

# The Vocabulary of Azan Regional Official Documents (Databases of the 16-17th Centuries)<sup>1</sup>

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## Abstract

Regional Russian literary texts are a valuable source for study of both appellative and onomastic vocabulary. Their material is important for a wide scope of humanitarian and social sciences including historical lexicology. At present the work of inventory, registry, study and description of regional sources data are among the most current interests in Russian historical lexicology and lexicography. The article in view presents the results of a multi-aspect vocabulary study on the basis of a corporate database of more than 880 official texts of the Kazan region dated XVI-XVII centuries (containing over 1 million word usages); it also outlines the strands of lexical research of the texts, shows the regional character of the material, describes the historical linguistic informative value of the documents, as well as the potentials of the findings in other researches of various kinds. The results confirm the value of the regional material for identifying common appellative lexical units including those that served as prototypes for onomastic lexical units. The body of the Kazan regional official texts allow to update current historical dictionaries, deepen the chronology of appellative words, and identify lexical units, meanings and variations that are not yet shown in Russian historical dictionaries.

**Keywords:** Russian Language; Kazan Region; Official Documents; Lexical Descriptiveness.

## 1. Introduction

The Russian official documents contain various and extensive materials that are of absolute value for a wide scope of humanitarian and social sciences (linguistics, history, cultural studies, etc.). A large number of the documents have not yet been presented to a wider scientific audience, thus the task of their inventory, registry and description becomes of immediate interest.

Besides, regional texts are a valuable source for historic lexicology since they contain appellative and onomastic lexical units of the period in view. It is

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because of the regional documents that the materials of historic lexicology are enlarged and corrected, and the regional units are discovered (Bahrami, 2018; (Puspitasari et al., 2019).

## 2. Material and Methods

The Kazan University is engaged in registry, analysis and description of the materials of the Kazan regional literary texts as part of historical and regional linguistic studies (see, for example, (Mardanova et al., 2017; Martiyanov & Galiullin, 2015; Novak, 2019; Zholobov, 2017); currently a lexical body of the Kazan official texts has been consolidated containing over 1 million word usages (<http://www.klf.kpfu.ru/kazan/index.php>).

The lexical content of the texts has a great informative value for describing the national language and its regional aspects from the time period in view; the analysis of the texts allows to identify lexical units that add to or correct the data in the dictionaries (in the current article we will mostly appeal to the «Dictionary of the Russian Language of XI-XVII centuries», referred to below as D17).

The research uses the following methods: descriptive, historic word-formative and historic etymological (when analysing and classifying lexical units used in the analysed documents), and contrastive-comparative (when comparing textual materials and dictionary data).

## 3. Results

The vocabulary of the texts has been studied in the following spheres:

I. Study of the appellative lexical units.

When comparing the units with the dictionary data, the following findings were made:

1) Lexical units absent in D17.

The total number of the units to be added to the data of historic dictionaries is over 150, and that is only among the documents of the first half of XVII century. The lexical units in view belong to various parts of speech. We shall give a few examples of nouns.

Among the nouns we can point to a group of unregistered lexical units with the word-formative meaning «a male characterised by his relationship with the phenomenon designated by the motivating word defining his activity, character, occupation or craft» (these units are found in the «Roll of the yards and persons of the city of Kazan and its surroundings»): *krestovshhik*, *podry`bnik*, *rezanshhik*, *podseval`nik*, etc. For instance: *Dv. Fed`kaSeliverstovpodseval`nik z det`mi(2/4XVII-91:108<sup>1</sup>)*. *Podseval`nik*– ‘someone who is involved with

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<sup>1</sup> Here and below for a more convenient search in the electronic version (see: <http://www.klf.kpfu.ru/kazan/index.php>) we refer to the documents giving the date first (XVI,

«подсевание», that is, the sieving of grain through the sieve (грохоты) to remove the chaff (see in D17 *podseval`shhik*).

A special group is constituted by female designations: *kabachnicza*, *oreshnicza*, *krestovnicza*, etc. Unfortunately, the context doesn't allow us to decide on the meaning of these units: 'a person designated by his or her occupation', or 'a woman designated by her husband's occupation'.

Another large group of unregistered units consists of diminutive noun forms: *buyarachek* (from *buerak* 'буерак, овпар'), *voronochek* (from *voronok*, 'a small jug'), *dubik* (same as *dubok*, 'a small oak tree' in D17), *irmoloj*, 'the book containing the beginning verses (irmos) of all the liturgical books of the Orthodox Church', *kanuncy* (possibly, 'the liturgical hymn book'), *osinka* (in D17 *osina* 'an aspen tree'), etc. For instance: *derevniMaly`eSii*, *molodojdubik*, *a nadubu gran`* (1/4XVII-3: 67).

A separate group is formed by the unregistered in D17 units with the root affix *pol-* (*polu-*), meaning 'part or half of what is named in the base morpheme': *poldlinnika*, *poluversta*, *polugrivna*, *poluderevnya*, *poludlina*, *polukopna*, *polupustosh`*, *poluyasak*, and many others.

The following adjectives can be added to D17: *bezsol`ny`j* (in D17 *bessol`e`* 'absence of salt'), *belochekanny`j*, *bogotelesny`j*, *gorodchaty`j*, *desyatinnichny`j*, *lestvyanoj*, *molozhavy`j* ('that which looks young (about plants)'), *novichij*, *monashij*, *otczovy`j*, *porozvilovaty`j* (in the Dictionary of Russian Dialects (henceforth DRD) — *razvilovaty`j* 'having forks, branchy, ramified'), and many others.

A number of adjectives absent in C17 are related to the 'form' lexical set and have a complex structure with *-verxij* in the second part of the lexical unit: *dvoeverxij*, *odnoverxij*, *pyativerxij*. For example: «*ivmestoberezy` polozhena gran` nabortnojnaodnoverxojsosne*» (1/4XVII-159: 45).

As for the verbs absent in C17, some of them are aspect forms and forms with a postfix *-sya*: *izzhivati* (in D17 *izzhiti*), *norovitisya* (in D17 *norovitias* having meaning 4: 'to try hard, to look for opportunity'), *podkashivati* (in D17 *podkositi*, 'to cut down, to mow down or mow a little'), *ssy`xatisya* (in D17 *ssoxnutisya* 'to become dry, to dry out'), etc.

Another group absent from the verbs in C17 consists of the units with the prefix *po-* added to the units with the prefix *vy`* - (meaning 'to perform an action over all (or many) objects, or an action done by all (or many) subjects, in several steps'): *povy`voziti*, *povy`gniti*, *povy`kopati*, *povy`rubiti*, *povy`sushiti*, etc. For example: *Ainy`egrani...* \ *novy`epomeshhikipovy`rubiliipovy`zhgli*, *ikoren`ya* (2/4XVII-114:154).

## 2) Meanings not registered in D17.

These are also units belonging to different parts of speech. We shall give a

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1/4XVII, 2/4XVII, 3/4XVII, 4/4XVII centuries), the document number after the dash, and the page number after the colon.

few examples:

*Vetel`nik*: «*vverxottogomestapo Kame s verstupovetel`nikvladeetMitropolit*» (1/4XVII-159:36). Here it means 'a white willow forest' (in C17: 'willow branches as fire wood' (the first usage fixed in D17 is dated 1697, in our documents – 1622).

*Inogorodny`j*: «*ponashemuukazuplatyatoni v astoroxanii v kazanii v nizhneminogorodnuyuposhlinu s torgovy`milyud`mirovno*» (1/4XVII-10:287). It is used as part of a collocation *inogorodnayaposhlina*, 'fee charged from dwellers of other towns' (see in D17 *inogorodny`jas* having meaning 1, 'pertaining to other towns').

*Podvaliti*: «*ZaYakushkom, prozvishheNekras, s tovary`shhemlesupodvaleno pod pashnyuposmetedesyat` desyatin v tri polya*» (2/4XVII-109:312) 'to clear the wood to make space for agriculture' (see in D17 *podvaliti* meaning 'to mow off').

3) Variations absent in D17.

The variations may be related to various phonetic changes: *arczux* (in D17 *arczug*, 'a duke'), *voxanshhik* (in D17 *axanshhik*, 'a fisher who uses an *axanto* fish'), *vsmuzhati* (in D17 *vozmuzhati*), *kamcha* (in D17 *kamka*, 'colourful, ornate silk fabric'), *perepelki* (D17: *pelepelki* 'small metal decorations such as sequins, buttons, carved figures'), etc.

When discussing the indirect indications to the origin of dialects L. M. Gorodilova (Gorodilova, 2003) points to the phonetic and morphological features found in the official texts. Among them she mentions the change of [a] to [e] widely represented in the Kazan documents of the time period in view<sup>1</sup> (*devet`*, *desetina*, *ruxled`*, *ty`secha*, etc.), or inconsistent use of voiced and voiceless consonants (for example, *lotochka* instead of *lodochka*). A large number of phonetic and morphological changes in the Kazan documents was related to assimilative-dissimilative processes (*bezperexodno*, *butto*, *dextyar*, *mesyashny`j*, *otvotchik*, *pismo*, *prozvishho*, etc.), which is largely explained by the influence of common oral speech; there are replacements of *a* with *o* (*atoman*, *kobak*, *porovoj*, etc.), which probably reflects the phenomena of hypercorrection.

The grammatical variations (as compared to D17) found in the literary texts of the Kazan region in most cases are related to the change of gender: *zhivotinishko* (in D17 *zhivotinishka*, 'livestock'), *pokrov`* (in D17 *pokrov* □ as having meaning 2, 'a veil or a cover of various uses (a kind of church ware)'), etc.

4) Lexical units dated differently in the Kazan documents as compared with D17.

Correction of the dates is an important part of work when clarifying the lexical content of a language at a certain stage of its development and can help to identify the origin of a lexical unit. One of the most reliable ways to confirm that the

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<sup>1</sup> Here we show the main phonetic-morphological changes as found in the literary texts (independent of the data in D17).

word already existed is its usage in a literary text.

Let us give some examples of finding an earlier usage of a word in the Kazan documents (for instance, in the Kazan documents of the first half of the XVII century 221 lexical units are found dated now 20 or more years older): *adamashka*(1626□1565<sup>1</sup>), *altabas*(1653□1613), *bez`yavochno*(1606□1565), *biryuk*(1654□1593; in D17‘wolf’; in the analysed documents the word is used as part of a personal noun), *vinokur*(1667□1565), *voskovoij*(1656□1613), *golubyatnik*(1656□1565), *erdan`* (meaning 3 in D17, 1692□1613), *zagorodny`j*(1649□1565), *kotlishko*(1602□1565), *krest`yanishko*(1676□1598), *letoprovozhdenie*(1676□1613), *mukoseya*(1609□1565), *podsveshnik*(in D17 *podsvetchnik``* – 1638□1565), *prepodobnomuchenicza*(1657□1613), *serebryanik*(in D17 *serebrennik``* – 1670□1565), etc.

5) Set expressions not registered in D17.

After S.G. Shulezhkova, I.V. Petrova and other researchers, we shall designate set expressions as set verbal complexes (SVC below) meaning ‘combination of two or more verbal components that are built according to the known grammar laws of the language and have consistent semantics, reproducibility and steadiness of vocabulary and grammatical structure with acceptable minor variations within certain limits’ (Korotenko, 2006).

Most cases of SVC that we have identified are found in the Church’s authoritative texts that contain particular cliches and vivid images. Thus, in the document 1/4XVII-60 there are 8 *clichéd SVC* (their usage related to their genre requirements; this includes courtesy formulas) and 6 *terminological SVC* (used to designate actions related to a certain sphere of human activity).

Let us give a few examples of clichéd expressions:

**Vseyadny`jmech** ‘all-destroyingsword’: «*a kakvsesilny`jxeruvimskijVlady`ka, popremnozhestvushedrotsvoix, ostanokroda \ xristiyanskogoizbavil by` otvseyadnogomecha*» (1/4XVII-84:339).

**Gladnoutesnenie** ‘punishmentbystarvation’: «*pokamestaoni, v dolgomvremeni, \ gladny`mutesneniem, boyarami \ vsemratny`mlyudemkakiyaporuxineuchinili*» (1/4XVII-60:579).

**Nezlobivayadusha** ‘unmalicioussoul’: «*i ne szhalishashyanassavshixmlekomladencev, mladencev, nezlobivayadusha; ne vsi li izpishachashuyarostiignevaBozhiya?*»(1/4XVII-60:579).

5) Stylistic features on the lexical level in various groups of documents.

Literary texts of the Kazan region use scholastic terms as a feature of the genre and style (first of all, in the documents of the church authorities which are characterised with a lot of imagery, journalism and outreach agenda), in order to reinforce instruction (see, for example, 1/4XVII-84-339: «...*nam by`*

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<sup>1</sup> Here and elsewhere the first date is as given in D17, the second date (after the arrow) is as found in the documents of the Kazan region.

*vsemuxristoimenitomunaroduprositi u negopreblagagoBoga s  
vozdy`xaniemislezamimilosti, chtoby` nam dal  
naMoskovskoegosudar`stvoGosudaryablagochestiva...»*), to maintain the etiquette (for example, in 1/4XVII-60:579: «...*tverdagoadamantainepokolebimagostolpa*»), and to make the formal style more solemn. To do so the authors use compound words (*mezhdusobie, chelovekolyubecz*), abstract nouns ending with *-nie, -stvo, -stvie*; linking words and adverbs typical for the bookish style (*tokmo, pache*), etc. We see in the documents how various elements and means interact with one another creating a stylistically cohesive text.

#### 6) Local lexical units.

The task of identification of a lexical unit as a local or national one in the given text is quite difficult. A few researchers have addressed this issue (L. Y. Kostyuchuk, S.I.Kotkov, O.S.Mzhelskaya, O.G.Porokhova, F.P.Philin, etc.). They have observed the degree of looseness when defining local elements (Kotkov 1970), as well as the importance of matching the region of use in old documents with the isogloss in the modern dialects (Philin, 1984).

When defining the local units, we used the following criteria: 1) the lexical unit in view or its meaning are not found in D17; 2) its regional character is confirmed by the data of Russian dictionaries, both historical and modern, that contain regional vocabulary.

Based on the criteria above the following lexical units were identified that in our view have a regional character: *bakaldina, bol`shak, vdopolnok, gumnicza, dubrovnik, klyuka, podtraviti*, etc.

We shall emphasise that some results at this stage are partly hypothetical. At present when the Russian vocabulary hasn't been completely explored, the modern kind or any historic variations, we can only build on a very limited data of historic dictionaries including regional ones and dictionaries of contemporary dialects. We can only express our hope that researches in the area of data inventory of the regional texts will be plenty in the nearest future, and the researchers will have more necessary data for analysing, and then the preliminary conclusions based upon limited data will get proof or disproof.

#### II. Study of proper names (anthroponymy and toponymy included).

Proper names found in the texts of the Kazan region often add support to the data of historical dictionaries of the Russian language:

a) they allow to deepen the chronology of some lexical units; see, for example, *Biryuk, Goremy`ka, Zy`k, Krivosheya, Malecz* and many others;

b) they enlarge the roster of old Russian appellative words by preserving words not registered in historical dictionaries. For instance, *budilka* meaning in DRD 'the one who wakes up someone, rouses someone from sleep; an object used to awaken somebody': «*D(vor) BudilkaOfonas`evastrel`cza*»; *нюхало* meaning in DRD 'nose': «*Dv(or) SemejkaFilat`evsy`nNyuxalo*».

Toponyms and anthroponyms also contain priceless information about the

interaction of the Russian and other peoples on the given territory (see, for example, Tatar words turned into nicknames: *IvankoBusurman*, *BogdankoErly`k*; or toponyms of the Turkic origin: villages named *Cheremy`sh*, *Timerchi*, *Kain-Elga* and others).

The study of proper names has a great value for the history of the language, both as a source to enlarge the dictionary data, and as a means to identify word building patterns that are productive for the living speech.

#### 4. Conclusions

The designated areas of studying the vocabulary of the Kazan documents of XVI-XVII allow us to get a small foretaste of the wealth of the literary texts, and we have only looked at one level of the language, the vocabulary. Let us emphasize that every area of lexical study of the texts deserves more attention; besides, the discoveries made on the phonetics-graphic, morphologic and syntactic levels are of absolute value and will become the subject for future publications.

#### 5. Summary

The research shows that, in spite of the usual strict use of word formulas or specialised components typical for official texts, the lexical content of the Kazan documents is richly varied.

The appellative and onomastic lexical units in the Kazan documents serve as a rich source for historic lexicology and gives a vast material for description of the vocabulary of the national language as well as its regional forms, adding to the data at the disposal of the history of the language.

To conclude, we shall express our joy caused by the fact that so many studies are being made in regional historic lexicology, as well as our hope that an opportunity will arise soon to receive enough data for generalizations that are vital for historic lexicology and lexicography.

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