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**CEDIFOR**  
Centrum für Digitale Forschung in den Geistes-, Sozial- und Bildungswissenschaften

# A SOCIOLOGICAL SURVEY AND DOCUMENTATION OF ENDANGERED TURKIC VARIETIES IN POST-SOVIET KAZAKHSTAN

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# Outline of the Lecture

1. General information about Kazakhstan and its sociolinguistic situation
2. Language diversity in Kazakhstan and Turkic ethnic groups
3. Sociolinguistic data collection and possibilities of data analysis
4. Kazakhstani Turkish community: sociolinguistic data of the project
5. Language documentation of endangered Turkish varieties in Kazakhstan

# 1. Kazakhstan

## General Information

### 1.1 Location:

Kazakhstan (Қазақстан) is situated in the center of the Eurasian continent. The country extends from east to west for more than 3,000 kilometers, and from north to south for 1,700 kilometers. Kazakhstan borders on China, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan.

### 1.2 Population:

Kazakhstan is a multiethnic, multilingual and multicultural country, which gained its independence in 1991, after the collapse of the Soviet Union. During the Soviet era, the number of non-Kazakhs got bigger than the number of Kazakhs in the Kazakh SSR.

#### 1.2.1 The reasons for decrease in Kazakh population:

- the forced collectivization in the 1920ies and 1930ies which resulted in a famine in 1932-1933,
- repression of the Kazakh elite and the Great Purge in the 1930ies,
- massive emigration of the Kazakhs,
- a high death rate on the front lines during the Second World War.

### **1.2.2 Reasons for increase of non-Kazakh population in the 20<sup>th</sup> century**

Kazakhstan became a recipient of many refugees from different regions of the Soviet Union due to:

- deportation during the collectivization period in the USSR;
- deportation during the period of the Second World War;
- industrialization during the Second World War;
- Virgin Land Campaign during the 1950ies and 1960ies.

(Nevskaya, Tazhibayeva, 2015a: 322-323)

Many others (especially Slavs) came voluntarily to work in cities as factory workers, in government/Communist Party administration and other fields.

These events strongly influenced the ethnic-demographic and sociolinguistic situation in Kazakhstan. From a monolingual Kazakh country, it turned to Kazakh-Russian bilingual one with a strong Russian dominance. The language situation of non-Kazakhs is more complicated.

## 2. Language Diversity in Kazakhstan

### 2.1 Language rights

More than 130 languages are spoken in Kazakhstan. Different ethnic groups living in Kazakhstan have the rights to develop and learn their traditional languages in cultural centres or Sunday schools. Language are taught by the representatives of ethnic groups, their salary is paid by the state budget. Representatives of the deported ethnicities have got financial compensation. Young generation of Kazakhstani small ethnicities get a special quota for entering Universities.

Big ethnic groups have state-operated primary and secondary schools (Russians, Uzbeks, Uyghurs, Tajiks, Ukrainians, Poles). Teachers of Uzbek and Uyghur are trained at Kazakh Universities.

(Nevskaya, Tazhibayeva, 2015b:300)

Kazakh is the state language, Russian is an official language and has the same rights as the state language. Kazakhstan does not grant any other languages official status as a **regional language, local language, or minority language.**

## 2. Language Diversity in Kazakhstan

### 2.2 Turkic ethnicities in Kazakhstan. General Information

The Turkic-speaking community is the largest in Kazakhstan. Representatives of 24 Turkic languages live here (<http://www.eng.stat.kz>).

The majority of Kazakhstani Turkic-speaking communities are multilingual. They are fluent in their native language, Kazakh, and Russian. This especially concerns bigger Turkic ethnicities as Uzbeks, Uyghurs, Azeri, and Turks. Small Turkic ethnicities are mostly monolingual in Russian.

Nationalities	Census of 2009
Azeri	85.292
Altai	221
Balkar	1.798
Baškir	17.263
Chakass	223
Čuvaš	7.301
Dolgan	3
Gagauz	493
Yakut	119
Karaim	231
Karakalpak	2.828
Karačai	995
Kirgiz	23.274
Krimčak	35
Kumyk	481
Nogai	276
Tatar	204.229
Krim-Tatar	1.532
Šor	96
Tuwan	37
Turkish	97.015
Turkmen	2.234

## 2.3 Reasons of migration

Speakers of many Turkic languages and their varieties in Kazakhstan were separated from the main bulk of their speech communities mainly

- in the course of deportation from the Caucasus in 1944 (Turkish ethnic groups: Ahiska, Hemshilli, Laz, etc.), Karačays, Balkars, and Crimean Tatars;

- in the period from 1935 to 1937, the time of creating collective farms and nationalization of private property of wealthy peasants in the Soviet Union (e.g. Azerbaijanis, Kumyks, Nogays);

- some migrated to Kazakhstan even earlier (Tatars, Uzbeks)

The results of the census (to the left) should be taken into account with cautiousness, as our survey showed.

**Endangered or non-studied Turkic varieties are a special topic of this lecture.**

### 3. Sociolinguistic data collection and analyses of the data: the international project

International project “Interaction of Turkic Languages and cultures in the post-Soviet Kazakhstan”: 2014-2017 is funded by the Volkswagen-Foundation

**Main objectives:** sociolinguistic and linguistic data collection, database creation



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### **3.1 Sociolinguistic data collection and analyses of the data**

The sociolinguistic data were obtained by means of a questionnaire composed for this purpose and presented to representatives of various Turkic ethnic groups in Kazakhstan. All the obtained data are stored in open-access online databases, (see <http://tyurki.weebly.com>) presenting the already processed 2235 interviews.

# 3.1 The table form of our databank

All the information is stored in the databank. The databank allows for filtering the data according to 191 parameters (age, education, occupation, migration history, ethnic identity, language use, language attitudes, etc.) that can be combined according to the users' needs. The obtained information is visualized in the form of diagrams and tables with different filters. The answers of the respondents' are recorded in the database, after completing the questionnaire. All the information is stored on the Google Drive server.

Отметка времени	Жасыңыз (Сіздің жас	Қай елдің азаматы бол	Сіз қай этносқа жата	Төлқұжат бойынша / По паспорту	Өзіндік таным бойы	Ұлты / Национально	Сіздің әкеңіздің / Ва
17.09.2013 15:20:37	46	Казахстан	турки	турки хемшилы	турки хемшилы	турки	турки хемшилы
17.09.2013 15:59:51	46	Казахстан	карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы
17.09.2013 17:07:50	19	Казахстан	карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы
17.09.2013 17:32:55	75	Казахстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18.09.2013 10:22:22	19	Казахстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18.09.2013 11:11:31	52	Казахстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18.09.2013 11:34:32	48	Казахстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18.09.2013 11:47:17	73	Казахстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18.09.2013 11:59:08	75	Казахстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18.09.2013 12:28:44	33	Казахстан	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки
18.09.2013 12:40:06	26	Казахстан	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки
18.09.2013 12:48:56	27	Казахстан	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки
18.09.2013 13:24:51	28	Казахстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18.09.2013 15:24:18	21	Казахстан	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки
18.09.2013 16:05:36	14	Казахстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18.09.2013 18:20:46	55	Казахстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18.09.2013 18:41:21	75	Казахстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18.09.2013 18:57:32	25	Казахстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18.09.2013 19:11:14	40	Казахстан	татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
19.09.2013 9:28:11	57	Казахстан	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки
19.09.2013 9:37:49	54	Казахстан	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки

## 3.2 How to use Table Filters

Multiple filtering is possible to use for getting necessary information, e.g. we are interested in the Turkish diaspora of Kazakhstan, particularly in women living in the Zhambyl region of Kazakhstan, who work in the sphere of services. You are recommended to:

1. Choose the column C (citizenship) use filter and select "KAZAKHSTAN" from the drop-down list.
2. Choose the column D (ethnicity) use filter and select "TURKS" from the drop-down list.
3. Choose the column N (Gender) filter and select "female" from the drop-down list.
4. The list of respondents is shortened as we are interested only in Turkish women living in the South of Kazakhstan, residences of Zhambyl region.
5. Use the filter to select professions from the drop-down list. It illustrates only 2 Turkish women. They are living in Zhambyl region of Kazakhstan, and busy in the sphere of service. So, the list of respondents illustrated in the Table satisfies our needs.

### 3.3 Data visualization

Another possibility of the databank usage is combining filters with **Data visualization**.

All the data are divided into 7 subgroups on the project site [www.tyurki.weebly.com](http://www.tyurki.weebly.com)

E.g.: We are interested in the representatives of Turkish ethnicity, leaving in Kazakhstan with respect to their self-identification, nationality of their fathers, mothers, language proficiency, the role of the native language in the family etc.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Отметка времени	Жасыңыз (Сіздің жасыңыз)	Қай елдің азаматы болып табыласыз	Сіз қай этносқа жата	Төлқұжат бойынша / По паспорту	Өзіндік таным бойы	Ұлты / Национальносты	Сіздің әкеңіздің
2	17.09.2013 15:20:37			турки	турки хемшилы	турки хемшилы	турки	турки хемшилы
3	17.09.2013 15:59:51			карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы
4	17.09.2013 17:07:50			карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы	карачаевцы
5	17.09.2013 17:32:55			татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
12	18.09.2013 10:22:22			татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
14	18.09.2013 11:11:31			татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
15	18.09.2013 11:34:32			татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
16	18.09.2013 11:47:17			татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
17	18.09.2013 11:59:08			татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
18	18.09.2013 12:28:44			узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки
19	18.09.2013 12:40:06			узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки
20	18.09.2013 12:48:56			узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки
22	18.09.2013 13:24:51			татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
24	18.09.2013 15:24:18			узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки
26	18.09.2013 16:05:36			татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
29	18.09.2013 18:20:46			татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
30	18.09.2013 18:41:21			татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
31	18.09.2013 18:57:32			татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
32	18.09.2013 19:11:14			татары	татары	татары	татары	татары
33	19.09.2013 9:28:11	40	Казахстан	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки
34	19.09.2013 9:37:49	54	Казахстан	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки
35	19.09.2013 9:46:42	30	Казахстан	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки	узбеки

Сортировать A → Я  
Сортировать Я → A

▶ Фильтровать по условию...

▼ Фильтровать по значению...

[Выбрать все](#) - [Очистить](#)

- ✓ Казахстан
- Азербайджан
- Каракалпакстан
- Киргизия
- нет данных

OK Отмена

W	X	Y	Z	AA
Ата-анаңыздың білі	В. Атқаратын қызметіңіз немесе кәсібің	Г-1. Аймақ (облыс)	Г-2. Қала / Город	Г-3. Аймақ (облыс)
Среднее профессиональное	Работник сферы обслуживания		Астана	нет данных
Начальное	Безработный		Тараз	Ровный
Начальное	Безработный		Тараз	Гродеково
Среднее профессиональное	Безработный		Тараз	нет данных
Начальное	Безработный		Тараз	нет данных
Начальное	Другое		нет данных	нет данных
Среднее профессиональное	Госслужащий		Тараз	нет данных
Среднее профессиональное	Студент		Тараз	Красная Звезда
Среднее профессиональное	Работник сферы обслуживания		Астана	нет данных
Начальное	Рабочий		Тараз	нет данных
нет данных	Другое		Тараз	нет данных
нет данных	Другое		Тараз	нет данных
Послевузовское (аспирантура)	Другое		Тараз	нет данных
Высшее (бакалавриат, специалитет)	Другое		Астана	нет данных
Высшее (бакалавриат, специалитет)	Другое		Усть-Каменогорск	нет данных
Высшее (бакалавриат, специалитет)	Другое		Астана	нет данных
Высшее (бакалавриат, специалитет)	Другое		Астана	нет данных
Высшее (бакалавриат, специалитет)	Студент		Петропавловск	нет данных
Высшее (бакалавриат, специалитет)	Студент		Тараз	нет данных
Высшее (бакалавриат, специалитет)	Студент	Жамбылская область	Тараз	нет данных
Высшее (бакалавриат, специалитет)	Безработный	Жамбылская область	Тараз	нет данных

Сортировать A → Я

Сортировать Я → A

▶ Фильтровать по условию...

▼ Фильтровать по значению...

[Выбрать все](#) - [Очистить](#)

Восточно-Казахстанская о

Жамбылская область

Карагандинская область

нет данных

OK Отмена

Активация Windows  
Чтобы активировать Windows, перейдите к параметрам компьютера.

## Местожителство в Казахстане



## Турки. Местожителство в Казахстане

45,1 % - Жамбылская область

12,6 % - Акмолинская

10,2 % - СКО

8,3 % - ВКО

3,9 % - Алматинская

2,4 % - ЮКО

2,4 % - Карагандинская

1 % - Кызылординская

14,6 % - нет данных

## **4. Kazakhstani Turkish community: sociolinguistic and linguistic data of the project**

According to the Kazakhstan census data (1970-2009) the number of Turks was constantly increasing:

1970 – 18456

1979 – 25820

1989 – 49475

1999 – 75933

2009 – 97015

206 interviewees of the Turkish ethnic group participated in the survey. 195 of them (89,2%) are citizens of Kazakhstan. Besides, there are citizens of Turkey, Russia, Kirgizstan, Uzbekistan living in Kazakhstan now.

The families of 49 respondents (23.8 %) were not deported to Kazakhstan in 1944; 40 (19.4%) respondents' families were deported to Kazakhstan. The rest of the participants did not give any answer to this question.



## 4.1 Kazakhstani Turkish community: deportation to Kazakhstan

Our field research data helped to shed light on Kazakhstani Turks, who are represented by two groups: **Ahiska Turks** and **Karadenizli Turks**, previously known as Meskhetian Turks.

On November 14, 1944, the Turkish population was deported from Georgia to Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kirgizstan) without permission to return back to their historical place of settlement. In Kazakhstan, they live in the southern regions: Almaty, Jambyl, Shymkent.

The descendants of the deported Turks speak different varieties of Turkish, or other Oghusic Turkic (Azeri), their varieties have not been documented prior to this project.

Languages of Turkish sub-ethnic groups have kept some archaic features and developed innovative ones. Innovative features have emerged through contacts with other languages of Turkic origin, such as Kazakh, Kirgiz, Uzbek, Tatar, or languages of non-Turkic origin, such as Russian (before the deportation also with Georgian, or Armenian). Code shifting is taking place very easily. Turkish speakers are using elements of their native linguistic codes while speaking Kazakh or Russian, they easily change the languages during conversations.

## 4.2 Turkish sub-ethnic groups

Ahiska Turks and Karadenizli are subdivided into the following subgroups:

**Ahiska Turks** identify themselves as:

**Yerli Ahiska** (non-nomadic, indulging in agriculture, lit.: Axiska with land),

**Terekeme Ahiska** (cattle-breeding, nomadic Axiska); the latter speak a dialect of Azeri.

The language of the Yerli Axiska is closer to some Turkish dialects of Turkey (cf. Ersöz 2013).

Yerli Ahiska and Terekeme Ahiska are Sunni Muslims.

**Karadenizli** (people of the Black Sea) are represented by **Hemshili Turks** and **Laz Turks**.

Karadenizli Turks are Sunni Muslims as well. The population of the Black Sea Coast including Batumi in contemporary Georgia comprised Megrelian, Laz and Turks that were also called Laz because of their geographic location. The pastures of the Laz Turks overlapped with those of Hemshilli, who arrived to that area in the beginning of 20th century. Hemshilli (or Hemshinli) Turks used to live next to local Muslim Armenians in the Hemshin area. Hemshilli Turks had been nomads and migrated in search for better pastures up to Batumi.

## 4.3 Turkish sub-ethnic groups: cultural features and informants' narratives

The difference between Muslim Armenian Hemshins and Turkish Hemshilli was explained in one of the interviews (H. Sarymamed-ogly, born in 1924 in Batumi. Taraz, 2015):

- (1) Nətsün xəmşili jazuıldı ki? – *‘Why are we registered (in passport) as Hemshilli?’*
- (2) ɔni aŋlatajum: erməni dɔnmə Məsləmanlar var. erməni dɔnmə Məsləmanlar var – *‘I tell you: there are Muslim Armenians. There are Muslim Armenians’*
- (3) biz xəmşili köjündən gəldux xəmşilijux – *‘We Hemshilli came from the **village Hemshilli**’.*
- (4) xədə xəmşili köj adunu jazdirmiş - *‘They write the name of the village Hemshilli’*
- (5) Atalarımız Türkiyə dağlara - bizim bu şəj tərəfidə - Sovjet vaxtında gidejdilər – *‘Our grandfathers from Turkish mountains to our side in the Soviet time came (lit.: our grandfathers crossed the mountains from the Turkish side and came to our side).’*
- (6) - Türkiyə tərəfi gidej mijdunuz? – *‘Did you visit the Turkish side?’*
  - Sonra granitsa kikitlendi daxa kovermedilər Türkiyə tərəfinə - *‘After the borderline was closed, from that time they did not allow to go to the Turkish side.’*
  - Oraja qovermedilər, pasaportları aldıılar – *‘We were not allowed to (go) that side, the passports were taken away.’*

Turkish population from the Hemshin region had been registered in their passports as Hemshilli, which was later automatically overtaken by their Kazakhstani IDs. In contemporary Kazakhstan, most Hemshilli Turks changed their nationality to Turks. Compare the birth certificates of some Hemshilli people and their IDs.

One of the reasons for changing their nationality was the fact that in 1991 in Almaty, a “Turkish Center” was founded , which proclaimed Turkey to be the protector of the Ahiska (Meskhetian) Turks and other Turkish sub-groups. The Turkish language was declared as the "sole standard language" of Kazakhstani Turks.

An international weekly newspaper “AHISKA” is published in Almaty ([ahiska60mai.ru](http://ahiska60mai.ru)). Standard Turkish is taught at schools as an optional subject to Kazakhstani Turks.



The Turks live together as a community with very strong ethnic traditions. Ahiska, as compared to Hemshilli, have different cultural background in the lifestyle, cuisine, national dresses.



Ahiska Turks community, village Turgen (Almaty region, 2015)

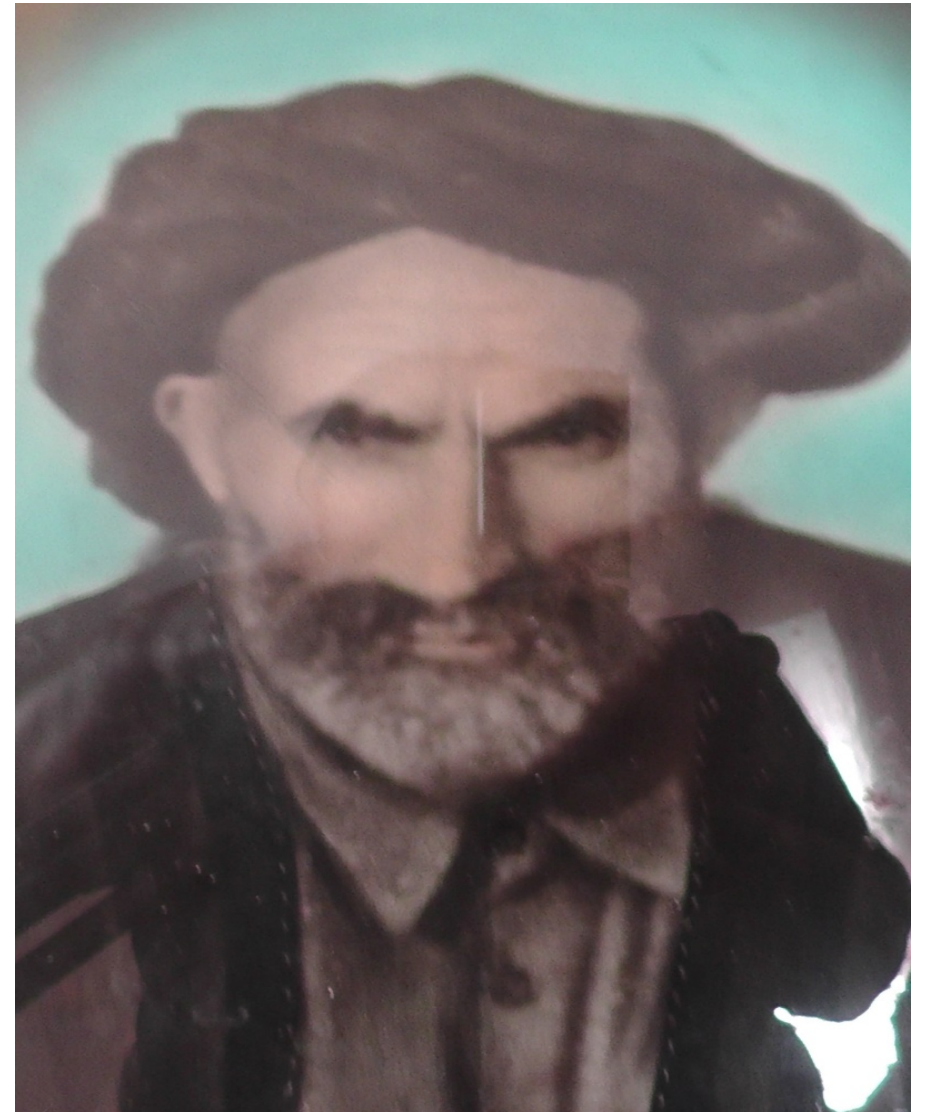


Hemshilli Turks community (Taraz, 2016).





An Ahiska man in the national dress



A Hemshilli man in the national dress



Ahiska women in national dresses



Hemshilli women in national dresses





An Ahiska family



A Hemshilli family



Hemshilli old women (Taraz, 2015)



**Marriages** between Ahiska and Hemshilli, Ahiska and Laz are not allowed. However, in the current period, marriages between Hemshilli and Laz are allowed by the elder generation of the community as well as marriages to other ethnicities - Kazakhs, German, Russian (see, e.g. Ahiska Andasbatir 270914 NIA V03).

bayan ajtyyyy gelinini qazaχ quzuηuz va:r | menim kelinim qazaχ quzu e:  
bər quzumuz də qazaχtə anarbeg dengen anarbeg xazur nəde: turadu  
kaskelende:di kaskelenski rajon turadu | -

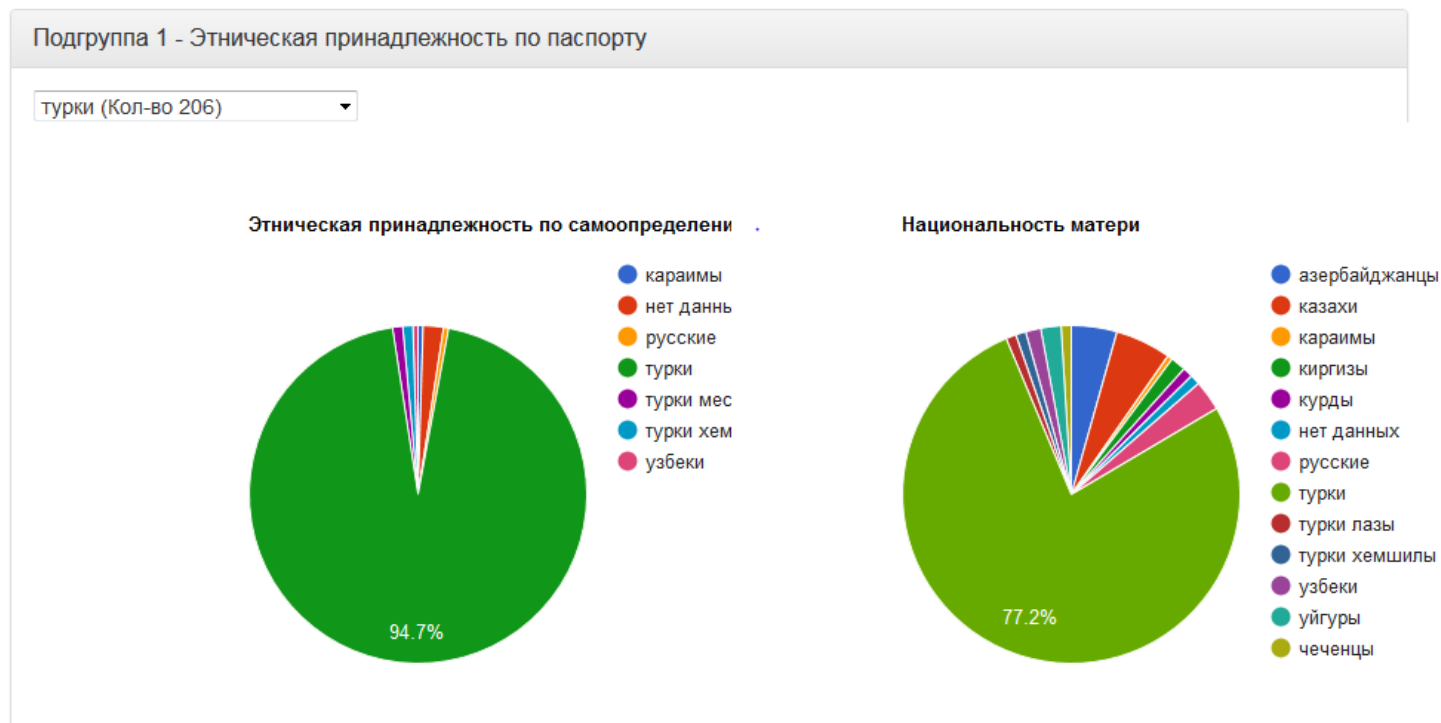
“We have a daughter-in-law, Bayan by name. |my daughter-in-law is a Kazakh girl. | My daughter is married to a Kazakh, Anarbek by name.| Anarbek now lives in Kaskelen, in the Kaskelen region“.

## 4.5 Kazakhstani Turkish community Analysis of the sociolinguistic data

### Nationality by passport

In the post-Soviet Kazakhstan, all people are free to define their nationality in passports.

In our database 206 interviewees are Turks by their nationality as defined in their passports. Most Turks self-identified themselves as Turks. Besides, Kazakhstani Turkish population self-identify themselves as Hemshilli and Meskhetian 1% each, as Karaim – 1 (0,5%), Uzbek 1 (0,5%), and Russian 1 (0,5%).





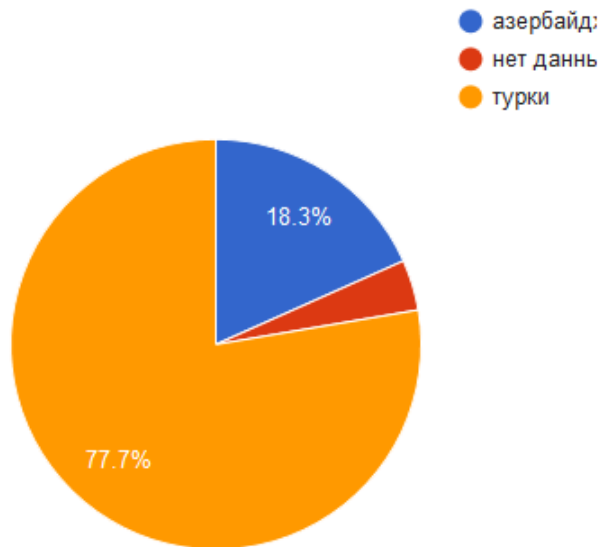
## 4.5.1 Nationality by self-identification

251 respondents identified themselves as Turks. 18,3 % of them are registered in their passports as Azeri.

Подгруппа 4 - Этническая принадлежность по самоопределению

турки (Кол-во 251)

Этническая принадлежность по паспорту



Национальность отца



# Nationality by self-identification

One of the reasons is that Turks were forcibly recorded in their passports as Azerbaijani at the beginning of 1920ies. This is proved by the story, which was recorded during the field research:

bin doxuz uez yurmü uezuncü jüldü savet ekmetleri sonar sovet ekmeti qurulandı bizim Türk milletini passport verendü avtomatıfeski azerbaydjan yazıjurdiler [IAN\_Ahiska\_Taraz\_22032015\_04] – “In 1923 the soviet government was organized, our Turkish people automatically were registered in passport as Azerbaijan”.

Comparative analyses of the results of Azeri people, who participated at the questionnaire gives interesting information. 46 (13,8%) of Azeri people among 331 interviewees identify themselves as **Turks**, and 274 (82,3%) identified themselves as Azerbaijan. However, Azeri by self-identification do not consider themselves Turks. Such mismatching with the nationality in the passport and self-identification is determined by the fact that the elder generation of Turkish population either had to change or hide their real ethnicity in order to protect themselves and their family members when the borderline with Turkey was closed in 1920ies, and in the period of the Second World War.

## 4.5.2 Language proficiency

A questions of our special interest was the language proficiency, the role of the native language in the family, native language as a means of communication between different generations, the role of the native language in education process. The survey results illustrate a strong desire of the Turkish ethnic groups to keep the native language in the family and in education.

The interviewees give the following answers to the question “How often is your native language used between your parents?”

62,1% of the respondents (**128**) always use the native language.

In the families representing two generations (parents and grandparents), 62% (206) of interviewers indicated that they always use the mother tongue.

In Turkic families, a woman is more responsible for giving the mother tongue to further generations: 52% (57) of mothers always speak the native language with children. The native language is spoken less often between fathers and children than mothers and children 48,3% respectively (148 respondents).

48% of children always use the mother tongue in the family. So, the analyses of sociolinguistic survey indicate a significant role of the native language in Kazakhstani Turkic families.

## The languages used in Turkish families:

### The language used by grown-ups:

- 128 (62.1%)** respondents use only the mother tongue
- 13 (6,3%)** – use only Russian
- 17 (8,3%)** – use Russian and mother tongue
- 2 (1,1%)** – Russian and Uzbek
- 9 (4,4%)** – Kazakh and Turkish
- 11 (5,9%)** – Kazakh, Russian and Turkish
- 5 (2,4%)** – Kazakh, Russian
- 1 (0,5%)** – only Kazakh
- 1 (0,5%)** - only Bashkir
- 1 (0,5%)** - only Kirgiz
- 20 (9,7%)** – **no answer**

### The language, which is used between children and grown-ups:

- 95 (46,1%)** – use only the mother tongue
- 19 (9,2%)** – speak only in Russian
- 20 (9,7%)** – speak Russian and Turkish
- 6 (2,9%)** – speak Kazakh and Turkish
- 30 (14,6%)** – speak Kazakh, Russian and Turkish
- 6 (2,9%)** – Kazakh, Russian
- 5 (2,4%)** – only Kazakh
- Bashkir, Kirgiz **0,5%** each
- 23-x (11,2%)** – **no answer**

**The language, which is used by Turkish interviewees with other ethnicities in Kazakhstan:**

**41** (19,9%) – use only Russian

**79** (38,3%)– Kazakh and Russian

**9** (4,4%) – Russian and native tongue

**20** (9,7%) – Kazakh and Russian and Turkish

**13** (6,3%) – only Kazakh



# Is everything fine?

## **BUT:**

Younger generations switch to Standard Turkish thanks to Turkish mass media, widely spread in Kazakhstan, and the increased mobility of these groups themselves: many young people study and work in Turkey.

Thus, it is a paradox situation: the spreading of Standard Turkish endangers the preservation of Meskhetian native varieties.

Besides, Standard Turkish is taught at 33 Kazakh-Turkish Lyceums, which function in every big regional city of Kazakhstan and two Universities: Suleiman Demirel University (Almaty) and K. Ahmet Yassawi University (Turkestan, South Kazakhstan Region).

## **Compare:**

From the middle of 1990-s up to 2005 Ahiska was taught in two schools of Taraz, but due to the retirement of Ahiska instructors the program was closed.

Ahiska people get aware of this mismatch. One example:

Standard Turkish was taught at school number 9 (Taraz) till 2014. It was closed because of parents' appeal to school administration. The reason was that Ahiska children were losing their native language skills and code-switched into Standard Turkish, even in the family (interview with the principal of school No.9 on January 2016).

On the contrary, Hemshilli Turks want their children to learn Standard Turkish (e.g. by satellite TV if there is no school in the vicinity) and speak it in the family, instead of their native language.

Thus, the Kazakhstani Turkish varieties are strongly endangered. It is a paradox situation: the spreading of Standard Turkish endangers the preservation of Turkish native varieties.

## **5. Documentation of endangered Turkish varieties in Kazakhstan**

Language variants of Turkish sub-ethnic groups are endangered or have already come to the point where there is a need for their revitalization.

The situation is aggravated by the fact that all the variants of the Turkish language in Kazakhstan are unwritten.

Separation from the main ethnic array in 1920ies led, in particular, to the preservation of ancient language features and certain elements of traditional Turkish culture for over 70 years, till 1991.

The language of Kazakhstani Turkish varieties has been largely preserved in the form in which it existed before the Kemal Atatürk reforms in the Republic of Turkey.

## 5.1 Language Peculiarities of Kazakhstani Turks

**Documentation of linguistic peculiarities** of different dialects of Turkish Diaspora in Kazakhstan is one of the **important tasks** of Turkic studies in Kazakhstan.

At present, there are sufficiently rapid processes of cultural assimilation of Kazakhstani Turks (both of Kazakh and Russian-speaking cultures).

The study of the language, culture, and self-identification of Turkish diaspora in Kazakhstan is of a double interest: on the one hand, from the point of view of studying the archaic form of the Turkish language, perhaps lost in the historic homeland; on the other hand, in terms of capturing and documenting the heritage which is threatened by the loss due to the process of cultural assimilation and generational change.

## 5.1.1 Peculiarities in Phonetics of Ahiska Turkish

- **breaking of the vowel harmony in Yerli :**

Ahiska Turkish	Standard Turkish
Buni	bunu
tuzli	tuzlu
ʃɜmdi	şimdi
jatɯp	yatıp

- **usage of open vowel æ in Yerli Ahiska, ε in Hemshilli, instead of e in Standard Turkish**

Ahiska Turkish	Hemshilli	Standard Turkish
ævlær	εvlær	evler
Tæpæ	tεpε	tepe
Gælin	gεlin	gelin
G æ l d gældux	u χ	geldik
Getilær	gεtilær	Gittiler
dillær	dillær	diller

- the usage of voiced consonants instead of unvoiced in Standard Turkish (Rind-Pawłowski M., Şahingöz E., 2016: 283)

Yerli Ahıska Turkish	Standard Turkish
durna	turna
geçi	keçi
bazar	pazar

- the usage of unvoiced consonants instead of voiced in Standard Turkish (Rind-Pawłowski M., Şahingöz E., 2016:284)

Yerli Ahıska Turkish	Standard Turkish
tayi	dayi
toğri	doğri
tuy	duy
köl	göl

- the usage of the sound [ɸ], which is not used in Standard Turkish

Yerli Ahiska Turkish	Standard Turkish
oɸlan	oğlan
Türk topraɸı	Türk toprağı
çodzuɸı	çodzuğı
Allaɸa şukur	Allaha şükür

- the usage of the sound [q] instead of [k] in Standard Turkish

Yerli Ahiska Turkish	Standard Turkish
Qız	Kız
dił biraz qırılur	dil biraz kırılır
eη büyük Qurban bajramı	en büyük Kurban bayramı

- the usage of the sound [x] instead of [k] in standard Turkish

Yerli Ahiska Turkish	Standard Turkish
jox	joh
gældux	geldik-
jatıjorux	yatıyoruz

## 5.1.2 Peculiarities in Lexicon of Ahiska

Archaic forms of Yerli Turkish is represented in the lexicon.

padišax is referred to the highest authority

sædir – a place of honor in the house

kæča - large felt mat

anaxtar - key

хузмætkær- wage-worker (наемный работник) (Алиев, 1978: 25)

maxmudja – golden coins, which have been used as necklace (data from field research May, 2015 – Almaty)

The surnames of Ahiska and Hemshilli Turks differ from each other.

**Ahiska Turks have surnames of Arabic, Persian or Georgian origin** with Russian suffixes marking the gender – *ov/-ev* - for masculine; *-ova/-eva* - for feminine:

**Surnames of Arabic or Persian origin**

Ismail-ov Rovshan (m);

Asi-ev Šahismail Ahmetuly (m);

Isa-ev Ajimurat Alybaba-evich (m);

Davriš-ova Gulistan Suleimanqyzy (f);

Aziz-ova Heiria Mukadinovna (f),

Ahmed-ova Fatima (f) (Almaty, 2015)

**surnames of Georgian origin:**

Čačidze Asija, Beridze Ismail (Merke, 2014),

Kiknadze Ibragim, Gogolašvili Ravil (Aliyev, 1978)



**Xemšili and Laz Turkish people have the names and surnames of Arabic and Persian origin as well but the ending -ogly is used instead of Russian suffixes without gender differentiation (Taraz, 2014; 2015).**

Jalal Sarymamed-oğly (m);

Iskander Bešli- oğly (m);

Izmir Hadjidursun oğly (m);

Šadia Sarymamed-oğly (f);

Naima Hadjidursun oğly (f),

Asia Moldahasan-oğly (f);

Šukri Moldahasan-oğly (f).

**In everyday life, name's shortening is popular both for Ahiska and Karadenizli Turks. They are used as diminutives:**

Israfil → Iso (m)

Šähmändär → Šamo (m);

Tæfrik → Tæfo (m);

Farida → Fado (f);

Fätima → Fato (f);

Maral → Meriko (f);

Jeiran → Janiko (f).

**Diminutives expressing respect are used as honorific forms according to the models of Kazakh diminutives:**

**Hasan – Haseke**

**Iskander – Sake**

**Jalal – Jake.**

### **Kinship terms in the language of Turkish Ethnicities**

**(Aliev, 1978) (DavriŠ-ova Gulistan, Almaty:2015, Jalal Sarymamed-oğly: Taraz, 2015)**

<b>Kinship terms of blood</b>		
<b>Ahiska Turks</b>	<b>Hemshilli</b>	<b>STL</b>
<b>dædε - grandfather</b>	bɤjɤq baba	dede
<b>nænε - grandmother</b>	bɤjɤq ana	baba anne
<b>baba - father</b>	baba	baba
<b>anε - mother</b>	ana / nεnε	anne
<b>oğul - son</b>	oğlum	oğul
<b>qız - daughter</b>	qızım	kız
<b>torun– grandson/daughter</b>	torunim torunı	torun
<b>torunin toruni– grand-grand son/daughter</b>		torun çocuğu

e.g. bänim ašindi iki tänä ävdäki torunlarim iki tänä (Ahiska\_Andasbatir\_270914\_NIA\_A01 ab 27:40.3)

# Kinship terms on the sideline

## Kinship terms on the sideline

### Ahiska

taji– uncle by mother’s side

hala – aunt by mother’s side

æmi - father’s brother

abla– uncle’s wife (жена дяди)

bibi– father’s sister (сестра отца)

jegen– nephew (племянник)

Hemshilli

daji

teyze

εmiče

gεlin

hala

jegen

STL

Day<sub>1</sub>

teyze

amca

yenge

hala

yeğen

# Terms of relationship by marriage

Terms of relationship by marriage		
Ahiska	Hemshilli	STL
qoza– husband	qoza	koca
qari – wife	qariš	karı
gælin– sister-in-law	gælin	gelin
æništa– son-in-law	æništa	enişte
görüm– sister-in-law	baldyz	görümce
ęlti– sister-in-law (brother’s wife)	gęlin	elti
Jenğæ– woman, accompanied by a daughter-in-law into the house of the groom	Jenğe	yenge
qajyn – brother-in-law		
bazænaç – brother-in-law (husband’s brother)		
baldyz– sister-in-law (husband’s sister)	qajın/ qayın birader	kayın birader
qajnata – father-in-law	bazęnaç	bacanak
qajnana - mother-in-law		
dıngğur – matchmaker	baldyzym	görümce
qirva a man, who stands near the boy at the circumcision		
	qajnata	
	qajnana	kaynata
	dyngyr	kaynana
	qirva	dünür
		kirve

## 5.2 Documentation of endangered Turkish varieties in Kazakhstan

VideoPad Video Editor was used for editing audio or video material.

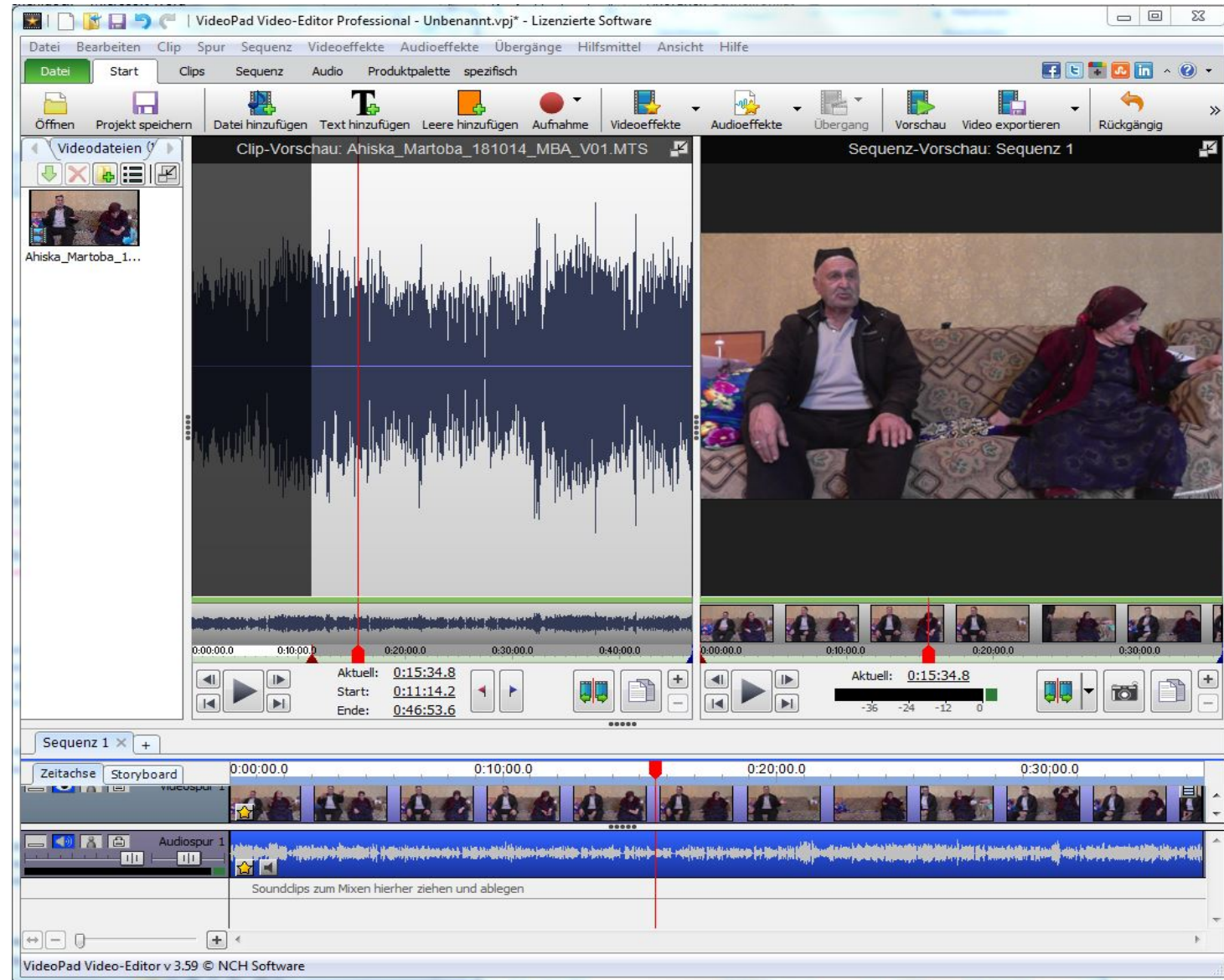
Further steps are

1) deciphering and interlinearizing the data in the Toolbox or ELAN programs according the following pipelines:

Toolbox – ELAN

ELAN – Toolbox – ELAN

2) Uploading both raw and proceeded data to the Language Archive at MPI Nijmegen



# 5.4 Morphologic analyses

‘Field Linguist’s Toolbox’ is used for morphologic analyses.

\id	006			
\ref	006:045			
\per				
\tx	<b>nærædæ</b>	<b>oxumaj</b>	<b>qurtardus</b>	<b>šej</b>
\tr	närädä	oxumaj	qurtardis	šäj
\mb	närä	-DA oxu -mA	-(j)I qurtar -DI -Iz	šäj
\ge	where	-loc study	-verbal noun -akk save -pst -2pl	thing
\ps	<i>interrogation -case v -verbal noun -case v -tense -pers.end n</i>			
\ft	<b>Where did you study?</b>			
\nt				
\tx	<b>u</b>	<b>institut näj</b>	<b>qurtardus</b>	
\tr	u	institut näj	qurtardis	
\mb	o	institut nä(j)	qurtar -DI -Iz	
\ge	3sg	institute what	save -pst -2pl	
\ps	<i>pron (pers) n interrogation v -tense -pers.end</i>			
\ft	<b>Which subject did you study?</b>			
\nt				
\tx	<b>bæn</b>	<b>Gurtardum</b>	<b>ot:uz jäd:inji jilda</b>	<b>pedagozi mistot</b>
\tr	bän	gurtardim	ot:uz jäd:inji jilda	pedagozi inistut
\mb	ben	qurtar -DI -(j)im	ot:uz jäd:inji jil -DA	pedagozi institut
\ge	1sg	save -pst -1sg	thirty seventh year -loc	pedagogics institute
\ps	<i>pron (pers) v -tense -pers.end num num n -case n n</i>			
\ft	<b>I graduated from the institute of pedagogics in the year 37.</b>			
\nt				

\lx	\ps	\ge
<b>danış</b>	<i>v</i>	consult
<b>dava</b>	<i>n</i>	cause
<b>davaj</b>	<i>ptcl</i>	imp
<b>dävät</b>	<i>v</i>	invite
<b>dävlät</b>	<i>n</i>	state
<b>dağ</b>	<i>n</i>	mountain
<b>degül</b>	<i>v</i>	not
<b>dekabr</b>	<i>name (month)</i>	december
<b>depirtirivat</b>	<i>v</i>	deport
<b>-DI</b>	<i>tense</i>	pst
<b>di</b>	<i>v</i>	say
<b>dijä</b>	<i>cvb</i>	by saying
<b>-DIK</b>	<i>ptcp</i>	ptcp
<b>dil</b>	<i>n</i>	language
<b>diläk</b>	<i>n</i>	wish
<b>din</b>	<i>n</i>	religion
<b>-Dir</b>	<i>ptcl</i>	cop
<b>direktur</b>	<i>n</i>	director
<b>dišört</b>	<i>n</i>	T-Shirt
<b>dolar</b>	<i>n</i>	Dollar
<b>dördünji</b>	<i>num</i>	fourth
<b>dört</b>	<i>num</i>	four
<b>dost</b>	<i>n</i>	comrade
<b>doxsan</b>	<i>num</i>	ninety
<b>doxsaninji</b>	<i>num</i>	ninetieth
<b>doxuz</b>	<i>num</i>	nine
<b>doxuzunju</b>	<i>num</i>	ninth
<b>dudax</b>	<i>n</i>	lips
<b>dünja</b>	<i>n</i>	world





# Conclusion

Kazakhstan presents a very interesting area for studying Turkic communities, who came to this territory by various reasons.

Turkish Diaspora is fully integrated into modern realities of Kazakhstan, have the right to keep their language and culture.

It should also be noted that Turkish representatives consider Kazakhstan to be the most comfortable country among all the Central Asian states for preserving the culture, language (information from interviews during field research in South Kazakhstan in March 2014, September 2014, May 2016, Almaty region in June 2015). Majority of them do not want to change the citizenship, or move to other countries.







Thank you for your  
attention!

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