

Postverbal constructions in Noghay

Noghay belongs to the Northwestern subgroup of Turkic languages. The Noghays, a numerically small Turkic people in Northern Caucasia, live nowadays mostly in the republics of Daghestan, Karachay-Cherkessia, Chechnya, as well as in the region of Stavropol north of the Caucasus (Karakoç 2005: 1-3).

By the grammatical term of *postverbal construction* I understand, in accordance with Johanson (e.g. 1990 and 1991), a combination of a lexeme with a following verb which has been grammaticalized to a postverb with a strong generalized function. In different Turkic languages, as also in Noghay, the grammaticalized postverbal items play a relevant role in expressing certain actional and aspectual ideas. In my recent works on the functions of finite and converbal forms of Noghay I have dealt among others with different grammatical items which have been developed from postverbal constructions (Karakoç 2005, in print). The present study aims to provide an overall complete typology of postverbal constructions in Noghay, considering all possible syntactic positions and functions. Since certain actional and aspectual postverbal constructions seem to be alike in regard to their morphosyntactic structures (see Johanson 1995, Karakoç 2005 and in print), the role of suprasegmental characteristics is to be discussed in detail.

In this study both data from the Noghay written language and data from the spoken language compiled in my own field research are examined.

References

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