

EXPRESSION OF THE QUANTITATIVE CATEGORY IN THE OLD TURKIC LANGUAGE ON THE SOURCES OF OFFICIAL-BUSINESS STYLE

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Abstract: In the grammatical system of each language, certain characteristics, important signs are combined and generalized, while homogeneous morphological phenomena are manifested in the form of categories. Grammatical categories against the background of various morphological qualities are realized either as a general or special category. In Turkic languages, the categories of case, the category of belonging, and other categories such as person, quantity, negation are formed as general grammatical categories. In the language of Old Turkic official-business style sources, especially official-legal documents, the concept of quantity is formed with the help of both grammatical indicators and communication tools, and most of these tools are almost active in modern Turkic languages. Different Turkic languages have differences in terms of initial form and functionality, and these features are related to the influence of regional factors, sociolinguistic factors, and the development of specific intra-linguistic laws of individual languages. The quantitative category, which occupies an important place in the grammatical structure of the language due to its functionality and indicators, is realized as a general grammatical category in Turkic languages. The research of the Old Turkic official-business style sources and the language of official-legal documents shows that the concept of quantity, group, and plurality was implemented through a number of formants and indicators. This category is expressed both in modern Turkic languages and in ancient Turkic in three ways: lexical, morphological, and syntactic methods. Although the quantitative category is expressed by various signs, morphological indicators *-lar* and *-lər* take the main place among them. This suffix, which indicates quantity, plurality, group, comparison in some cases, has historically kept its form and content without change, and today it shows activity in Turkic languages according to the level of elaboration.

Keywords: Turkic languages; Old Turkic; category quantity; official-legal documents.

1 Introduction

The branch of linguistics that studies the structure and rules of changing words, word combinations and sentences without taking into account their concrete-material meaning is called grammar. "Grammar", which has an ancient history, was not considered an independent subject until the emergence of the Alexandrian school of linguistics. At the same time, grammar was used not only in the sense of the grammatical structure of a certain language, but also in the sense of phonetics, etymology, dialectology, and other divisions of linguistics. Words acquire grammatical rules and laws to express any idea. The grammar of each language has its own characteristic grammatical concept. It is impossible to talk about the structure of a language without understanding grammar. Grammatical concepts consist of rules related to the grammar of the language. Grammatical concept includes grammatical meaning, grammatical category, grammatical form, grammatical method (means of expression), grammatical structure. Each language has its own grammatical structure. After the words' coming under the control of the grammatical structure in the language, they convey grammatical rules. It is the total of the structural features of the words, word combinations, and sentences of a certain language. Shortly, grammar is a set of language rules that govern words, sentences, and other elements, their combinations, and their interpretation.

Grammar, which is one of the oldest branches of linguistics, "reflects the grammatical structure of a language, that is, existing in a regular way and functioning of the change and combination of words" [3, p. 144]. A. Akhundov draws attention to the fact that grammar is sometimes used as a synonym of the term 'linguistics', and notes that the scope of this field and its boundaries were not defined until certain periods [3, p. 144]. In modern times, the scope of grammar is limited to the areas where the rules of word change and combination are reflected - morphology and syntax. Grammar, which has the characteristics of abstraction and essence, is divided into different types according to its approach to the object of scientific research - among these, historical grammar occupies a special place. And in particular, historical-comparative grammar appears when comparing the grammatical structure of related languages and studying the root forms, the initial structure in a contrasting way. Grammar applies rules in accordance with the internal laws of

the language "for making up all kinds of sentences, without taking into account the form of specific sentences, just as it gives rules about their change and formation, without taking into account specific words" [16, p.157]. More precisely, it involves the change of words, and, together with this, their combination within the sentence based on certain rules and laws. In the material of a certain language, changes in words that are the material basis of human thought, cases of combination in sentences, the state of abstraction, consideration of the concept of generality are manifested in the form of grammatical categories. That is, certain characteristics, the most important features are combined and generalized, and morphological phenomena of the same type appear as a categorical phenomenon. In this sense, it would not be wrong to say that the grammatical structure is "the result of the long-term abstraction activity of human thinking, an indicator of the great success of thinking" [16, p. 159]. In grammar, words change, transitioning lexical meaning to general grammatical meaning by abstracting occurs within the limits of grammar by specialization. O.P.Sunik writes about the grammatical categories realized against the background of homogeneous morphological phenomena: "category means the type, group, class of homogeneous facts and phenomena from the field of language and speech (the research object of linguists)" [24, p.28-29]. "Category" derives from a Greek word (*kategoria*), which lexically means "to say", "accusation", "sign", "it arises and develops as a generalization result of the historical development of cognition and social experience" [3, p.89].

2 Literature Review

Considering the connection of grammatical categories with real facts, it can be said that they are also historical categories that appeared in certain periods of thought and language development. A set of homogeneous grammatical phenomena forms a grammatical category, in which both their grammatical features and the grammatical meanings they form are categorized as a unity. Touching the issues of the essence of grammatical categories and the concept of grammatical category in the science of linguistics, A. Akhundov comes to the conclusion against the background of conflicting, idealistic considerations and opinions that "grammatical category is a real linguistic unity or unit of grammatical meaning and its material expression" [3, p. 147]. Grammatical categories are divided into two parts: general and specific grammatical categories. So, if any grammatical category belongs to several parts of speech, then it should be called as a general grammatical category. Common grammatical categories in Turkic languages are as follows: category of case; category of possessiveness; category of person; category of number; category of negation.

In any language, "certain principles are based on for defining morphological categories" [10, p. 255]. Each grammatical category has its own morphological and syntactic features. Of course, these features are not the same for all world languages. Manifestations of grammatical categories in Turkic languages appear with both geneological and typological differences. Since the grammatical structure of each language has different and specific laws and development history, the grammatical categories are also different, and Turkic languages represent a rich language in this sense.

Different grammatical means of connection are involved in the formation of different grammatical categories. It should also be noted that the processing of grammatical means of connection is not at the same level, sometimes morphological indicators - inflectional suffixes, sometimes auxiliary words, conjunctions, postpositions, sometimes intonation, word order in a sentence, articles show activity. Grammatical indicators reflect differentness in the formation of grammatical categories in Turkic languages. And it is a fact that "written works mainly play a role of source in reviving the linguistic landscape of a concrete historical period" [11, p.94]. Most of the old Turkic

written monuments, as well as the grammatical indicators and grammatical means of connection in the language of official-legal documents, are identical with modern Turkish languages, while sometimes there are differences in terms of initial form and functionality, which can be clearly worked out in dialects and accents. In his fundamental work "Grammar of the Turkish language" written in 1846, Kazim bey brought attention to all the grammatical features of the Turkish language accurately and comprehensively. In this work, the author theoretically evaluated the category of quantity in Turkish languages [13, p.96-106].

In the grammatical structure of the language, the quantitative category occupies an important place due to its functionality and features. In other words, quantity "is one of the most comprehensive categories in the world, covering dimensions and measures, numbers and qualities, time and horizon boundaries. It is a value related to objects and cases in nature, but it has also turned into language elements and linguistic structure as a quantitative form of the object in the language in human cognition. The mysterious connection between nature and language can be seen here. Therefore, the intra and cross-linguistic comparative study of the category "number" in different languages allows revealing the mysteries of many languages" [18, p. 505].

The quantitative category is one of the most extensive and multifaceted categories of modern human thinking, so it is not surprising that its study is of constant interest to scientists from various fields, including researchers in the field of linguistics. This category includes not only nouns, but all other parts of speech, so it is considered a general grammatical category. The concept of plurality, the notions of quantity, amount is related to the innovations in the lifestyle and activity of a person, because one of the additional concepts of a person about an object is its quantity. The process of comprehensive understanding of the object also required knowing its minority-majority and the amount of signs in it. In this sense, in order to understand a thing, a person penetrated its abstract quantity. Even when ancient people did not know how to calculate the specific quantity of an object and there was no knowledge of which number to take as a standard for this, there were concepts about its imprecise quantity. This shows that the concept of quantity arose before specific numbers and it was expressed by peculiar means of each language. As a result, we can say that along with the development of human thinking, certain means were being created in the language to distinguish single-quantity objects from large-quantity objects and to express them. Mentioning that the concept of number is realized on the basis of the existence of single and plural, B. Khalilov notes that the concepts of singular and plural are created by human imaginations, the concept of number is simple in the first life imagination of a person, and later the concept of number changes and develops in connection with the development of human imaginations [12].

The scientist further writes, "As a result of development, complex, abstract meanings have formed in the concept of quantity. Complex, abstract meanings appeared in the development stage of the singular and plural number system. There have been three stages of development of singular and plural number systems. In the first stage of development, a number of nouns denote a meaning of group. For example: *müâllimlik* (profession of a teacher), *hâkimlik* (profession of a doctor), *âlimlik* (erudition), etc. In the second stage, the even category of number has been created. For example: 4, 6, 8, etc. The formation of the even category of number has created the conditions for a more abstract quantity in human imagination. At this stage, odd and even quantities are distinguished from each other. At the third stage, singular nouns are distinguished from plural nouns. For example: *kitab - kitablar* (book-books)" [12, p. 232].

And the concept of quantity is expressed in agglutinative languages with a concrete grammatical form in an easier way. All languages of the world have special suffixes that express the concept of quantity:

In Turkic languages: *dağ-dağlar, qız-qızlar, ev-evlär, däniz-dänizlär*, etc.

In Russian: *гора - горы, девушка - девушки, дом - дома, море - моря*, etc.

In English: *mountain - mountains, girl - girls, house - houses, sea - seas* etc.

Touching on the development of the quantitative category in world languages, A. Rajabli very correctly writes: "As is known, the category of quantity, denoting the indefinite plural, is formed in all languages of the world, including the Turkic languages, at a high stage of language development, when the language acquires the ability to abstract and generalize. At the time of the ancient Turkic written monuments, the languages of the Turkic tribes had already passed such a stage" [21, p. 0418].

In this meaning, from the examples taken from different languages, it is clear that although they differ according to their lexical meaning, there are specific grammatical means of their pluralization methods. These features, of course, vary from language to language. It should be noted that the category of quantity is also a logical category, it is the same for all the peoples of the world, but the forms of manifestation are different. In Arabic, English, French, Russian, etc, which are inflectional languages, both internal and external inflection are used to express the plurality. In Arabic, pluralization is formed through suffixes in the form of external pluralization, but also through internal inflection. Let us note that gender difference is also observed in pluralization in Arabic.

It should also be emphasized that pluralization in inflected languages is mostly done by internal inflection. "When making plural nouns in French, in general, the article is used in the plural form, and the silent letter "s" is added to the end of the noun: *une abre (tree) - des abres (trees); une maison (house) - des maisons (houses)*. But this law is violated in another nuance. For example, when making plural nouns which ends in "s", "x" and "z", it is enough to change only their article: *un pays (country) - des pays (countries); une noix (walnuts) - des noix (walnuts); un nez (nose) - des nez (noses)*" [17, p. 139-143; p. 142].

Comparison, which is one of the principles referred to in defining of any morphological category, is used in the formation of category of quantity. That is, as a result of comparing the units belonging to the category of number, the concept of plurality appears:

singular		plural
<i>ev</i>	–	<i>evlär</i>
<i>bitiq</i>	–	<i>bitiqlär</i>
<i>dağ</i>	–	<i>dağlar etc.</i>

If it is possible to say that the concept of quantity is not only limited to the comparison of singularity and plurality, but "it includes singularity, plurality, set, specific number, indefinite number, approximate number, mathematical number, etc." [5, p. 57]).

3 Method

The methods of expression of the concept of quantity in Turkish languages, the study of their forms of manifestation are studied using various linguistic research methods. In the analysis of the components of suffixal morphemes, as well as in order to observe the historical forms of morphemes involved in the formation of the concept of quantity, the method of linguistic description and the method of structural modeling are used. The comparative-historical method prevails in the article, with which the historical development of the formants and tools expressing quantity is followed, the functionality of suffixal morphemes and their modern status are analyzed. Diachronic and synchronic analysis methods are also used, and it is important to apply these

methods in the analysis of the grammatical structure of ancient texts and any morphological category.

4 Results

Quantitative Category in Turkic languages

In Turkic languages, as well as in Old Turkic, in Turkic-language sources, in the language of works, the concept of quantity is formed in three ways:

- 1) Concept of quantity expressed in a lexical way;
- 2) Concept of quantity expressed in a syntactical way (by word combinations and repetitions);
- 3) Concept of quantity expressed in a morphological way.

The concept of quantity and plurality expressed in a lexical way includes very few words in Old Turkic: *az*, *kop*, *kopan*, *üküş*, etc. In the semantic capacity of these words, there is a concept of plurality.

Expression of quantity morphologically is typical for the language of Gokturk and old Uyghur texts, as well as for the language of monuments written in Karakhani Turkic. In order to express the plurality, totality, collection of an object, sometimes its sign or quality, it is mainly formed by adding the morpheme *-lar²* to the end of the word, and in some cases) the suffixes *-at*, *-an*, *-iz/-z*, *-gun*. The historical landscape of the suffix *-lar²* from old Turkic to modern Turkic languages shows that it has surpassed other formants due to its activity and scope of development and has become an all-Turkic language factor. In some sources, it is noted that “in old and medieval Turkic languages, the use of the plural suffix *-lar²* in the words used after the cardinal numeral is emphasized not according to modern language norms, but this feature is characteristic for old Turkic” [19, p. 250]. Touching on the issue of nouns used after cardinal numerals taking the suffix *-lar*, A. Tanrıverdi points out that this feature “in the dialects of the western group of the literary language of Azerbaijan, happens even today: *Älli qoyunlar var; Hökümätdä yüz adamları var*” [25, p. 64].

Paying attention to the expression of the concept of singularity and pluralism in language, A. Aslanov writes: “As a result of the gradual development of abstract thinking, it became clear to man that the concept of two or more (many) things includes the concept of pluralism” and notes that “the simple form of the plural is realized through the suffix *-lar*” [5, p.58]. The main morphological indicator of the category of number in the language of official-legal documents in Old Turkic is the suffix *-lar²*: *ebler*, *kisiler*, *edgülar*, *tuñğlar*, *burkanlar*, *inlier*, *yilkalar* etc.

The suffix “*-lar²*”, which forms the concept of plurality in Turkic languages, expresses content of generality, abstraction in the language, and today in modern Turkic languages, this morphological indicator suffix still demonstrates its activity in various phonetic variants:

Table 1: The suffix “*-lar²*” phonetic variants

Turkic languages	Singular	Plural
Azerbaijani	<i>Dağ/Öz/Ev/Däniz</i>	<i>Dağlar/qızlar/evlər/dänizlər</i>
Turkish	<i>Dağ/Kız/Ev/Deniz</i>	<i>Dağlar/kızlar/evler/denizler</i>
Kazakh	<i>Tau/Kız/Üy/teñiz</i>	<i>Taular/kızdar/üyler/teñizder</i>
Kyrgyz	<i>Too/kız/üy/deniz</i>	<i>Toolor/kızdar/üyler/denizder</i>
Turkmen	<i>Dag/gyz/öý/deñiz</i>	<i>Daglar/Gyzlar/öýler/deñizler</i>

Touching on the origin and etymology of the suffix “*-lar*”, A. Tanrıverdi notes that the plural suffix “*-lar*” was formed on the basis of the synthesis of the morphemes *-la* and *-ar*, which denote a group: *la+ar= -lar*” [25, p. 189]. There are different opinions and considerations about the etymology of this suffix. Summarizing all considerations in his work, M. Kipchak comes to the conclusion that the suffix *-lar/s* is not a result of asemantization of any word (the word loses its meaning and becomes a suffix), but it shaped through fusion - in other words, the merging of the morpheme *-la* and *-r* appeared as a result [14, p. 174-179].

Expression Quantity Category in Old Turkic official-legal documents

In Old Turkic official-legal documents, in the language of legal wills, the expression of the plural through the suffix *-lar²* loos as follows: *ma take özge kisilär (vä daha özgä adamlar)*, *buyaқы beğlärim kutuğa (Savab iş görän bälärämin säädätinä)*; *teğiler bile köni bilsünlär (qohumlarla düzgün (bärabär) bölsünlär)*, *borluk birip sözläri yarimasunlar (meynälik verib sözläri yozmasınlar)*, *bu yirkä birimläräm kälsär (bu yerä verimläräm (vergiläräm) gälsä)*;

In the language of Old Turkic official-legal documents, the concept of group, plurality, and quantity is implemented through a number of formants and indicators:

-an // -än: bodun, eren;

-laq² // -laq⁴ (-laq, -lik, -luq, -lük (-lag, -lek, -lök, -laq etc.): ödüküg, tuñğ, teyriliq, onluk, ärklik, korluq [15, pp.109-117; 22, p. 259]. M. Kipchak gives extensive information about the etymology, grammatical features, the status of the morpheme *-liğ/-liğ* in the Turkic languages and notes that “the semantics of plurality is primary” [14, pp.308-310].

-z// -iz: oğuz, qırğız, qaqaüz (group); *biz, siz* (plurality); *üz, göz, äkiz, diz* (couple). The element *-z* is shown “as a plural indicator of the group of personal pronouns” [22, p. 115]. In Turkology, the idea that the affix *-i[z]//-(i)z* as an indicator of the binary number is widespread.

-at // -it: bayat, tarkat, elat, etc. It should be noted that there are interesting considerations and results in Turkology regarding the etymology of this suffix. The morpheme *-it*, denoting grammatical plurality, also appears as a plural element in Altai, Iranian, and Uralic languages.

Historical facts and forms of the expression of quantity in modern Turkic languages show that the elements *z*, *k*, *l*, *m*, *n*, *r*, *s*, *ç* and *ş* were also historically used as indicators of number in Turkic languages. Speaking about this, B.A. Serebrennikov writes: “Indicators *z*, *k*, *l*, *m*, *n*, *r*, *s*, *ç*, *ş* which mean plurality, can be easily selected in the suffixes of nouns and adjectives denoting diminution, reduction, and form suffixes denoting repetition of action in verbs” [23, p. 189-203].

T.Banguoğlu defines the category of plural in Turkish under the title of “*Plural in nouns*” and writes: “When we want to describe more than one entity of the same genus, we add a *-ler* suffix to the end of nouns... We call nouns in this form as plural (*pluiel*)” [6, p. 322].

Talking about the concept of quantity and plural system in Turkic, M.Dashdemir explains the plural bases used in Turkic languages and the similarities and differences of number systems with other languages. According to M. Dashdemir, “the language in which the number system is most similar to Turkic is the Korean language” [8, p. 309-336].

G.Abdullayeva, while talking about the morphological indicators of the quantitative category, writes: “historically, the quantitative category has had language facts whose functions and duties are essentially the same, but which have gained diversity in terms of morphological indicators” [2, p. 11]. In addition, in Turkic languages, we sometimes see the manifestation of the concept of number on a semantic basis too. This feature is also evident in sources related to the official-business style of Old Turkic. Such nouns, without accepting any morphological indicators, denote a set of a certain entity, thing, or concept with a single lexical unit: the words *il*, *sü*, *bodun*, *ulus* are such lexical units.

The role of numbers in syntactic expression of quantity is also important. As it is known, numbers, double words, repetitions, and quantitative words play a key role in the syntactic expression of sum and quantity. Numbers syntactically involved in the expression of quantity act as the first part. In modern Turkic languages, the syntactic method “to express the quantity of more than one thing” is also used to express the concept of quantity. In

this case, special words – cardinal numerals, indefinite cardinal numerals, numerical words denoting quantity (*dänä, ääd, näfür*, etc.) - are added to the beginning of the entities [13, p.105-108], objects, and concepts that indicate quantity:

- a) Concrete quantity is expressed by cardinal numerals: *beş kişi* (five men), *on ev* (ten houses), *doqquz känd* (nine villages), etc.
- b) The indefinite quantity of an object is expressed by indefinite numerals, the plurality is indicated: *xeyli insan* (a lot of people), *çoxlu meyvä* (a lot of fruit), etc.
- c) Expression of the concept of number by numerical words: *beş baş inäk* (five cows), *üç tikä çöräk* (three pieces of bread), *iki дәstä göyärti* (two bunches of greens), etc.
- d) Expressing the plurality of the number by repetition of attributive nouns: *dästä-dästä uşaqqlar* (groups of children), *ev-ev känd*, *parça-parça buludlar* (many clouds), *tikä-tikä ät* (pieces of meat), etc.

Different grammatical means of communication are involved in the formation of different grammatical categories. It should also be noted that the level of processing of grammatical indicators is not the same, sometimes morphological indicators - modifying suffixes, sometimes auxiliary words, adverbs, conjunctions, sometimes intonation, word order in a sentence, articles show activity.

5 Discussion

The researcher Abdullayev, who writes that languages change depending on society, notes that, despite the common features that unite different Turkic languages, many different aspects can be clarified by comparing individual categories [1, p. 247]. In this sense, differences are reflected in the expression methods of grammatical categories in Turkish languages due to the influence of historical period and sociolinguistic factors. In the language, the concept of quantity is manifested both by words denoting number and through morphological indicators that form the concept of number, and this feature also applies to Old Turkic, in expressing the general quantitative difference between things. The category of number is expressed by the plural suffix “-lar” in Turkic languages: *bäylär* (gentlemen), *kitablar* (books), *atlar* (horses), *topraklar* (lands), etc. This suffix is typical in “The Diwan Lughat al-Turk” by M. Kashgarli, “Kutadgu Bilig” by Yusif Balasagunlu, “The Book of Dede Korkut”, and other Turkic-language sources.

Suffix *-lar/-lär/-ler*, which is used in the language of all Old Turkic monuments, is also typical for Old Turkic official-legal documents that we are talking about. In the monument, the *-ler* variant is almost not used: *bitiglar*, *taşılarka*, *kisilär*, *onluklarka*, *tügilär* etc [22, pp. 253-266].

A different and traditional, old way of expressing number, quantity, part in the language is to turn to the help of some lexical morphemes. In order to express “all”, “many”, “half”, “some”, “few”, “nothing” of a being with the concept of number in languages” [8, p. 310], a series of auxiliary words are used: in Goyturk language - *barı* “hamısı”, *kamağ* “hamısı, bütünü”, *üküş* “çok”, *buñsız* “bol”, *kiçig* “pek az”, *kop* “hamısı, bütünü, tamamı”, Old Uighur: *tükel* “bütün, heñ barça “bütün”, *kamug* “bütün, hamısı”; in Qarakhanid Turkic: *tegme* “här”, *kamug* “bütün”, *ked* “çok”, *telim* “çox”, *aşru* “aşırı, çox, artıq”, and so on. Buludkhan Khalilov calls the concept of number formed through these words approximate plurality [12, p. 232].

N.K. Dmitriyev notes that “repeated or double words are the oldest form of expression of the concept of quantity in Turkish languages” [9, p. 65-71]. The study of the language of the Old Turkic official-legal documents shows that the concept of quantitative, group, and plurality has been implemented mainly with the suffix *-lar*, but also through a number of formants and indicators.

Most of the grammatical indicators and grammatical means of connection involved in the formation of the concept of

quantitative in the language of Old Turkic written monuments, as well as Old Turkic official-legal documents, are almost identical to modern Turkic languages. At some points, there are differences in terms of initial form and functionality, which are clearly noticeable in dialects and accents. Quantitative category, which is a general grammatical category, is expressed in three ways: lexical, syntactic, and morphological. Based on our research, we can say that the quantitative category occupies a special place due to its grammatical features, the richness of the expression methods of morphological indicators, and its grammatical function.

The analysis of the category of number, which is a grammatical category specific to nouns in Turkic languages, based on old Turkish texts, shows that the concept of quantity, like in other languages, has changed from concrete to abstract. The concept of concrete quantity was formed in earlier periods in the language, and at that time special words and numbers were used. “The expression of quantity in an abstract form is like a long historical development process: at first, the item with a known number was repeated several times, and later the concept of quantity was expressed through a more abstract form of expression - a suffix” [20, p. 30].

N.A. Serebrennikov and N. Hajiyeva in the book “Comparative grammar of Turkic languages” translated by academician T. Hajiyev from old Turkic to today’s Turkic languages, claim that the concept of quantity means more “collective plurality” in accordance with the concrete thinking of ancient Turks, [23, p. 114], and it is noted that quantity of the collective plurality is less abstract and indicates the number of objects that can be seen and counted.

6 Conclusion

The branch of linguistics that studies the structure and rules of changing words, word combinations and sentences without taking into account their concrete-material meaning is called grammar. Words acquire grammatical rules and laws to express any idea. The grammar of each language has its own characteristic grammatical concept. Grammatical concept includes grammatical meaning, grammatical category, grammatical form, grammatical method (means of expression), grammatical structure. Each grammatical category, realized against the background of homogeneous morphological phenomena, has its own morphological and syntactic features. In the grammatical structure of the language, the category of quantity occupies an important place due to its functionality and indicators. When studying the ancient texts, it is clear that, even when ancient people did not know how to calculate the specific quantity of an object and there was no knowledge of which number to take as a standard for this, there were concepts about its imprecise quantity. It should be noted that the category of number is also a logical category, it is the same for all the peoples of the world, but the forms of manifestation are different. It can be said that the formants involved in the creation of the concept of number in old Turkic, where there are clear traces of collective plurality, show richness. Although the expression form of the category of number in Turkic languages is mainly the morphological indicator *-lar*, language materials related to old Turkic, including written monuments of the Middle Ages and the grammatical structure of modern Turkic languages show a rich landscape in the manifestation of number. In the grammatical system of number in the language, opposing of singularity, plurality is created by lexical, morphological, and syntactic methods. Just as these methods show differences in periods, they also differ for national languages from the differentiation of Turkic languages to various development paths in subsequent periods. As it can be seen, the category of quantity, which is formed in different forms in all languages, has developed from primitive form to complexity in Turkic languages, and with certain formal features, it manifests itself as an active grammatical category from old Turkic to modern Turkic languages.

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