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Comparing numerals in Orochon and Evenki

Abstract

The current article focuses upon the results of the numerals analysis and the ways of their forming in the Orochon language. The obtained data are compared with the existing data from previous studies on the numeral paradigm in the Evenki language. The study enabled to identify 8 subcategories of numerals in each language with 6 of them being similar. The main patterns to derive numerals are compounding and affixation. Compounding is the most productive pattern for cardinal and approximate numerals and fractions while ordinal numerals, measuring, distributive and limitative numerals, collective numerals to count animals are formed by adding suffixes. Genetic affinity of the Orochon and Evenki languages is expressed by the same or similar numeral stems and suffixes forming various numeral subcategories.

Keywords: the Orochon language, the Evenki language, cardinal numeral, ordinal numbers, measuring numerals, distributive numerals, collective numerals to count animals, approximate numerals, limitative numerals, fractions.

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