



“INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ON THE WORK ‘DEVONI LUG’OTI-T-TURK: A GLOBAL ANALYSIS OF MAHMUD KASHGARI’S LEGACY”

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Abstract: This article analyzes the international research on Mahmud Kashgari’s great work “Devoni lug’oti-t-turk” its role in the development of Turkish languages, and its global evaluation as a scientific legacy. It examines the study, translations, and annotated commentaries of the work by scholars from different nations, as well as the contribution of these studies to modern Turkology, history, linguistics, and cultural studies. The article substantiates that Mahmud Kashgari’s dictionary reflects the cultural, social, and linguistic state of Turkish peoples of that era, making it significant not only for linguistics but also as a historical-civilizational source. The article also reviews prestigious scientific conferences, publications, and international scholarly collaborations centered around “Devoni lug’oti-t-turk”. This research serves to assess Mahmud Kashgari’s legacy as a global heritage by highlighting its reception within the world scientific community.

Keywords: Mahmud Kashgari, “Devoni lug’oti-t-turk”, Turkology, international research, linguistics, Turkish languages, lexicographical heritage, Old Turkish language, historical-linguistic sources, cultural heritage, global scientific analysis, Oriental studies, interdisciplinary research, language and culture, scientific integration.

Introduction. Mahmud Kashgari’s “Devoni lug’oti-t-turk”, an invaluable source for studying the linguistic history, culture, and social life of the turk, is not only a linguistic monument of its own era but also a scientific heritage that has received special recognition in today’s global academic community. Written in the 11th century, this work is one of the earliest lexical and historical sources of Turkish languages. It encompasses the structure of the language, oral folklore, geographical data, traditions, lifestyle, and worldview of ancient Turkish society. In particular, over the past ten years, research related to the work has been widely conducted in countries such as Turkey, Japan, Germany, the USA, and Russia. The translation of “Devoni lug’oti-t-turk” into various languages, its publication with explanatory commentary, and its discussion as a central topic at international academic conferences have turned Mahmud Kashgari’s scholarly legacy into a relevant object of research in a global context.

Mahmud Kashgari was a renowned 11th-century scholar, linguist, geographer, ethnographer, and encyclopedic thinker. He was born in the territory of the Karakhanid state, specifically in the area of present-day Kashgar (Eastern Turkestan). His main scientific work is “Devoni lug’oti-t-turk” (“Compendium of the Turkish Languages”), written between 1072 and 1074 in Baghdad. Mahmud Kashgari wrote this work with the purpose of introducing and teaching Turkish languages to Arab scholars, as well as proving the cultural sophistication of Turkish people. In his book, he included the languages, dialects, expressions, and proverbs of more than forty Turkish tribes and clans. In addition to linguistic data, he compiled valuable information about the customs, lifestyles, place names, and social structures of the Turks. For

this reason, the Devon is considered today not only a source for linguistics but also a priceless resource for the fields of history, geography, anthropology, and cultural studies.

Mahmud Kashgari's scientific approach is remarkably close to modern linguistic analysis. He analyzed Turkish languages in terms of phonetics, morphology, semantics, and syntax. Especially notable is his attempt to demonstrate a pan-Turkish unity by comparing tribal dialects. Furthermore, Mahmud Kashgari identified similarities and differences among Turkish languages, laying what can be considered the foundations for the comparative linguistic method used in later periods.

Methods, Mahmud Kashgari's legacy is not only important as a scholarly work but also plays a vital role in understanding national identity and tracing the historical roots of Turkish languages and peoples. His "Devoni lug'oti-t-turk" remains one of the rare and invaluable works that continues to be studied in international academic circles, republished frequently, and discussed at scholarly conferences even today. Mahmud Kashgari's "Devoni lug'oti-t-turk" holds a special place in the history of Turkish languages as the first example of systematic lexical research. The work thoroughly examines the phonetics, lexicon, grammar, semantics, and syntactic features of Turkish languages, all explained in Arabic. This allowed the work to be presented in a clear and comprehensible way not only to Turkish people but also to representatives of other cultures.

From a scientific standpoint, the "Devon" is considered one of the earliest examples of comparative linguistics. In it, the author conducts lexical comparisons among more than ten Turkish dialects and vernaculars, providing precise information about their phonetic differences, synonyms, and usage contexts in speech. The work also includes classifications of grammatical rules, suffix systems, and parts of speech, making it valuable as one of the first grammar references as well.

From a cultural perspective, the work offers rich insights into the worldview, social life, traditions, and values of the Turkish people of that era. Through hundreds of proverbs, riddles, folk wisdom, and poetic passages, Devon reflects the ancient Turkish literary and aesthetic thinking, oral traditions, and moral norms. Particularly notable is the systematic approach used in collecting and analyzing various genres of oral folklore for scholarly purposes.

Additionally, the geographical map compiled by Mahmud Kashgari is among the first attempts in the Muslim world to collect and depict Turkish tribal and place names. This map serves not only as a linguistic resource but also as an important reference for historical, geographical, and ethnographic research.

Results and discussions. Turkey is one of the leading countries in the study of the "Devon". In this country, the work is studied not only from a linguistic perspective but also as part of the national cultural heritage. The Turkish translation and annotated edition of the "Devon" by Besim Atalay, published between 1939 and 1943, marked the beginning of serious scholarly attention to the work. Later, scholars such as Ahmet Caferoğlu, Osman Fikri Sertkaya, and Talas Emiroğlu analyzed the "Devon" from morphological and syntactic perspectives, thoroughly exploring the historical development of Turkish languages, their lexical richness, and dialectal differences. In Turkey, the study of the "Devon" has often been closely tied to issues of national identity, cultural revival, and language policy. Today, "Devoni lug'oti-t-turk" is recognized internationally not only as a scholarly work but also as a cultural heritage. It is valued as a significant intellectual monument that affirms the historical unity of

the Turkish people and illustrates their literary, linguistic, and cultural roots. Its translation into multiple languages, publication in various countries, and continued study prove its relevance and universality.

Analyzing the “Devon” from the perspective of comparative historical linguistics. Scholars such as A.N. Kononov, S.E. Malov, and N.A. Baskakov studied the work in phonetic, grammatical, and ethnolinguistic terms by comparing it with ancient Turkish scripts, runic texts, and other sources. Their research has played an important role in the genetic classification of Turkish languages. Both during the Soviet period and after independence, scholars in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Azerbaijan have continued research in this direction, valuing the Devon as one of the primary sources for the history of Turkish languages.

In recent years, scholarly interest in Mahmud Kashgari’s “Devoni lug’oti-t-turk” has significantly expanded not only within the framework of traditional philological and historical approaches, but also through the use of modern technologies. Research based on digital technologies, artificial intelligence, corpus linguistics, and interdisciplinary methods has deepened the possibilities for analyzing the Devon even further.

Modern research on “Devoni lug’oti-t-turk” is being conducted not only by linguists but also by historians, ethnographers, anthropologists, cultural scholars, and information scientists. The Devon is being used as an interdisciplinary platform in studies related to society, culture, and identity. In particular, international organizations such as UNESCO, IRCICA, and others have organized conferences and developed databases dedicated to the legacy of Mahmud Kashgari.

In 2008, to commemorate the 1000th anniversary of Mahmud Kashgari’s birth, UNESCO adopted a special resolution and organized a series of events dedicated to this occasion. Within this framework, academic conferences, exhibitions, and seminars were held in Turkey, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and other Turkish countries. Through these events, the legacy of the Devon was widely promoted not only in the Turkish world but also on the international cultural stage.

Conclusion. Mahmud Kashgari’s “Devoni lug’oti-t-turk” remains a unique scholarly legacy that continues to attract significant attention from the global academic community in the fields of Turkish linguistics, history, and culture. International research on this work plays a crucial role not only in shedding light on the historical development of Turkish languages but also in understanding the culture and identity of Turkish peoples.

The diverse academic approaches taken in different regions have revealed the linguistic, historical, cultural, and ethnographic dimensions of the “Devon” in various ways. In Turkey, the work is studied as a part of national heritage, while in Russia and CIS countries, phonetic and comparative linguistic analyses have flourished. In the United States and Western countries, interdisciplinary methodologies have placed the “Devon” in a broader global cultural context. Meanwhile, in Japan and some European countries, the focus has been on ancient language structures and cultural studies aspects. The use of modern digital technologies and artificial intelligence tools has brought “Devoni lug’oti-t-turk” to a new academic platform, allowing for deeper and more comprehensive analysis of its text and content. Furthermore, international academic cooperation, conferences, and virtual events have contributed to elevating the global significance of the work.



As a result, “Devoni lug’oti-t-turk” is not only a historical and linguistic monument but also an integral part of contemporary science and culture, occupying a well-deserved place in the global academic sphere. The continued exploration of Mahmud Kashgari’s legacy through new methodologies and international collaboration opens the door to even greater scholarly achievements.

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