

The State of Turkological Science in China: Turkic Language and Turkic Writing Research

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Abstract

This article is devoted to the state of Turkic science in China, the study of the Turkic language and the Turkic script. The article highlights the major works of famous medieval research centers in China, which were engaged in the study of the Turkic science. Primary objective of the article is the study of contemporary Turkologists of China. Consequently, this article has an undeniable novelty, since the influence of such an empire as China with a long history on the Turkic civilization is well-known facts, but the influence of the Turkic civilization on the Chinese is really little studied aspect in science.

Keywords: Turkic language, Turkic writing, fundamental works, dynasties, monuments, research, expeditions.

Introduction

China is one of the countries where many sources related to the ancient history and culture of the Turkic peoples have been preserved in the archives. In addition, the People's Republic of China is one of the world countries, where Turkic studies as a subject of Country Study has an ancient history of studying and now it is fully developing. It is important to note that the historical social and geopolitical reasons have contributed to this. So, the ancestors of modern Turkic peoples – the ancient Turks – and the ancestors of today's ethnic Chinese – Tabgaches – lived nearby, in the neighborhood, in the center and east of Asia. Throughout the history the relationship between the Turks and the Chinese was diverse: peaceful neighborhood, fraternity, alliance, hostility, mutual conquest, etc.

Chinese peoples, who are faithful to their countries old traditions, recorded, counted and stored various information related to the life of their neighbors in the archives. Of course, all archival data in felted books preserved in China must not be taken as Turkological authentic scientific information. However, the truth is that most of today's global Turkologists, especially those who have studied the history and culture of the ancient Turkic peoples could not do without Chinese sources. On this basis, we can conclude that China's role is great in the history of the formation of science Turkic studies, and it would be unfair not to recognize it. Not only countless historical data about ancient Turks is proof of this, but also the Turkic studies have significantly increased in China over the last century.

Deciding the question how Turkological science in China was built and developed, it is necessary to consider the life and works of scholars who have contributed to the development of China's Turkology. As it was mentioned above, the older and the younger generation of scientists in China researched the Turkic Studies (Zongzhen, 2009). In this regard, it is impossible to cover all the scientists in China. Therefore, we give below a brief overview of the life and work of famous scientists who have contributed to the formation of China's Turkology. In China, due to the intensive development of the education system and active researches on the problems of the written heritage of the Turkic-speaking peoples, the active work was carried on preparation of translators, teachers and researchers (Tieshan, 2005). In order to meet the educational and social needs in the country the institutions and educational institutions have begun to compile textbooks and manuals.

It is known that attempts to study the Turkic languages were undertaken in the era of Karakhanids, evidence of this is the work of M. Kashgari Dictionary of the Turkic dialects and Zh. Balasaguni Beneficial Knowledge. The subsequent generation of researchers-Turkologists paid attention to the structure of the Dictionary of Turkic dialects, on social, historical, geographical, economic and cultural situation of the Turkic-speaking peoples lived in the age described by M. Kashgari. The comparative study of contemporary Turkic languages, learning vocabulary, grammar, semantics and etymology of words, poems, proverbs, presented in the Dictionary began to intensify. In 1984 after the translation of the Dictionary of Turkic Languages on the contemporary Uighur language the work on the study of this language has been intensified. For example, in the 80-s of the twentieth century several hundred scientific papers (including more than a dozen monographs) on the problem of the study Dictionary were published. Among them the research work of the Professor Zhao Minmin Linguistic essence of the Dictionary of Turkic languages, published in 2001 in the publishing house of the Central National University is considered to be as one of system and volume work. The work consists of four general chapters in which the author considers thoroughly the phonetic, morphological, syntactic and lexical side of the Dictionary.

The research of the Chagatay writing monuments has been actualized in the periods of formation of the PRC. Most of the researchers in this industry were the representatives of the Turkic-speaking peoples lived in China. For example, a well-known Turkologist, Professor Hamit Tomur and Professor Turdi Ahmet, offsprings of the Kyrgyz nation and also Turkologist, Professor Anuar Baytur who published scientific papers, translated into contemporary Uighur or Kirghiz languages many monuments of Chaghatay linguistic heritage. Also published textbooks for students Chaghatay language. Among them we should mention Introduction to the Chagatai language (PRC Kashgar: Uighur publishing, 1987.430 p.), Professor Hamit Tomur and Professor Pulat Abdurov. The features of Chagatai language, content and linguistic features of the monuments written in this language, and come down to us are considered comprehensively in the work. Publication of work Introduction to the Chagatai language is considered a great achievement for China's Turkologists.

Development of Turkological Science in China

Turcological Studies during the Reign of the Ming Dynasty

In China, during the reign of the Ming Dynasty, more precisely in 1407, the center for scientific research and education "Sy-i-guan" (Siyiguan – 四夷馆) was established by order of the king. The above-mentioned center at that time was the only educational and research center, which was engaged in teaching, language study and writing of many peoples, inhabited not only the territory

of China and neighboring regions, but also the territory of Asia as a whole. In this center they taught the interpreters who were well in the language of the peoples of China, studied the language, writing, history and culture of large neighboring states. According to historical sources, the Centre carried out the research on studying the Turkic-Mongolian languages, which consisted of eight sections, two of which were called Tatar section and Koktansky section.

Fundamental works Writing of Koktan section ("高昌管杂字" Gaochangguan zazi) and Texts of Koktan chapter (高昌馆课 - Gao-changguan ke) are the most important major works carried out by the center at that time and devoted to the study of language and writing of the Turkic peoples. Writing of Koktan section in some Chinese literary sources is called as Translation language of Koktan. The called work is a comparative dictionary of Chinese and ancient Uyghur (Turkic) language. Above-mentioned work has been compiled and published in the 1403-1424 years. The volume of lexical units in this work was more than 2000 words. In the process of copying, rewriting and recompiling of the Dictionary up to date there were many variants, such as Variant of Ming copy, Variant of Tsin copy, Japanese variant. However, the variant called Variant of Ming copy is considered to be the most complete version.

The second great relic is Lectures of Koktan section – it is called as The text of Koktan section in some literary works. This is a collection of official documents in Chinese and ancient Uyghur language. The total number of different materials included in the collection is 89. They were combined into one book and published in the 1456-1566. In terms of content, the vast majority of texts are the letters of the local government of Kumyl, Koktan, Turpan, Ili and other (more than twenty) regions of modern Xinjiang, which were sent to the Emperor Ming Headquarters.

The main feature of these two great relics that has come down to us from the XV century is that the ancient Uyghur words were transcribed fully in Chinese hieroglyphs, and their meaning was transferred by the Chinese language. In the texts of Koktan chapter the words of the ancient Uyghur language written in Chinese hieroglyphs, in terms of the sound side there was an attempt to keep the similarity of pronunciation. However, it is difficult to say that all the features of speech and grammar of the ancient Uyghur language of that time have been transferred correctly. At the same time, we can say that these two works have some value in the study of lexical fund of the ancient Uyghur language, in the study of the general state of the Uighur writing, in the history of interethnic relation at the time.

Turcological Studies during the Reign of the Qin Dynasty

Some time later, during the reign of the Qin Dynasty (1616-1911 years) in recent years of the reign of Qianlong, in 1795, on the direct orders of the king of Qin headquarters the Dictionary Quinquelingual dictionary of Qin was compiled, the full name is Quinquelingual dictionary created by Qin Emperor. This dictionary is comparative, it includes the common lexicon of five languages (Manzhur, Tibetan, Mongolian, Uyghur, Chinese). The volume of the Dictionary is large it includes more than 18000 words each of the five languages. Uighur words are transferred by the Manzhur transcription. This work is of high value in terms of source study not only in the research questions of the Uyghur language in the period of Qin, but for the Turkological science in general. The Dictionary was republished in Beijing in 1957 by Publishing of the nation. In addition, explanatory dictionary Handbook about geography and historical figures of the Western Region (Qinding xiyu tongwen zhi "钦定西域同文"), the dictionary Language of West Region (Xiyu er ya – "西域尔雅") are also one of the fundamental informative dictionaries.

Handbook of geography and historical figures of the Western Region ("钦定西域同文志") was compiled according to the special order of the king of Qin in 1763. The total amount of the Handbook is 24 volumes, 13 of which are devoted to the Central Asian region. In particular, the I volume of the Handbook is called as The names of the area in the north of the Tien Shan; II and III is The names of the area in the south of the Tien Shan; Volume IV is The names of the mountains in the north and south of the Tien Shan; VI volume is The names of rivers and lakes in the north of the Tien Shan; VI is – The names of rivers and lakes in the south of the Tien Shan; VII, VIII, IX, X volumes are The names of people of Dzhungaria in north of the Tien Shan; XI, XII, XIII volumes – The names of the Muslims in the south of the Tien Shan. According to the names of volumes in the Handbook names of localities, rivers and lakes, as well as the names of people in Central Asia of that time are given in comparison in Manzhur, Chinese, Mongolian, Tibetan, Turkic, Oirat (Mongolian) languages. It should be noted that in the above-mentioned Handbook a definition Turkic language is not given to individual words, on the contrary, they are labeled as Chaghatay words, with the heading Muslim (回字).

Today, some Chinese scientists give an explanation Uyghur to these words. Of course, there are many words fully preserved grammatical features of contemporary Uigur language, and is not used in modern Uigur language, but was not undergone changes, and saved in vocabulary of other nomad (especially such as Kazakhs, Kyrgyz) Turkic peoples. Therefore, these words noted in the Handbook of geography and historical figures of the Western region marking by the heading Muslim (回字) are considered as the Turkic words. Thus, thousands of words in the Handbook have not only valuable information for the study of the history and culture of Turkic peoples living in Central Asia in the XVII-XVIII centuries, as well as interest to the study of sound and grammatical features of their languages.

The dictionary Language of the Western Region ("西域尔雅") plays a special role in the world Turkological science. This is a multilingual dictionary compiled in 1976 from such works as The handbook of geography and historical figures of the Western Region, Genealogy of the Western Region ("西域图识"), Notes of the Western Region ("域闻见录"). The dictionary includes the words from the Kazakh, Uigur, Kirghiz, Persian, Indian, Tibetan, Mongolian languages, which are shown by the transcription of the Chinese language. The structure of the book includes 19 chapters that contain related names, names of household items, plants and others.

It is obvious that the following fundamental works on the history and ethnography written in the XVIII century should be noted: Journey tho the Western Region, The country of Bedouins in the Western Region, Genealogy of the Western Region, Notes of the Western Region. These works are considered the important scientific sources in China, because they have a special importance in the study of the customs and traditions, history and geography, culture and written languages of the peoples who inhabited the territory of modern Xinjiang, Central Asia and the regions along the Silk Road. The most important thing – they are a major and integral part of Turkology in China.

Turcological Studies in China in XX century

In connection with the fall of the Tsing dynasty in 1911, after the Xinhai Revolution that opened a new page of history in China, after the widely developing scientific expeditions in the north-western regions of China, the Chinese historians and linguists have paid special attention to the study of the history and language of the ancient Turkic and the ancient Uigur records (Huang, 2006). We know that historians of China, following the traditions of the ancient historiography,

contributed to the study of the history and culture of Huns, Turks and ancient Uigurs. It is necessary to note the important contribution of the older generation of Chinese scientists such as Huang Zhongqin (黄仲琴1884-1942), Le Jiazao (乐嘉藻1867-1944), Han Rulin (韩儒林1903-1983), Chen Yinke (陈寅恪 1890-1969), Cen Zhongmian (岑仲勉 1885-1961) Wang Jingru (王静如1903-1990) Feng Jiasheng (冯家升1904-1970). They are the first who carried out thorough and profound studies of the ancient Turkic and the ancient Uyghur written records, they also compiled valuable fundamental works, which thus became the impetus for the development of the Turkological science in China.

In the 30-40-s of the XX century in the field of the study of the ancient Turkic records a sufficient number of scientific papers were published. However, the works of Chinese scientists in that period were mainly devoted to the general description of the ancient Turkic records, in the best case – a chronology of the monuments was presented, as well as the texts were translated into Chinese. Especially valuable research among the works of this kind is the research of Huang Zhongqin About Kultegin monument and Le Jiazao Three monuments established by the Tang Dynasty in the Karakorum, became the first ice-breaker in science. After that, the interest in the study of the ancient Turkic records found on the territory of Mongolia have been significantly increased in China. But later, the scientists began to pay attention to the study of the variants of the Turkic language in the text of the records, they even tried to translate them. The works of Professor Han Rulin Translation and explanation of the Turkic inscriptions on Kultegin monument, Translation and explanation of the Turkic inscriptions on Tonyukuk monument, Professor Wang Jingru Translation and explanation of the text of the Turkic monument Bahadır Bilge Kagan, Professor CenZhongmian Text study of the Turkic Kultegin monuments, Brief Description of the text on the wooden recess found in Turfan, Collection of the Turkic history are also the fundamental works.

As we know from the history, in the 30-s of the XX century special institutions, were established in the Heavenly country in order to educate other nationalities. Experts have begun to research the culture and traditions of indigenous nations in terms of ethnology. Even before the formation of the People's Republic of China the Uigur language began to be taught at Nanjing Central University, Xibe University, Lanzhou University, Institute of Xinjiang. The works of a famous Turkologist, Professor Ibrahim Muti (1920-2010), who was originally from Xinjiang Uighur were published among the fundamental works. His most famous works are The Morphology of the Uighur language, The syntax of the Uighur language. It should also be mentioned The Uighur-Chinese Dictionary, it is an important research of the researchers of the University of Xibe; the work of Professor Xu Sihuan Table of often used letters in the language of Xinjiang Turks; Uighur-Russian Dictionary of Professor N.A. Baskakov, that was translated by the Turkologists Cheng Yuwen, Li Sen and Guo Yingde (Baskakov & Nasilov, 1939).

It is known that the works of Chinese Turkologists devoted to the description of written monuments of Turkic peoples, translation of the studies of Turkologists of the world, reports of scientific expeditions were actively published in periodicals. All of them gave impetus to the development of Turkology in China. The works such as Study of the language of the western regions, Professor Feng Chengjun (Feng Chengjun, 1887-1946), Letters and languages in Xinjiang, Professor Wang Ziwei, The relationship between the state language and Uyghur language Professor Jiang Kang, Ancient legends of the East Turkestan, Professor Liu Guidong, Introduction to the system of the Altai language, Professor Dong Tonghe, Euphemisms in the dialects of Uighur language, Professor Zhou Weixing, Etymology of the words Huei Huei, Comparison of the

China-Turkic geographic names in the region of Turpan, Professor Cen Zhongmian, Writing and language of the Uighurs, Professor Su Beihai (1917-2000), Review of the language, writing, customs and traditions of the Salars, Professor Yang Disin etc. are among the works that have made a special contribution to the development of Turkological thought in China. They all opened the way to further studies.

The studies devoted to the issues of language learning of ancient Turks got intensive development after the formation of the People's Republic of China. In the first years of formation of the PRC Uyghur language specialty was opened at the Faculty of Oriental Studies of Beijing University, then the specialties on the Uighur language, Kazakh, Kyrgyz language were opened at the Central Institute of Nationalities in Beijing (now the Central Institute of Nationalities), the Institute of Nation of Xinjiang (University of Xinjiang), the Institute of the nation Xibei, school of regional staff of Xinjiang and they began to train the specialists of this field. In the 50-60-s of the last century, the specialties on the teaching of Uyghur and Kazakh languages were opened in such institutions of higher education as the Xinjiang Pedagogical Institute, Xinjiang University and pedagogical colleges of the regions of Kashkar, Hotan, Ili etc. Judging by the facts, in China since 1949 till the 80-s of the last century, during 30 years over 10 thousand of specialists in modern Turkic languages and ancient Turkic language were taught.

It should be noted that hundreds of books and manuals on the Turkic language and literature for higher educational institutions have been published only in the Central Institute of Nationalities in Beijing, Institute of Nation Xibei in Lanzhou, Xinjiang University in Urumchi. Today, the most valuable works published in the 50 years of the XX century are Textbook of the Uighur language, Professor Li Son, The Uighur-Chinese Dictionary, Yang Jui, Uighur-Chinese-Russian Dictionary outstanding statesman and public figure, Tatar by origin, historian and linguist Burhan Shahidi (1894-1989).

The peak of the research activities of the Turkic languages in China is the middle of the last century (Syao, 2006). In 1955 the Turologists of the Central Institute of Nationalities and specialists of educational institutions of Xinjiang formed the expedition group, which was engaged in the study of language and literature of Turkic-speaking peoples. The expedition group visited 27 expedition points, considered in detail more than 180 language materials of the native speakers of Kazakh, Uyghur and other Turkic languages. The results of expertise were published separately in the book *The language of the peoples of Xinjiang (forwarding materials)* (1956, Beijing, Publisher nations) by the specialists of the Philological Faculty of Central Institute of Nationalities and the Institute of Language of National Minorities of the Academy of Sciences of the People's Republic of China. In 1956 under the guidance of the Central Committee of nation of PRC and the Academy of Sciences of China more than 700 experts from the 7 groups visited the research expedition, which was carried out on a large scale in the country, especially they concentrated in the border regions where ethnic minorities of China lived.

Six of the seven groups researched the representatives of Turkic peoples as Uighurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Uzbeks, Tatars, Salars, Sary Uighurs who lived in the regions of Xinjiang, Gansu, Qinghai. The group responsible for the study of the Kazakh language studied Tuvan and Turkish languages, collected a lot of evidential material. Due to the Chinese government such repeated expeditions, in addition to a rich language material formed the foundation for further successful continuation of research. As a result, many scientific papers as well as the conclusion of expeditionary checks were published. For example, we can call the works published in 50 years of the last century and they were considered as the greatest achievement of science of the Turkic Studies in China *Research on the Kazakh language and literature* Professor Geng Shimin (1929-

2012), The Kyrgyz language and literature in China Professor Hu Zhenhua (born in 1931). In the 60-s of the last century Turkologists specialists of the Institute of Language of National Minority of the Academy of Sciences of PRC published a study on language of Turkic peoples – Uyghur, Kazakh, Kyrgyz languages (Zhenhua, 1962). The Uighur scholar Mirsultan Osmanov (born in 1929) has published the serial almanac The language of Turkic-speaking nations, the Chinese Uighurologist Wei Cuiyi published the results of the research on the theme Lob-nor dialect of Uyghur language, Khotan dialects – the south-west dialect of the Uighur language Professors Lin Lianyun and Han Jianye issued the Preface to the Salar Language, Professor Zhu Zhining – Preface to the Uyghur language.

Since the middle of the 50-s till the middle of the 60-s of the twentieth century, another major trend of research in Chinese Turkologytypes of writing and their reformation, systematization of the languages of the Turkic peoples lived in this country were there. Many works were published in this area. For example, the scientific works Writing of the Uighur people, Writing of the Kazakh people and Language and writing of the Kyrgyz people in China are the creations of this period. During this period institutions related to the study of writing of the Uighur, Kazakh, Kyrgyz people have worked on the project New writing (based on the Latin alphabet), considering the importance of its introduction into practical use and taking into account the need for this on the part of intellectuals and as well as on the part of ordinary people of the above mentioned Turkic peoples. A great number of the works on this urgent issue were published in those years.

In particular, such fundamental works as the Project of the Uyghur new writing (Project 1960), Spelling of the Uyghur new writing (1964), The project of the Kazakh new writing (Project 1960), Spelling of the Kazakh new graphics (1964), Fundamentals of Phonetics, Collection of writing rules of the new graphics, Questions and answers about the new writing have been published and also the textbooks for the teaching of the Uighur and Kazakh languages were issued. But due to the fact that the implementation of new writing was not sufficiently developed, Xinjiang Regional Government of the PRC in 1982 stopped the transfer of Uighur and Kazakh languages on the new schedule and again continued the introduction of the old letters (based on the Arabic alphabet), whose founder was A. Baitursynov. It is noteworthy that very important scientific works of foreign scholars became the study of the Turkologists scientists of the former Soviet Union: E. R. Tenishev (1921-2004), N.A. Baskakov (1905-1996) and S.E. Malov (1880-1957) and other foreign Turkologists which have been translated into Chinese.

But Chinese Turkology that was developed during the cultural revolution (1966-1976) later met unexpected political storm in the form of such statements as propaganda of Pan-Turkism, bourgeois idea. Many Turkologists were persecuted by the authorities, they were convicted and sent into exile. Only after coming to power of the People's Republic governor Deng Xiaoping (1978) Turkology, as well as other branches of science, has found its direction and began to flourish on the basis of past achievements. Especially since the 80-s of the twentieth century, the works on the study of language and literature, history and culture of the Turkic peoples have risen to a new level, which was not there before in the history of science.

Many universities and research institutions which systematically continued to teach and study the languages of the Turkic peoples, began to flourish. In particular, the specialty the language of writing of the Turkic peoples as an educational profession and as an object of scientific research became on demand in all scientific and educational centers of Beijing: in Central National University, the Institute of National of Academy of Humanitarian Sciences of

China, in the University of Xinjiang, in Pedagogical University of Xinjiang, Xibei National University, National University of Qinghai, National Institute Kashkar, National Institute of Ile.

It is known that at the end of the 70-s of the XX century the quality of published textbooks and scientific publications on teaching Turkic languages has been improved significantly. You can talk about the fact that many publications and manuals on language were exceptionally the fundamental works worked out by experts of the XUAR Language and Script Committee (Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region) and the University of Xinjiang; China-Uighur Dictionary compiled by the XUAR Language and Script Committee; Sino-Uighur Explanatory Dictionary issued by the Educational Publishing House in Xinjiang; Sino-Uighur Explanatory Dictionary issued by the People's Publishing House in Xinjiang and compiled by S. Nayman (b.1941); Sino-Kazakh Dictionary which was published in the National Publishing House edited by N. Abikenuly (1942-2012) in Beijing; Sino-Uighur idiomatic Dictionary compiled by Abdu Salam issued by People's Publishing House in Xinjiang.

In this period, the Association of researchers of Turkic languages of China was formed in January 1980, in Beijing in China. The formation of this Association is an indicator of the transition of the Turkic studied in China to a new historical stage. The Association held scientific conference, issued a scientific almanac entitled Study of the Turkic languages in Kazakh, Uighur and Chinese. Vestnik was spread among the members of the Association, which served as a scientific platform for Turkologists – for testing and publication of their scientific views, achievements, opinions. Also, through the Vestnik members of the Association had the opportunity to follow the discoveries in Turkological science in the country and abroad, establish contacts with foreign scientists and study their work.

In the 80-s of the twentieth century some materials of the expedition and scientific descriptive works on Turkic Studies in China were published. The works that had a high scientific and educational value were among them, they are General character of the Kazakh language, General character of the Kyrgyz language and General character of the language of the Sary Uygurs. Final reports of the research carried out before and not fully understood the problems were published also; conclusions made hasty were checked again and concluded. For example, the following works: The Kyrgyz of Heilongjiang area region of Fuyu and there linguistic features, General character of the Phonetics of the Kyrgyz language of the north-eastern region, Phonetics of Tuva language in China, General character of the Tuva language, The Tuva nation and Tuvan language, The numeral in the language of the Ainu and the Ainu language feature, Language of the Ainu people in Xinjiang, etc.

Another achievement of the scientists-Turkologists was in the period of the development of China's Turkic studies, it is the publishing of the series of books by National Publishing House in Beijing, devoted to the problems and features of the functioning of large Turkic languages in China. It is noteworthy that the introduction to the series has been written in Khan language. Among the works published in the series, a special scientific and practical value and significance have such works: the work of the professors Zhao Xiangru (born 1930) and Zhu Zhinin Introduction to the Uighur language (1985); Professors Geng Shimin and Li Zengxiang (1985) Introduction to the Kazakh language; Professor Lin Lianyun Introduction to the Salar Language (1985); Professors Cheng Zongzhen and Lei Xuanqun Introduction to the language of the Sary Uighurs (1985); Cheng Zongzhen and Elchan Burhan Introduction to the Tatar language (1986); Professor Hu Zhenhua (1988) Introduction to the Kyrgyz language, professors Chen Shiliang and Abdrakhman Introduction to the Uzbek language (1987). Since these works were the result of a comprehensive study of the features of the contemporary languages of the Turkic peoples of

China, they laid the foundation for a structural and typological, comparative and historical study of related languages.

In the 80-s the various books of informative and descriptive character, grammar, reference books devoted to Turkic languages have been published. The Chinese Turkologists made significant progress in the study of dialects of contemporary languages of the Turkic peoples. Many research works about more than 20 dialects and local dialects of Uyghur language were published. In these works the researchers gave a comprehensive assessment, systemic description of all dialects of the Uighurs who compactly lived on territories of Kumyl, Turphan, Kashgar, Khotan. Also during this period the number of case studies on language of Turkic peoples increased. For example, the number of specific scientific works on phonetics and grammar have been over a thousand, they disclosed the nature and features of the sounds of the Turkic languages, comparative study of language sounds of the Turkic languages, the study of vowel harmony of sounds, the study of parts of speech and their classification, the study of grammatical categories, the study of syntax, etymology words, etc. And in our opinion this is an indicator of the pace of development and the level of achievement of Turkological science in China.

After the 80-s of the twentieth century, the study of texts of ancient Turkic writing records, continuing the historical tradition, is moved to the new level, get a lot of new results. For example, a well-known Turkologist, Professor Lin Gan (b. 1916) was the first Chinese scholar who had learned about common ancient Turkic records (Gan, 2007). According to the scientist's opinion, Ye Luzhu a poet, historian, offspring of the Kidan nation (Kara China), scientist gave the very first information about the Kultegin monument. In the comments to his poem Dedication of Karakorym the poet writes: Karakorym town is a place where the body of Bilge Kagan lies. In the north-west side of town at a distance of 70 km there is a place hordes of the Bilge Kagan Horde. And a monument, built by King Tang is located 70 km to the North-East of the town. However, at that time they did not pay attention to this comment and didn't give meaning to the words of the poet. Only after the disclosure of the scientific news by the Russian scientist W.W. Radloff about ancient Turkic writing, the called problem has received the attention of the science centers in China. In this branch, the famous archaeologist and historian of China – Wang Guowei (王国维1877-1927) was one of the first scientists who considered the problem of the translation of Kultegin monument, Bilge Kagan monument, Karabalgusyn monument in his study of Monuments of Karabalgusyn (the 20th volume of the complete collection of the works Forest Palace) (Yupin, 2012).

But until 1934 the study of ancient Turkic monuments of China, as was said above, is limited by a general study, explanation of the texts of monument in the Chinese language. Chinese Turkologist Professor Han Rulin was the first scientist who wrote a scientific explanation to the Turkic texts. In 1935, after acquainting with a German translation of Kultegin monument of German scientist H. Schaeder, with an English translation of an American scientist Denison Ross, he published a work on the theme The translation and commentary of the Turkic text of the monument Kultegin in the 6th issue of the 6th volume of the Herald of the State Academy of Beijing. In 1936, in the 6th issue of the journal Yuygun he published an article on the theme Translation and Commentary of the Turkic text of the Bilge Kagan monument. In the same year the work of the scientist Translation of the monument Tonykuku again was published in the 6th issue of the journal Yuygun. These works have given new impetus to the study of texts of the ancient Turkic monuments, opened the way for research to such scholars as Cen Zhongmian, Wang Jingru, Zhu Tingfen.

In 1956-1959 years the Turkologist of the former Soviet Union E.R. Tenishev by the invitation of the Chinese Government has lectured research group of the Turkic language at the Institute of Minority of the Academy of Sciences (1957-1958 years), as well as on the disciplines Grammar of the Turkic language, Introduction to the Turkish language, Writing records of the ancient Turkic languages at the Central National Institute (now the Central National University). We can say that E.R. Tenishev was an initiator of the training of talent specialists in the teaching and research of the Turkic languages in China. Most of the students who had listened to his lectures in those years, later became a reliable support for the Chinese Turkic Studies.

The study of the ancient Turkic writing in China was risen to a new and higher level of development. In this field a specialty Ancient Turkic languages at the Faculty of Language and Literature of the Institute of National Minorities of the Central National Institute (now the Central National University) was opened in 1976 to train the necessary specialists. Professor Geng Shimin (1980) was responsible for preparing young professionals – to write textbooks of ancient Turkic languages. The work consists of 8 volumes. They were all very necessary for the basic disciplines, such as Selected writing records of ancient Turkic languages (one volume), Selected writing records of the ancient Uighur language (two volumes), Selected writing records of Karahan Khanate (three volumes), Dictionary (one volume), Grammar of ancient Turkic languages (one volume). The opening of this specialty and the publication of the textbooks gave new impetus to the development of the study of ancient Turkic languages in China.

A well-known historian Feng Jiasheng is the most prominent figure among the older generation of Chinese scientists Turkologists, whose scientific research related to the 60-s of the twentieth century. His research on the theme Turkic writings were in Turfan in 190 years was published in 1963 in the 3rd issue of the journal *History and Philology*, the study entitled *The Turkic money* was published in 1987 published by the Zhonghua Publishing House, in *Collection of works of Feng Jiasheng*. In the 80-s many young scientists joined the ranks of Turkological science of China. For example, the work of Kurban Uali called *Ancient Turkic wooden monument of the V century BC*, found in the vicinity of Turpan was published in the January issue in 1981 in the magazine *Cultural Heritage*. The work of professors Abduheim Kozha and Tursun Ayup called *Translation and Commentary of Tonyukuk monument* was published in the 3rd issue of the scientific *Journal of Xinjiang University* for 1981. The *Research of Professor Li Jingwei*, entitled *Some problems of reading of the ancient Turkic runic inscriptions* was published in the 2nd issue of the scientific *Journal of Xinjiang University* for 1982. Also at this time the research of professors Niu Rucheng and Niu Ruji entitled *Translation and Commentary of the Ongin inscriptions written in ancient Turkic graphics* was published in № 2 issue of the scientific journal (*Herald*) of Kashgar Pedagogical Institute in 1987.

In China, the studies on ancient Uighur writing monuments have been published since the beginning of the 30-40-s of the twentieth century in common descriptive form. One of them is the work of Professor Lee Futong (1911-1995), *Origin and Development of the Uighur writing*, which was published in the 5th issue of 1944 in the magazine *Tribune of regional policy*. However, the very first work has received a scientific assessment – it was the work of Professor Feng Jiasheng, who studied the monuments of ancient Uyghur writing. The beginning of publication of the scientific studies of Mr. Feng paved the way for the research of ancient Uighur writing monuments, also laid a strong foundation for the development of these industries. In the 50-60-s of the twentieth century Professor Feng prepared and published valuable works such as *Ancient Uighur writing and 'biography of Shuantszan written in ancient Uighur graphics* (*Shanghai. People newspaper* 4 March 1952), *The study of biographies, written in Ancient Uighur language*

Buddha-sadva (bodhisattva) of Shuantszan (Beijing, Almanac Archaeology (1953. № 1), 2 types of agreements in the Uighur language in the period of the Yuan (Beijing. Historical Research 1954. № 1), Biography Buddha – sadva (bodhisattva) of Shuantszan.

Professor Geng Shimin – compiler of the textbook Ancient Turkic writing records, in the second chapter (I, II volumes) – research on ancient Uighur writings (Shimin, 1981). In 1983, Professor Geng Shimin (Shimin, 1982; Shimin, 1983) in the People's Publishing House, of Xinjiang has published a work entitled Introduction to the ancient Uighur culture and literature. The III section of the work is entirely devoted to the discovery and study of ancient Uighur writing records, the general description of writing records. In 1976 in Beijing after the opening of the specialty Ancient Turkic language in the Central National Institute and Xinjiang University, some scientists followed their suit (Shimin, 1985a; Shimin, 1985b).

Five people of the 18 graduates of the department of ancient Turkic language received PhD degrees, four were awarded the academic title of professor, associate professor, seven people today continue to work productively in science. In 1988 the first master's degree in the ancient Turkic language specialty, prepared by Professor Geng Shimin (1989), completed their studies; after the scientist prepared three doctors (PhD), who subsequently made a significant contribution to the development of science of Turkic Studies. Professor Geng Shimin worked hard and fruitfully over the reading of ancient manuscripts. He is credited with the study of ancient religious records that have been survived to date written in Ancient Uighur language. In particular, he translated Buddhist religious literature – Altun Ioruk, Matrisimit, Auatamsaka Sutra, Shaburagan, Huastuanift and scientific comments to them were prepared by the scientist. Professor Geng worked on the translation and the study of such literary records like Blessed knowledge, Atabatul Hakaik, Oguzname (Shimin, 1994).

It should be noted that in the Heavenly country Mahmud Kashgari was considered as the ancestor of Turkicological science. The reason is the fact that the famous scientist was born in the city of Kashgar and in the Chinese sources the nationality of M. Kashgari was defined as Uighur. However, in this article we did not put the purpose to solve the problem what the place of Mahmud Kashgari is in Chinese Turkic Studies. First, because, as you know, M. Kashgari is considered as the father of the Turkic Studies not only in China, but in the world; and secondly, because our primary objective was the study of contemporary Turkologists of China.

Contemporary Turkologists of China

Professor Geng Shimin

A famous Turkologist, Professor at the Central National University Geng Shimin was one of the scientists in China who made significant contributions to the formation and development of Turkic Studies. He was the first researcher of the language of Turkic peoples in the Heavenly country, a founder of the specialty Kazakh language and literature in China, he compiled comprehensive textbooks of the ancient Turkic and ancient Uyghur languages.

At the time the Chairman of the International Ural-Altai Research Society, a known Turkologist, Professor A.V. Gabain (Annamari von Gabain) highly appreciated the work of Professor Geng Shimin: "Before that we applauded the achievements of Japanese colleagues in the study of ancient Uighur culture. The famous Professor Haneda was among them. And today our Chinese colleague also achieved great success in the study of the culture of Central Asia and the Uighur culture. Professor Geng Shimin is a unique expert. Professor Geng Shimin really deserves the right to call himself a Philologist. In the short time he has published data on the Turkic (Uighur) language of the Central Asia, he wrote many scientific works on religion of Buddhism,

Manichaeism and contemporary Kazakh language, enriched out fund by knowledge about writing in Central Asia and the ancient Turkic writing" (Shimin, 1999).

The future scientist was born on November 28, 1929 in the city of Xuzhou in Jiangsu region. He was educated at the religious school Xuzhou, where the demands of teachers of English (in most cases, they were Canadian religious mureeds) were very strict, as in the school the world history was taught in English. Learning foreign languages was based on the comparison and detection of their relatives. Thus, the habit to peer into the specifics of languages increased the ability and the opportunities for learning foreign languages.

In 1949 Geng Shimin entered the Faculty of Oriental Languages of Beijing University on specialty Uighur language. In 1952 the University sent him to study the Kazakh language in the XUAR (Xinjiang) in Dorbilzhin where the Kazakh people lived. In the summer of next year on returning to the Central National Institute (in 1952, Beijing University was merged with the Central National Institute), he opened together with teachers of the Kazakh language the study group on the Kazakh language and literature. From that moment, his scientific and creative work has been devoted to the study of the Kazakh language and problems of the Turkic studies (Shimin, 2003).

Up to 1970 of the twentieth century the branch of research of Geng Chimin was a contemporary Kazakh language, as well as the ancient Turkic and ancient Uyghur monuments. And since the end of the half of the 70-s studying ancient Turkic, ancient Uighur languages, contemporary language of yellow Uighurs and Tuvan languages, he was deeply engaged in research of ancient writing languages (ancient language of Ange-kusan, Tocharian language, Saks language in Khotan), history, cultures, religion of the peoples lived in Central Asia (Shimin, 2006).

Geng Shimin first became interested in Turkic studies in the middle of the 50-s of the last century. The reason for this was the case. The book of well-known Turkologist A.V. Gabain Grammar of the ancient Turkic language fell into the hands of the future scientist. After reading the book with a special interest, he considers that "this book has opened the door for me to a whole new world", and then he decides to "dive into the depths" of Turkic studies. But at this time the Turkic philology, particularly the study of ancient Turkic philology had an international character. Hence, in order to achieve certain advances, it is necessary to know as much as possible several languages. Mr. Geng felt such urgent need and began to learn several languages – English, Russian, German, French, Japanese, as well as such languages as Kazakh, Uzbek, Kyrgyz, Turkish, Tatar and Azerbaijani languages (Shimin, 2005a; Shimin, 2005b).

Mr. Geng Shimin repeatedly immersed in the environment of native speakers. In 1952 going to the regions Ili and Tarbagatai he researched the Uyghur and Kazakh languages. In the years 1955-1956 when he was in the expeditions on the researching of the Turkic languages in Xinjiang, the was first who from a scientific point of view, has determined that the native language in the Altai region was the Tuvan language which among the Mongols was called as white beads (Ak monshak), blue beads (Kok monshak). They made important records, collected language materials. After that, he made several visits to the neighborhood of Xinjiang, Gausu, Qinghai, researched the historical and archaeological evidences, identified the number of people who had spoken the languages of small nations such as the Salar Language and the yellow Uighur language. Scientific reports of these expeditions found positive reviews from foreign Turkologists (Shimin, 2008; Shimin, 2009).

The oeuvre of Professor Geng Shimin began in the period of the formation of Turkic Studies in China and continued in the period of flourishing of science (Shimin, 2005). The scientist left countless works and truly priceless heritage. 31 monographs (seven of them have

been translated from English, Japanese, German and Turkish), 5 textbooks, more than 200 scientific articles were published by Professor Geng Shimin. Some of his works have been translated into the languages of countries such as Britain, France, USA, Germany, Turkey, Japan, Hungary, and were published repeatedly in those countries. His main works are considered such research as Ancient Uighur epic – research of Oguzname (PRC, Urumqi: Xinjiang People's Publishing House, 1980, there were several variants of the books – in Chinese, then in Uighur and Chinese), Introduction to Linguistics (PRC, Wuhan: Publishing House of the Huagun University, 1981), Ancient Uighur poetry (PRC, Urumqi: Xinjiang People's Publishing House, 1982), The study of ancient culture and monuments of the Uighurs (PRC, Urumqi: Xinjiang People's Publishing House, 1983), Comments on the data relating to the Western suburbs in the period of the Tang Dynasty (PRC, Beijing: Zhonghua Publishing House, 1985), Introduction to the Kazakh language (PRC, Beijing: National Publishing House, 1985), The grammar of contemporary Kazakh language (PRC, Beijing: National University Publishing House, 1989), About writing records of the ancient Turks and ancient Uighurs in Dunhuang (Taiwan Taipei: Sinvenfyn Publishing House, 1994), The language of Orkhon-Yenisey records (PRC, Urumqi: Xinjiang People's Publishing House, 1999), The ancient writing records of the Uighurs (PRC Beijing: National University Publishing House, 2003), Study of ancient Turkic records (PRC, Beijing: National University Publishing House, 2005), The ancient history and culture of Xinjiang (PRC, Beijing: National University Publishing House, 2006), Kumyl record in ancient Uighur language (matrisimit) (PRC, Beijing: National University Publishing House, 2008), Grammar of the ancient Turkic language (PRC, Beijing: National University Publishing House, 2009). He translated about ten works from different languages among them the most famous are Beneficial Knowledge Zh. Balasaguni (Chinese translation), Brief History of Central Asia V.V. Barthold. The history of culture of the neighborhood of the West.

The scientist annually lectured abroad, participated in joint research projects at the University of Gottingen in Germany, at the University of Indiana in the United States, the University of Paris in France, in Asia and Africa Institute of British-London University, the University of Kyoto in Japan. In international forums on the problems of Turkic and Altaic Studies the scientific reports of the Professor Geng always attracted the attention of the participants, many of the research reports were awarded with special awards from the organizers. In 1987 the study of Mr. Geng Shimin Comments to the data relating to the western suburbs in the period of the Tang Dynasty, has become the owner of the first degree award in the field of study of ancient archives which initiated the Ministry of Information and Press of the People's Republic of China.

In 1992, the Professor won the Humboldt Fund award in Germany in the nomination World famous scientist. In 2000, at the 43rd Session of the Permanent International Altaistic Conference (PIAC), held in Belgium, at the final meeting it was adopted a special decree on awarding a gold medal PIAC to Professor Geng Shimin. The honored son of the Chinese people, a close friend of the Turkic peoples, the brightest star of Turkic Study, wise scientist Geng Shimin died in Beijing in December 2012 at the age of 83.

Professor Hu Zhenhua

Professor Hu Zhenhua is one of most Chinese scholars, who can rightly be called a luminary of the Chinese Turkology. Professor Hu Zhenhua was born in 1931 in the city of Qingdao in Shandong region. His nationality is Dungan. His Dungan name is Mohammed. In 1948 he was taken to the Department of Arabic language of the Nanjing State Institute of Oriental Languages. In 1953 graduated on specialty Uighur language at the Central Institute of Nationalities, in the

same year he stayed there to work as a teacher in this educational institution. Since that time, he was engaged in research of the Turkic studies (Zhenhua, 1991; Zhenhua, 1998a; Zhenhua, 1998b).

Today he is a famous Chinese Turkologist of a world scale. This is a scientist, who puts a lot of effort and work in the formation and development of Turkic studies in China. He is Professor at the Central University of Nationalities of Beijing in China, teaches at the Faculty of Language and Literature of Turkic-speaking peoples (Department of the Kazakh Philology, Department of the Uighur Philology). Professor Hu Zhenghua is a special scholarship owner of the government of the PRC, a special scientific adviser of the Eurasian Institute of Social Development at the Council of the PRC government, holder of the Order of Manas of the third degree, Honorary Academician of the National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Professor Hu Zhenhua as the founder of Kyrgyz philology in China since the 50-s under the guidance of well-known Soviet specialists S.P. Serdyuchenko and E.R. Tenishev studied Turkish and Russian languages. Throughout his scientific work, he contributed to the study of linguistics, translation theory, Turkic studies, ancient Turkic literature and Turkish language. Under the leadership of A. Tudaev he learned the language of the Kalka Mongols. The Professor is fluent in Russian, Turkish, Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Uighur languages. Since 1953 he has studied the culture of Central Asia and Islam. The main directions of his scientific researches is the ancient Turkic language and writing, ancient Turkic culture, culture and language of the Kyrgyz people in Kyrgyzstan and China. Professor Hu Zhenhua studied and translated famous epic Manas into Chinese.

In his scientific work on the study of language and writing of the ancient peoples fieldwork plays the special role. He considers the expedition to the steppes as the important procedure. In 1953 after graduation Hu Zhenhua went to Xinjiang. From November 1953 to October 1954 during the year he spent ethnographic expedition in Kyrgyz regions. During the expedition the future scientist was the whole year with Kyrgyz nomadic shepherds who lived in the border regions of Xinjiang, he collected language material, Kyrgyz folklore. In that year he was in the places had been above sea level – in Tien-Shan and Pamir, learned the Kyrgyz language, customs and traditions of the Kyrgyz, first met with the Kyrgyz epic Manas and it's the performer – manaschy (teller of the Kyrgyz epic about Manas hero).

Performance ability of the famous manaschy, wise Zhusup Mamai (1918-2014) had a lasting impression on him, opened the door to the world of the rich Kyrgyz folklore, which until that time had not yet been fixed on the letter. Thanks to the participation of the Professor Hu Zhenghua in several steppe expeditions in the 90-s of the twentieth century, under his editorship a textbook of the Kyrgyz language was compiled and a film about the life and culture of Kyrgyz people living in China was made. In addition, basing on the facts shown in the Historiography (Shiji Si Matsyan, he contributed to understanding the historical relationship of the Chinese and Kyrgyz peoples, giving evidence of the 2200 year history of the Kyrgyz country. Professor Hu Zhenghua denoted Kyrgyz genealogy, set their historical name Ge Kun and traced how and when this ethnonym was mentioned in the Chinese chronicles, taking the story far ahead. Thus Professor Hu Zhenhua, basing on historical documents, argued that the first writing evidences and references about the Kyrgyz people were recorded in the sources that were dated from 201 BC.)

Between 1980 and 2009 when policy of publicity was in China, Professor Hu Zhenhua during several steppe expeditions in Fuyu County of Heilongjiang Province has collected a rich material and important information necessary for writing of a scientific article about the Kyrgyz

peoples of this country. Speaking publicly, he had a strong impact on the global Turkology recognizing rational kernel in his discourse.

Professor Hu Zhenhua in summer of 2002 together with the delegation that consisted of 3 people went to the Khakass Autonomous Region of Russia. He collecting evidences and a rich empirical material, shared experience with the specialists of the Khakass State University. All of this was important for the research works on the Kyrgyz language in comparative terms with the Khakas language. As a polyglot Professor Hu Zhenhua was proficient in ancient Chinese, Russian, Kyrgyz, Turkish, Uighur and other languages. The scientist made numerous scientific discoveries during the creating of a new alphabet for the Kyrgyz peoples living in China, comparing the languages of the Kyrgyz in China and Kyrgyz peoples in Kyrgyzstan. Professor Hu Zhenhua has been constantly invited to the leading foreign research institutions and universities to deliver lectures, to speak at conferences. He has gone 19 times to Central Asia to deliver lectures, 15 times – in Japan, 7 times – in Turkey, in addition, he was invited to the scientific meetings in such countries as Russia, Bulgaria, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and France.

In June 2011, due to the 60th anniversary of the foundation of Central University of Nationalities and the 80th anniversary of Mr. Hu Zhenhua in Beijing a forum on the theme The study of national languages and cultures of the peoples of Central Asia was held. At the opening of the forum Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kyrgyzstan in China Zh. Kulubayev presented a letter of congratulation to Professor Hu Zhenhua on behalf of the President of Kyrgyzstan Roza Otunbayeva. SCO Secretary-General Muratbek Imanaliev on behalf of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization congratulated Professor Hu Zhenhua on his 80th anniversary. Professor Hu was active in training new specialists and researchers of Turkic studies. Thus, during the 1993-2013 period (during 20 years) Professor Hu Zhenhua prepared 11 doctors and a large number of masters of science (Zhenhua, 2006a; Zhenhua, 2006b; Zhenhua, 2006c).

As a well known Turkologist, specialist in culture of the Central Asian countries, Professor Hu Zhenhua developed many scientific works in the field, translated many Turkic texts. We should mention some of them:

- Kyrgyz proverbs and sayings (China Urumqi: People`s Publishing House of Xinjiang, 1962);
- Introduction to the Kyrgyz language (China Beijing, the Nation Publishing House, 1988);
- The course of the teaching of the Kyrgyz language (co-authored with Turkologist Zh. Emert from the USA, the called work was published in conjunction with the publishing house of the University of Indiana A Kirghiz Reader, 1988) (Zhenhua & Emert, 1988);
- The collection of studies on the Turkic languages (China Beijing: Publishing House of the nation, 1991);
- Kashgar dialect of the Uighur language (China Beijing: Publisher University of Nation, 1998);
- Phonetics of steppe peoples (China Beijing: Publishing House of the University of the Nation, 1998);
- Essay about five countries of Central Asia (China Beijing: Publishing House of the University of the nation, 2006);
- A study of the language and culture of the Kyrgyz (China Beijing: Publishing House of the University of the nation, 2006);
- Study on the culture of the Turkic-speaking peoples (China Beijing: Publishing House of the University of the nation, 2006);

- The Sino-Kyrgyz Dictionary (published in China and Kazakhstan), Translation into Chinese language of the fragments of the 11th section of the epic *Manas*, (published in Japan);
- Ancient Uighur writing records of the era of Ming Dynasty, etc.

In addition, more than 300 scientific papers on Turkic and Altaistic studies of the Professor Hu Zhenhua were published in the leading journals in China and abroad.

Professor Li Zengxiang

The sustained interest of the Chinese scholars to Turkish culture and history determined the development of Turkic studies. Professor Li Zengxiang who (born in 1933) was born in the city of Tianjin had a special place among many Turkologists of China. In 1953 he graduated from high school in his hometown, he entered the Philology Faculty of the Institute of the Central Nations. the specialty Kazakh language. In 1957, after finishing his studies, he was a teacher at the school. In 1956-1959 years he participated in a scientific expedition, of which purpose was to study the language of national minorities in China, as a member of the group he collected linguistic materials in Xinjiang, where the representatives of the Kazakh nationality lived. Since then, Professor Li has been a regular lecturer at the University of Central Nations (Department of the Kazakh Philology, Department of the Uighur Philology), he has been engaged in research of the Turkic philology (Zengxiang, 1988).

The scientist has such basic research as Preface to the Kazakh language (China Beijing: Publishing House of the nation, 1985), Kazakh language (China Chengdu: Publishing House of the people of Sichuan, 1988), Kazakh Chinese Dictionary (one of the authors-compilers. China Beijing: Publishing House of the University of the nation, 1989), Introduction to the Turkic languages (China Beijing: Publishing House of the Institute of the nation, 1992), Fundamentals of the ancient Turkic linguistics (China Beijing: Publishing House of the University of the nation, 2011) and others. His numerous scientific papers were publishing in China and abroad (Zengxiang, 2011a). In 1997-2000 he was the head of the fundamental project Comparative study of languages of the Turkic peoples in the field of humanities, funded by the Chinese government. Professor Lee Zengxiang (2011b) headed the department of the Kazakh language for a long time (then on the basis of this department Kazakh Languages and Literature Department was formed) at the University of the Central Nations, actively taught young specialists (Zengxiang, 1992).

The social activity of the Professor was also energetic: in different years he served as a member of the Board of the Turkish-speaking societies of China, was the editor of Herald societies, a board member of the local society of the Folklorists in Beijing, research fellow at the Center of Altaic studies under the University of Central Nationalities, etc. In October 2013 the Faculty of the Kazakh Language and Literature of the University of Central Nationalities organized an international conference devoted to the 80th anniversary of Professor Lee Tszensyan.

Representatives of Turkic Peoples, Who Developed the Turkological Science in China

Among Chinese scholars who have made a contribution to the development of China's Turkic studies, there were also the representatives of Turkic peoples – Uighurs, Kazakhs, Kirgiz lived in China. One of them was a prominent representative of the Uighur nation, a known Turkologist-scientist, Professor Hamit Tomur (1932-2006), who devoted his life to the study of the problems of the Uighur and Chagatai languages. In the 70-s of the twentieth century the scientist lectured on Chagatai language the students who studied in Ancient Turkic language specialty. In 1988, he opened a magistracy on specialty Chagatai language, took the first specialists. In 1987 he published a textbook Chagatai language in Publishing House Uighur of the city of Kashgar. This work was the first textbook on Chaghatay language in China.

Professor worked hard in the field of comparative study of the grammar of contemporary Turkic peoples, in particular, in the study of the Uighur language, as well as in the field of research and the translation of literary monuments of the Chagatai period into the contemporary Uighur language. The most significant works in this field: Grammar of contemporary Uighur language, Study of Chagatai language, Baburname, The basis of the Persian language, etc.

Talking about the representatives of later generations of Turkic studies, we must call the following names: Professor Erkin Augali (Kazakh, born in 1957), who is involved to research the ancient Turkic records and profound study of ancient Uighur language; Professor Zhang Dingjing (Chinese, born in 1956) – researches comprehensively the problems of contemporary Kazakh language, lectures on grammar of Turkish language; Professor Matreim Sait (Uighur, born in 1950) – is involved into the research of ancient Turkic language; Professor Wang Yuanxin (Chinese, born in 1958) – is involved in to the study of the ancient Turkic language; Professor Zhang Tieshan (Chinese, born in 1960) – is involved in the research of ancient Turkic writing records and ancient Uighur writing records; Professor Adil Zhumaturdu (Kyrgyz, born in 1964) – researches the folklore of the Turkic peoples; professor Aydar Mirkamal (Kazakh, born in 1966) – is involved in to the research of ancient Turkic records and writing ancient Uighur language, as well as many others who have devoted themselves to the Turkological science.

Conclusions

It should be noted that the main burden of scientific research in the field of Turkic studies in China is laid upon this generation, they must raise science to the world level, teach students and leave behind the bright openings. This generation, has though come through the road trodden by senior colleagues, but they have their own guidelines and scientific principles, the main of them is the quality of research.

Of course, we understand that the older generation's studies had many inaccuracies and misconceptions, it is due to the fact that the scientists of the older generation misconstrued the ancient and contemporary Turkic languages and some of them did not know the foreign sources. In addition, in many ways politics of China facilitated secrecy and so the scientists did not even know what achievements were in the global Turkic studies. In this regard, a high capacity for work and a rich scientific potential of the middle and younger generation of Chinese scientists give confidence for contemporary Turkological science in China, which can justifiably be called a breakthrough.

Today Turkologists of middle and younger generation in China successfully continue the work started by senior predecessors – the development of the Turkological science. And despite the youth, their share in the development of Turkic studies in China is significant.

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