kazakh language, this image carries a wealth of cultural and linguistic nuances, reflecting the history of the Turkic people (Bromham et al. 77). Korkyt Ata's legend, deeply rooted in Turkic culture, represents wisdom, spiritual values, and identity. It is a historical symbol in Kazakh culture, influencing language and linguistic expressions. Terms and phrases associated with Korkyt Ata continue to enrich the Kazakh lexicon, transmitting cultural values and historical consciousness (Alimbekov and Kazakbaev 166). The preservation and relevance of Korkyt Ata in modern Kazakh language and culture highlight the enduring connection between linguistic forms and cultural identity, highlighting how

ancient legends shape contemporary linguistic and cultural landscapes. The study by Zharkynbek Abikenov (52) titled "Korkyt Ata and shamanic values" highlights how the linguistic expressions associated with Korkyt Ata in the Kazakh language encapsulate the worldview of the Kazakh people, particularly in terms of their relationship with nature, the spiritual realm, and the cyclical nature of life and death. These linguistic and semantic features serve as a conduit for the transmission of shamanic values and traditional beliefs, reinforcing the cultural continuity and spiritual identity of the Kazakh people.

However, due to time and cultural changes, this image of Korkyt Ata loses its relevance and partially loses its corresponding meaning. There is a problem of its correct interpretation and preservation in the context of the Kazakh language (Lavrysh et al. 115). The ancient Turkic languages, and their expressions in the creative context of Korkyt Ata, constitute complex linguistic constructions that may be difficult to translate in modern linguistic society. The problem of studying modern Turkic languages, such as Kazakh and Turkish, including the aspect of Korkyt Ata, is to establish the linguistic features of the formation of the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Turks, and to identify the modern role of this image in the context of speech transformations.

There are many papers devoted to the investigation of the features of Kazakh and Turkish languages, and Turkic language images in the context of cultural and historical heritage. Thus, Miezatai Zholdasbekov (13187) studied specific features of Turkic written monuments. The researchers interpreted the linguistic semantic categories of medieval Turkic written monuments. In this context, the main linguistic components bearing the socio-cultural aspects of the ancient Turkic peoples were reflected. Nevertheless, specific linguistic and cultural semantic images were not described within the framework of the topic. Zhakyp B. Mamayev et al. (114) analysed literary connections within the framework of cultural linguistic images. The researchers revealed the historical specifics of literary translation within the framework of Kazakh-Uzbek relations. The interrelated elements of society, culture and language are considered in detail in the work. However, the researchers did not focus on the linguistic mechanisms of the transmission of cultural and national identity.

Aslan E. Alimbayev et al. (1) considered the poetic specifics of the Turkic peoples. The main ideas of the linguistic and cultural systems presented in the epic works were emphasised by researchers. The paper is permeated with various concepts of the first Turkic poems. Meanwhile, within the framework of the subject matter, linguistic connections between images, culture, and history were not established. Aigerim Yerimbetova et al. (55) conducted a comprehensive analysis of the links between grammar, vocabulary, and semantics. The

researchers have identified the main language categories for Turkish and Kazakh. Based on machine learning algorithms and dictionaries, fundamental processes of interaction of linguistic and cultural aspects have been identified. However, the researchers have not shown the linguistic images and semantic categories of the Turkic heritage. Gatiba Guliyeva (34) described the meaning of language texts and their role in Turkology. The researcher determined the importance of Old Turkic official legal documents in teaching the Turkic language. The paper describes the factors of linguistic perception of the ancient Turkic peoples. In the process of implementing thematic issues, linguistic aspects that create the foundation for considering Turkology as a science have not been established.

The purpose of the study is to determine the characteristic properties of the Turkish and Kazakh language systems, and to identify the features of the implementation of the Korkyt Ata context in the modern Kazakh language. In this regard, this research aims to analyse the main semantic, linguistic, and cultural elements of the development of the modern Turkish and Kazakh languages, considering their ancient Turkic roots. It will also establish the linguistic specifics of the use of Korkyt Ata in the modern Kazakh language.

Materials and methods

The material and methodological basis of the study consisted of the following dimensions: axiomatic, comparative, and generalisation. The application of the axiomatic method at the stage of theoretical consideration of this topic allowed identifying the basic principles and truths based on which the linguistic and cultural components of the modern language systems of Kazakh and Turkish are based. It helped define the axiom that language is a key element of cultural heritage, and its study is essential for understanding the history and identity of the Turkic peoples. Its elements allowed formulating linguistic concepts and approaches describing the structure and functions of modern Turkic languages. This method established the connection between linguistic features and cultural aspects, which carry deep historical connotations. It helped to systematise and organise the knowledge thus acquired, highlighting the main provisions that serve as the foundation for speech interpretations. The axiomatic method allowed creating a basis for the logical consideration of complex interrelations that are formed between linguistic and socio-cultural aspects within the framework of the evolution of the Turkic peoples.

The comparative method at the stage of investigating linguistic features allowed comparing the evolution of linguistic structures and cultural nuances between the Turkish and Kazakh languages. It contributed to the definition of common features and differences in the functional structure of the considered

language systems, which revealed the image of Korkyt Ata in the Kazakh linguistic context. Its elements led to the identification of corresponding changes in language systems at different stages of history, including ancient Turkic roots. This method allowed establishing the influence of cultural aspects on linguistic forms and expressions, including the interpretation of the image of Korkyt Ata in the Kazakh language. This method emphasised the attention on how the image in question interacts with the linguistic structures and cultural features of the Kazakh language. The comparison of linguistic structures identified semantic features and codification of speech categories within the framework of the linguistic and cultural aspect, and identified key factors and patterns in the linguistic development and cultural traditions of the Turkic peoples.

The method of generalisation at the stage of systematisation of the data obtained identified the relevant trends and key features of the evolution of the Kazakh and Turkish languages. It served as the basis for establishing common linguistic features specific to modern Turkic languages, which is important for understanding the common linguistic root and cultural ties. Its elements led to the emphasis on the semantic properties of the image of Korkyt Ata, considering the specifics of the Kazakh language and its cultural components, which form the modern semantic transmission and codification of lexical units. This method determined the conditions for the development of language systems at various stages of history, including the ancient Turkic period and their influence on modern Turkic languages. It allowed formulating the role of the image of Korkyt Ata in the Kazakh language, and its place in the general linguistic picture of the Turkic world. The generalisation helped to identify the key linguistic changes that occurred over time and their impact on the semantics and use of the Korkyt Ata image, considering the ancient Turkic roots and cultural traditions.

Semantic, linguistic, and cultural components of modern Turkish and Kazakh languages

The evolution of languages is often deeply intertwined with the cultural and historical contexts in which they develop. For Turkic languages such as Kazakh and Turkish, this evolution has been significantly shaped by both external influences, including the spread of Islam, and internal cultural figures, such as Korkyt Ata, who have left an indelible mark on the linguistic and cultural landscape of these societies. The intersection of historical events, cultural exchanges, and legendary figures has contributed to the rich tapestry of linguistic features that characterise these languages today. Korkyt Ata's principles and beliefs, including immortality, wisdom, and resilience, are firmly embedded in the Kazakh and Turkish languages (Abikenov et al. 166). His biography and language

expressions play an important role in preserving and disseminating Turkic basic values. Understanding his impact on these languages provides insight into their development as communication tools and transmitters of cultural history and identity. Language and culture are inextricably linked, as seen by their longstanding relationship.

Modern Turkic languages have an astonishing history, a wealth of cultural influences, and a truly unique development (Lewinski et al. 289). Their roots go back to antiquity, leaving traces in historical periods, influencing the development of national and linguistic identities of various peoples. The history of Turkic languages begins when Turkic tribes settled in Central Asia. With the advent of Islam in the seventh century, they began to use the Arabic alphabet for writing, which influenced their lexical composition and phonetic structure (Tong and Tsung 6392). Islamic culture has introduced new terms related to the religious sphere and everyday life into language systems. Also, one of the similarities can be observed in the way Kazakh and Turkish languages have integrated loanwords from Arabic and Persian due to historical Islamic influence. For instance, the word "kitap" in Turkish and Kazakh, meaning "book," is derived from the Arabic "kitāb." This shared vocabulary highlights the historical and cultural interactions that shaped the lexicon of both languages. Additionally, the evolution of these loanwords into daily usage demonstrates how both languages adapted foreign terms to fit their phonological and grammatical systems while preserving their Turkic identity (Johanson). The Turkic peoples also played a key role in the establishment of many powerful empires, such as the Ottoman, Seljuk, and Mongol. This period was accompanied by an active exchange of speech elements between different cultures and communities (Lewinski 1832). With the separation of the Turkic peoples and the establishment of modern states such as Turkiye, Kazakhstan, Turkic languages began to evolve in various directions. For example, the Turkish language, based on Ottoman Turkish, underwent serious linguistic reforms in the 20th century under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk (Gyogi 334). The system of Turkic languages demonstrates a huge variety of dialects, vocabulary, and grammatical features.

Kazakh and Turkish languages have a rather rich system of vowel sounds (Kaikenov et al. 408). Both languages share a feature known as vowel harmony, which is a common characteristic among Turkic languages (Kavitskaya and McCollum 25). Vowel harmony ensures that vowels within a word harmonise to be either front or back vowels. For example, in Turkish, the word "evler" (houses) follows vowel harmony, where "e" is a front vowel, and the suffix "-ler" maintains this harmony. Similarly, in Kazakh, the word "кітаптар" (books) also adheres to vowel harmony, with "і" and "а" being front and back vowels,

respectively, and the suffix "-тар" maintaining the vowel harmony pattern. This phonological consistency reflects the shared linguistic roots of the Turkic languages and their evolutionary development.

However, in the course of their evolution, there have been changes in the pronunciation of certain vowels, including their diphthongisation or monophthongisation. For example, changes in vowel length are manifested in the term "ауыл" ("village"), which is pronounced with two vowels "ау," forming a diphthong. The evolution of the language system can also occur due to the expansion of sounds that previously could have been limited in use. This can happen both as a result of differentiation of existing sounds, and as a result of new language trends. Different dialects of Kazakh and Turkish may have their own unique phonetic features that distinguish their pronunciation from the standard one. Thus, it is difficult to single out the main number of factors reflecting the evolution of the linguistic systems under consideration (Table 1).

Table 1. Main factors of the evolution of Kazakh and Turkish languages

Factors	Characteristics
Grammatical transformations	One of the main aspects of changes in the language system of modern Turkic languages is grammatical transformations. For example, reforms aimed at simplifying the grammatical structure were carried out in the Turkish language, which affected the abolition of some complex grammatical forms.
Lexical changes	The lexical composition of Turkish and Kazakh languages has changed under the influence of cultural, social, and technological changes. The introduction of new words – such as technical terms and borrowings from other languages – is an indispensable part of this process.
Effect of language interaction	Due to historical contacts and exchanges, Turkic languages interacted with various language families. For example, the Kazakh language, being in contact with Russian, has been influenced in the field of vocabulary and grammar.
Technological progress	With the development of technology and scientific discoveries, new words and terms appear that are integrated into a language. This process is especially active in the fields of information technology, medicine, and other areas that need to use new concepts.

Cultural and social transformations	The language system reflects the cultural and social transformations of society. Changes in lifestyle, social norms, and values are reflected in the vocabulary and phraseology of Turkic languages.
Revaluation of language standards	In modern conditions, there is a constant reassessment of language standards, especially as a result of educational and linguistic initiatives. For example, the process of standardisation of vocabulary and grammar affects the teaching and use of Turkic languages.
Multilingualism and codification	In the context of multilingualism, the regulation and codification of language standards become important aspects affecting the overall system of speech and its structure.

Accordingly, these changes in the language system of modern Turkic languages provide a better understanding of how Kazakh and Turkish evolved under the influence of various factors. Their linguistic development is inextricably linked to the socio-cultural environment in which they function. Türkiye (Turkey) and Kazakhstan have rich historical ties, manifested in the exchange of cultural elements. Historical contacts, such as the Great Khanate, have left traces in the languages of both peoples (Dylman et al. 10). This cultural exchange affects the lexical richness and semantics of languages (Abdrakhmanov et al. 575). In general, the influence of various factors on Turkish and Kazakh languages emphasises their dynamism and ability to adapt to the influence of a changing society. Such a connection of languages with socio-cultural reality is a key aspect that helps to understand the processes of development and preservation of language systems in the modern world, considering the ancient Turkic roots.

In addition, grammatical and lexical features of Kazakh and Turkish languages allow identifying the main properties reflecting their linguistic individuality and interaction with the cultural environment (Hogeweg and Vicente 870). Thus, the Kazakh language is agglutinative, where grammatical forms are created by adding affixes to the root of a word. This feature makes the structure of this speech relatively complex and allows expressing many shades of meaning (Gulzhakhan et a. 908). In turn, the Turkish language is also agglutinative, however, its characteristic features are the extensive use of suffixes to create word forms and grammatical constructions. Kazakh has a rich system of cases, including nominative, genitive, and dative, which allows accurately expressing the relationship between entities in a sentence (Landmann 46).

Turkish has no gender for nouns, which distinguishes it from some other Turkic languages, in which complex numerals and leading word order are used, where the verb often comes before the subject. Depending on cultural and historical features, Kazakh and Turkish languages may have different thematic vocabulary related, for example, to the traditions of cattle breeding, climatic conditions, and religious concepts. However, Kazakh and Turkish languages also exhibit similar grammatical structures, particularly in terms of sentence construction. Both languages follow a subject-object-verb (SOV) word order. For example, in Turkish, the sentence "O, kitabı okudu" (He read the book) follows this structure, as does the Kazakh sentence "Ол кітапты оқыды" (Mussakhojayeva et al. 74). This parallelism in syntactic organization underscores the linguistic continuity between the two languages and reflects the shared cultural heritage that informs their grammatical evolution.

Therefore, the ancient Turkic languages are a key element in the development of modern Kazakh and Turkish. They provided linguistic continuity, which contributed to the understanding and preservation of the traditions, culture, and history of the Turkic peoples. The preservation of linguistic elements in modern languages emphasises this continuum. Words and expressions related to traditional customs, mythology and rituals are rooted in ancient Turkic languages. This aspect is important for maintaining the cultural heritage and identity of the Turkic peoples (Kerr and Borelli). Thus, the term "тау" in ancient Turkic meant "mountain". In modern Kazakh and Turkish, this concept is also used to refer to mountain ranges, serving as an example of maintaining a semantic connection with nature. The word "бау", which previously meant "wealth" also retains its meaning and is often used to express material well-being. In both Kazakh and Turkish, certain words carry deep cultural connotations rooted in their shared Turkic heritage. For instance, the word "туған" in Kazakh and "doğmuş" in Turkish, both meaning "born," carry the notion of origin and belonging, which is essential in Turkic cultures. These words are often used in expressions and proverbs that convey the importance of heritage and ancestry, reflecting the cultural significance embedded in their linguistic practices (Abishev et al. 117). These examples reflect not only the linguistic, but also the cultural connection between the ancient Turkic languages and their modern descendants. The semantic depth of these words is an integral part of the cultural heritage of the Turkic peoples.

Thus, it was found that modern Turkic languages actively reproduce the ethnographic, cultural, and ethnic aspects inherent in Turkic roots. This is manifested in various words and nuances of modern vocabulary. Kazakh and Turkish languages are a unique combination of common linguistic features

stemming from Turkic roots, and differences due to the influence of time and cultural characteristics. In general, the role of ancient Turkic languages in the development of Kazakh and Turkish languages serves as a foundation for understanding the linguistic and cultural diversity of the Turkic world. This process reflects deep historical ties, providing key elements for preserving the linguistic heritage of the Turks. Proverbs in both languages often share similar structures and themes, reflecting common cultural values. For example, the Kazakh proverb "Ел құлағы елу" (The ears of the people are fifty) is akin to the Turkish "Dilin kemiği yoktur" (The tongue has no bone), both emphasising the importance of cautious speech (Kalkeyeva et al. 249). These proverbs illustrate how cultural wisdom is transmitted through language, using similar expressions across both languages. Semantic elements related to linguistic identity, embedded in ancient Turkic languages, continue to live in modern societies, contributing to the preservation of historical experience (Li and Siew 1289). Religious factors, such as Islam, play an important role in shaping the vocabulary and phraseology of both languages. Terms related to religious concepts enrich the linguistic environment and are a reflection of the spiritual values of society. It is also revealed that with the development of technology and globalisation, Turkish and Kazakh languages are facing new linguistic challenges. Borrowing foreign words, especially in the field of technology and science, is becoming an integral part of their lexicon.

Korkyt Ata in the modern Kazakh language
The image of Korkyt Ata in the Kazakh language has a rich history, embodying many values and traditions of the Kazakh people. He is the hero of numerous folk tales and epics, occupying a special place in the linguistic picture of the Kazakh world. He originates from ancient Turkic mythology and epics, where he appears as a wise elder with deep knowledge and life experience (Spitzley et al. 887616). An important element of his character is justice and wisdom, which he transmits to his people. Korkyt Ata often acts as a judge and mediator in various conflicts. His image symbolises justice, order, and wisdom in making important decisions. This aspect of his personality becomes a role model and serves as a reference point for Kazakh society. In the poetry and songs of Kazakhstan, Korkyt Ata embodies the beauty of nature, connection with ancestors, and pride in its history. His image is often used to create lyrical meanings that reflect national pride. Over time, it has undergone changes and adaptations under the influence of modern cultural and social contexts, becoming an integral part of the national heritage and embodying the spirit of the Kazakh people in a new guise.

Zharkynbek Abikenov et al. (166) explore the impact of cultural symbols on the transmission and preservation of cultural identity within Turkic societies. They highlight the role of language in conveying these symbols, linking past traditions with contemporary practices. The figure of Korkyt Ata is a powerful symbol in Kazakh culture, representing the existential reflections and spiritual quests of the Turkic people. The symbolism of Korkyt Ata is permeated in Kazakh and Turkish languages, conveying deep cultural values like wisdom, resilience, and the sanctity of life. These linguistic elements serve as communicative tools and vessels of cultural heritage, ensuring the lessons and values embodied by Korkyt Ata continue to shape the identity of the Turkic peoples today. The study emphasises the importance of understanding language as a living repository of cultural symbols, where figures like Korkyt Ata play a central role in maintaining cultural identity across generations.

In ancient times, Korkyt Ata was not only a wise elder, but also a leader who played a key role in leading tribes and ensuring their well-being. His wisdom and strength were recognised, and his advice was considered law. The image of Korkyt Ata embodies the values of justice, strength, and wisdom of ancient Turkic society, the symbolism of which is actively used in the modern Kazakh language, giving diversity and richness to speech expression. The role of the image in question remains significant in the lexicon and grammar, preserving traditions and transmitting the values of Kazakh culture, introducing certain specifics into the lexicon and thinking of the Kazakh language (Table 2).

Table 2. Specific elements of the image of Korkyt Ata reflected in the Kazakh language

Elements	Characteristics
Cultural identifiers	The words and phrases associated with Korkyt Ata strengthen the connection with traditions and identity through their implementation in literary works, where the use of the image helps to create a cultural context.
Living image in colloquial speech	The image of Korkyt Ata becomes a part of colloquial speech, emphasising the relevance of the image in everyday communication, making it a part of modern language usage.
Ethnic pride	This image recalls the rich cultural history and traditions, maintaining a sense of belonging to the people and keeping in touch with their ancestors.

Thus, Korkyt Ata is not just an archaic mythological character, but a living element of the modern Kazakh language, reflecting the linguistic picture of the world. Its unique specificity affects the lexicon, expressions, and cultural characteristics of the language, making it an integral part of the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Kazakh people. In linguistics and semiotics, Korkyt Ata is a powerful symbol in Turkic languages, notably Kazakh (Abikenov et al. 173). Korkyt Ata's figure is ingrained in the language through idioms, proverbs, and metaphors that express the ideals and beliefs that he represents. For example, statements of wisdom, resilience, and the sanctity of life are frequently associated with the image of Korkyt Ata, making him a major character in the region's linguistic and cultural landscapes. These language features function as cultural memory bearers, ensuring that Korkyt Ata's lessons and values are maintained and passed down to future generations. Korkyt Ata's semiotic analysis emphasises his function as more than a legendary character. He is a symbolic figure whose depiction in language and culture is vital to the continuity and growth of Turkic cultural identity.

The words used to refer to Korkyt Ata often have ancient Turkic roots. For example, the terms describing his wisdom and justice may have a basis in ancient Turkic languages, emphasising the deep historical roots of this image. Expressions can also include religious concepts and metaphors, as his image is often associated with spirituality and moral values. For example, in the formulations "Атынан келгені калмауы болмас" ("What comes from the father will not be forgotten") or "Корқыт Ата тоза жерде кетті" ("Korkyt Ata left a trace even in a clean place"), phrases characteristics of the religious context are used. The vocabulary used in the context of the image in question is rich in emotional and evaluative words. In addition, such terms as "wise," "just," and "noble" bring positive emotional shades and emphasise the high moral quality of the appearance.

Korkyt Ata represents existential topics such as life, death, and the quest for meaning. His story, particularly his desire to discover a location where death does not exist, might be understood as a metaphor for the human condition – our ongoing fight with the inevitability of death and our search for purpose in a fleeting world. Philosophers and researchers frequently find connections between Korkyt Ata's voyage and existential philosophies that investigate the essence of existence, mortality, and the human desire of meaning (Zhumaeva 6). His use of music as a tool to resist death also represents the power of art and culture as means of gaining immortality, implying that while physical life is finite, one's cultural and spiritual contributions may last through time, affecting future generations.

Korkyt Ata is often associated with sayings and proverbs that become an integral part of the language, while presenting a unique linguistic and cultural code. The phrase "heart of Korkyt Ata" personifies a person with a pure and noble heart full of compassion and kindness. This expression emphasises the moral qualities attributed to Korkyt Ata, which reflect not only wisdom, but are also a cultural heritage passed down through generations. The semantic aspect of using the image of Korkyt Ata in the modern Kazakh language is a fundamental element of the cultural and linguistic identity of the people. It permeates the modern Kazakh language, giving it deep meanings and reflecting the features of the national philosophy (Qiu and Johns 117). Lexical turns and expressions not only reflect the linguistic heritage of Korkyt Ata in the Kazakh culture, but also express deep respect for his wisdom and ideals. Semantics in this case serves not only as a linguistic form of expression, but also testifies to a deep cultural and historical continuum that persists in the consciousness and language of the Kazakh people. For example, the word "Ata" acquires not only the meaning of "father," but also permeates the semantic load of life experience.

The lexical richness of ancient Turkic languages allows more accurately expressing the nuances of ideas associated with this image. The use of Korkyt Ata as the subject of a sentence can change the structure of a phrase, emphasising the importance of this noun, directly affecting the use of tense forms and aspects of verbs. Changes in the lexical and grammatical structure of sentences lead to the creation of complex and expressive constructions. Words such as "қоркыттану" (to advise wisely) or "аташину" (to imitate the actions of Korkyt Ata) are examples of how this meaning of the image is integrated into the language, enriching it with appropriate shades. The functions of Korkyt Ata in the Kazakh language are the actualisation of moral values and ethical principles. Everything connected with this image is enriched with lexical and grammatical contexts, allowing the speaker to accurately express the ideas of justice, virtue, and respect. Korkyt Ata plays a key role in the creation of specific language forms used in the description of rituals, traditions, and cultural features. His image is actively woven into stories, poems, and songs, creating unique expressions close to the cultural context. Lexical forms associated with this appearance give a high status to statements and appeals to wisdom. In turn, the purpose of Korkyt Ata in the modern Kazakh language is also to preserve cultural heritage and transfer it from generation to generation. Using this image in linguistic forms, Kazakh becomes a living means of transmitting traditions and values. In poetry, prose, and other literary genres, it is used to create deep and meaningful descriptions, giving the works a special emotional saturation (Zhang e8895).

Korkyt Ata's influence extends beyond historical and mythological narratives into modern cultural practices. His legacy is celebrated in contemporary Kazakhstan through various cultural forms, including music, literature, and art. The traditional Kazakh musical instrument, the kobyz, is closely associated with Korkyt Ata, as he is often credited with its invention. This instrument, together with the music played on it, is seen as a direct link to the spiritual and cultural heritage of the Turkic people. Modern interpretations of Korkyt Ata's story continue to inspire artists, musicians, and writers, who draw upon his legacy to explore themes of cultural identity, continuity, and resistance against cultural erosion in the face of globalisation. This ongoing relevance of Korkyt Ata in modern culture underscores his enduring impact on the cultural and artistic life of Turkic peoples.

Thus, it was determined that Korkyt Ata occupies a special place in the modern Kazakh language, maintaining its relevance and significance over time. Consideration of the functions and place of this image in the language reveals unique aspects, investing in the linguistic structure of the richness of cultural heritage and forming the linguistic and cultural code of the nation. This image not only adorns the Kazakh language in its unique way, but also serves as a fundamental link between the ancient Turkic tradition and modernity, combining the linguistic heritage and cultural identity of the Kazakh people into an integral system. Lexical and grammatical forms associated with the context of Korkyt Ata in the Kazakh language revealed that this historical image is actively used, enriching speech and transmitting linguistic and cultural values. Consequently, Korkyt Ata, a legendary figure in the ancient Turkic tradition, performs an important function in shaping the modern identity of the Kazakh people. Its unique role covers the ancient Turkic context and extends over time, becoming an important element of the Kazakh language.

In general, the linguistic and cultural aspects of speech open up a unique opportunity to dive into the world of linguistic phenomena that act as key elements of cultural heritage and the expression of collective identity. Changes in cultural values lead to corresponding changes in language. The revision of cultural norms and values is often reflected in language, thus reflecting cultural transformations. It can be noted that cultural images in language play an important role in the development and transmission of cultural values, traditions, and identity. Language is not only a means of communication, but also a carrier of meanings, creating a unique image of each society. Speech is a mirror of culture, which reflects its values, beliefs, and specific features of life. Cultural images encoded in language allow understanding how society perceives the world around it.

Conclusions

The study has showed that the investigation of the features of modern Turkic languages, particularly Kazakh and Turkish, and their connection to Turkic roots, reveals the richness of the cultural tradition of this linguistic family. Language plays a key role in the development of collective identity by uniting people and providing them with a means to express their shared sense of identity. Cultural images in the language are key elements that establish the common memory of communities and their sense of belonging to the nation. The study of modern Turkic languages in the context of Turkic roots has revealed not only linguistic changes, but also the preservation of key linguistic features that extend through the centuries. This connection is an important element in the preservation of linguistic heritage. It was found that under the influence of time, the language undergoes evolution, but with the preservation of elements associated with the ancient tradition. The study of language changes occurring under the influence of modern processes is important for understanding the connection of speech with historical roots. Cultural customs, legends, and ancestral wisdom are transmitted through language. Phrases, proverbs, and expressions become a kind of "bridge" between generations, preserving history and cultural heritage. In addition, it was revealed that cultural images undergo constant changes and adaptations under the influence of various factors, such as technological progress, mass culture, and intercultural interactions. A single word or expression can carry a variety of cultural images and shades, depending on the context of use.

Moreover, based on the conducted research, it was determined that one of the outstanding linguistic artefacts in the Kazakh language is the image of Korkyt Ata, which permeates Kazakh culture at different levels. In the process of analysing the role of Korkyt Ata in the Kazakh language, it became clear how rich the semantic field associated with this image is. From the meaning of the great ancestor and protector to the mentor and the symbol of wisdom – all these semantic shades are combined in a single linguistic form. Language forms associated with this image become a way of transmitting and strengthening national identity. Words and expressions related to his deeds and wisdom are woven into everyday speech, giving it semantic depth. Therefore, Korkyt Ata is not only a historical figure, but also a living element of cultural heritage, transformed and embodied through the modern Kazakh language. Like Turkish, the Kazakh language, has deep roots in ancient Turkic languages that existed in the vast expanses of Central Asia, where the linguistic heritage of Korkyt Ata, the ancient Turkic hero, legendary legislator and sage, is an integral part of this linguistic continuum.

Thus, cultural images in the language are an integral part of the heritage, which not only preserves the richness of cultural diversity, but also enriches the language environment, making it dynamic and unique. Accordingly, it can be concluded that the purpose of the study has been achieved. However, the issues of the essence of culture and its expression in the linguistic form of the Kazakh and Turkish languages require further analysis, considering the lexical, semantic, and socio-cultural components of language systems.

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