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Words with Illustrated Association (Part 1)

Word(s) #1: Folio 68r



Fig. 1

Text in Latin: “ÜLÜ KERÜ / ULU KARU”.

If the first word is read as “ULU”, it would be directly translated as “the great” (Akalın, Clauson, Gülensoy, Orucov). Accounting for the fact that the author did not differentiate between dieresis and cedillas – since we do not actually know the author’s specific Turkic dialect, the word can also be read as “ÜLÜ”. Nevertheless, “ÜLÜ” is directly translated as “gift” and “to assist”. However, we still looked into the root meanings of the words.

The second word “KARU” can be directly translated as “arm”, “power”, “strength”, “force”, “divine strength”, “God’s power”, “capability” and “talent”. (Akalın, Clauson, Gülensoy) However, since many of the “-U” suffixes became “-I” – as explained in the appendix section 1a – the word is most likely the equivalent of the modern Anatolian Turkish word “KARI”. The word “KARI” is translated as “woman”, “wife”, and “old lady”.

In Turkish, having two words together as one compound word will never vary the meaning of either. In other words, “ÜLÜ KERÜ / ULU KARU” is identical to having a compound word of “ÜLÜKERÜ / ULUKARU”. The reason this is significant to understand is that these words have a clear relation to the modern day Turkish word “ÜLKER”, which is translated as “Pleiades” (Akalın, Clauson, Gülensoy). We believe that this was a natural evolution of the word across

many dialects, as all it does is take out the suffixes “-U/-Ü” and make a compound word out of the roots; hence, “ÜLKERÜ” translates as “The Pleiades”.

“ULU KARU (ULU KARU / ULU KARI)” translates as “The Great Woman”.

“ÜLÜ KARU” translates as “The Pleiades”, “The Great Force”, and “The Great Hand”.

In conclusion, due to the illustration depicting the “woman”, both translations appear relevant. Thus, this leads us to believe that the author had intentionally implied both meanings. In other words, we believe this is “The Pleiades star cluster” which is also being symbolized as “The Great Woman”.

Word #2: Folio 8r

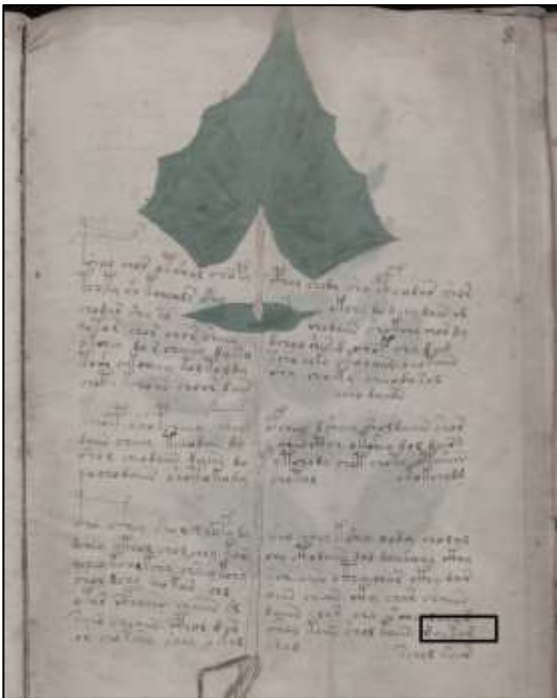


Fig. 2a

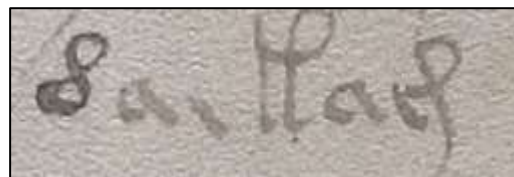


Fig. 2b

Text in Latin¹: “ŞAILAK” and-or “SAILAK”.

In Turkish, a vowel often follows a consonant, and a consonant often follows a vowel. Throughout most old Turkic languages, two vowel letters in a word could follow each other (Such as: “ŞAILAK”). In modern Anatolian Turkish, generally, the second vowel in a structure can be dropped while the first vowel still maintains its function (Such as: “ŞALAK”). The vowel harmony rule² governs this concept.

¹ Appendix Entry 2

² Appendix Entry 3

The first word “ŞALAK” is directly translated as “cucumbers only suitable for their seeds”. In different Turkish dialects, this word may describe either a “cucumber, zucchini, melon, watermelon or pumpkin” directly, as they are considered watery vegetables and fruits. However, some dialects employ the word to describe an underdeveloped and-or overdeveloped “watermelon, pumpkin, melon, zucchini or cucumber”. Nevertheless, this word is still being used in some Turkish dialects without any alteration to its original definition. In addition to this, the word “ŞALAK” also has a shared meaning with the second word option “SALAK”; this shared definition between both is “stupid” and-or “foolish” (Sözce).

The second word “SALAK” is directly translated as “stupid”, “foolish”, and “idiot” (Sözce). This term is still being used – in its original definition – in modern Turkish. Moreover, “SALAK” also means “penis” (Tulum). The interesting part of this is that the only reason “ŞALAK” has the definition of “stupid” is that at one point, calling someone a “cucumber” was thought to be derogatory. Furthermore, the connection of “ŞALAK” the “cucumber” and “SALAK” the “penis”, might have also played a role in making the association between a cucumber and the male genitals.

In conclusion, the definition – accounting for the dialectic differences – for the word “ŞALAK” is “an underdeveloped and-or overdeveloped watermelon, pumpkin, melon, zucchini or cucumber that is not good for consumption, as it is only used for its seeds”. However, a great majority of Turkic dialects employ this word to specifically describe an “inconsumable cucumber that is used for its seeds”.

Word #3: Folio 67r



Fig. 3a

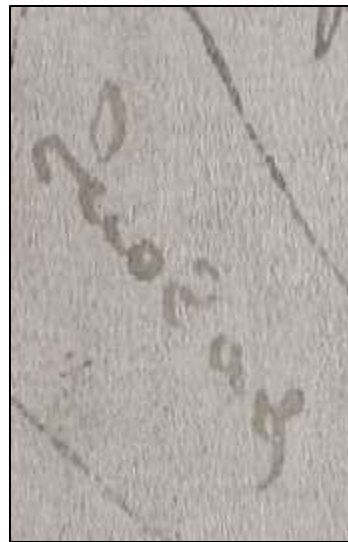


Fig. 3b

Text in Latin: “ÇOIORAK” and-or “ÇÂIORAK” (ÇAĞI-ORAK / ÇÂI-ORAK).

This is a compound word made up of two words. The first word could be “ÇOI”, “ÇAĞI”, “ÇÂI” and the second word for all is “ORAK”.

The root “ÇO” is defined as “ember”, “cinder”, “hill”, “the highest point”, “the top”, “peak”, “peak time”, “maximum amount of something” (Akalin, Clauson, Gülensoy, Orucov, Sözcce).

The root “ÇÂ” has many definitions of which the applicable ones are only “age” and “time” (Sözcce).

The root “OR” is defined as “to separate”, “to cut”, “to gather”, “to put together”, and “to harvest”. This root often appears in its infinitive suffixed³ form of “ORMAK” (Akalin, Clauson, Eyüboğlu, Gülensoy, Sözcce).

The word “ÇAĞ” by itself shares many common definitions with “ÇÂP”. Both of these words are phonetically related; however, throughout dialectic variation and time, the definitions started to get additional meanings. The word “ÇÂP” has “-P” as a suffix⁴ which is the equivalent to articles such as “the”. The word “ÇAĞ” is defined as “period of time”, “season”, “time”, “age”, “century”, and “era”. The shared original definitions for both “ÇAĞ” and “ÇÂP” are “(the) time” and “(the) age” (Akalin, Clauson, Eyüboğlu, Gülensoy, Orucov, Sözcce).

The second word that makes up the compound one is “ORAK”; the direct definition of this word is “harvest”, “reaping-hook” and “July”. In some dictionaries, the definition of “August” is also provided, but this definition is used by a dialectic minority that derived it from geographical influence – as their harvesting period is probably August (Akalin, Clauson, Eyüboğlu, Gülensoy, Orucov, Sözcce).

In accounting for all of these definitions, the word is translated as “the time for harvest”, “the harvesting season”, and-or “period of July”. It is important to note that the calendar illustration does have this words as the 7th month, thus we simply relate this to the month of “July”.

Word #4: Folio 85v and 86r (The Map Foldout)

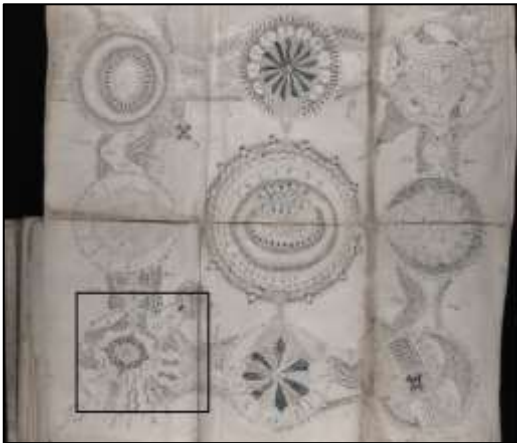


Fig. 4a

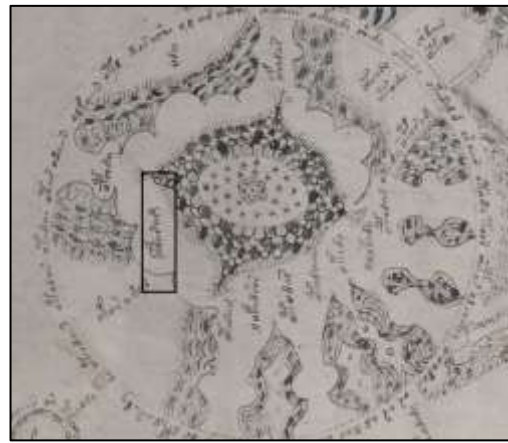


Fig. 4b

³ Appendix Entry 1b

⁴ Appendix Entry 1a

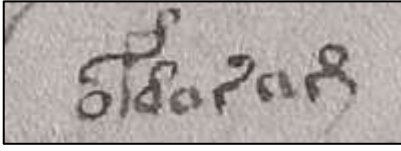


Fig. 4c

Text in Latin: “OIKSÆRÆK”/ “OIKISÆRÆK” (OIKSEREK / OIKSARAK / OIKISEREK).

This is a compound word that combines the words “OIK” and “SÆRÆK (SEREK / SARAK)”. The first word that appears in this compound structure is “OIK”/ “OIK-I (-I”): these are an *Object Pointer Suffixes\ and see appendix 1-a)*. This word in modern Turkish would be read as “OK⁵”. The word is defined as “arrow”, “archery”, “missile”, “diameter”, and “calibre” (Akalın, Clauson, Eyüboğlu, Gülensoy, Sözcce).

Since the second word of the compound structure can be read as both “SEREK” and “SARAK”, here are the definitions for both:

The word “SEREK” is defined as “square”, “field”, and “yard” (Akalın, Clauson, Gülensoy, Sözcce).

The word “SARAK” is defined as (an architectural term) “faces of the building/constructed structures”, “a fancy horizontally wide plain string”. In other words, this is describing a wide, slightly protruding, fancy, or straight belt that runs horizontally against the wall (from one end to the other) of an architectural structure (Akalın, Clauson, Gülensoy, Sözcce).

Today there is a historical archery square in Istanbul city (formerly known as Constantinople) called “OKMEYDANI⁶” (in modern Turkish). It is also important to keep in mind that “MEYDAN” and “SEREK” are both synonyms, as they both mean “square” (Akalın, Clauson, Gülensoy, Sözcce). Since there was no Turkish occupation of Constantinople prior to the year 1453’s, The Byzantine Empire probably had a different name for the square they have constructed. However, there were many Turks living in that region prior to the invasion, and these Turks referred to this square as “OKSEREK (“OIKSEREK”)”. Furthermore, it is important to note that the Ottoman Turks, as well as many other Turkis tribes and nations before them, used the term “SEREK” as “square”.

In summation, “SARAK” is an architectural term used to describe a specific structure. However, the elliptical shape that is illustrated on the VM map page suggests that the word was “SEREK” (square). Thus, the term “OKSEREK” is directly defined and translated as “archery square”.

⁵ Appendix Entry 4

⁶ Appendix Entry 1a

Word #5: Folio 85v and 86r (The Map Foldout)



Fig. 5a



Fig. 5b

Text in Latin: “OIKARSU” (ÆOIKARSU/ÄIKARSU).

This compound word is made up of the word “OIKAR (ÆOIKAR/ÄIKAR)” and the word “SU”. This word “OIKAR” in modern Anatolian Turkish would be “AKAR”⁷. This root of this word is “AK” and the suffix is “-AR”⁸, yet the word is often presented in its infinitive suffixed⁹ form as “AKMAK” (Akalın, Clauson, Gülensoy, Sözcü).

The first word “OIKAR (AKAR)” is directly defined and translated as “flowing”, “running”, and “to be runny”. The second word “SU” is commonly defined as “water” (Akalın, Clauson, Eyüboğlu, Gülensoy, Orucov, Sözcü). Thus, the word “OIKARSU (AKARSU)” means “flowing water”, “running water” and-or “stream”. This definition is not only very direct in translation, as it is later contextually verified by the illustration itself (Fig. 5b).

Appendix

1. Suffix and Their Roles

- a. “-Ü/-U” and “-İ/-I”: these are an Object Pointer Suffixes (*Turkish Direct Object Suffix (accusative) such as “the” in English*). (Clauson, Guise) When we examine the words in ATA manuscript, we know that in modern day Turkish (*mostly*) “-Ü/-U” suffixes are replaced with “-İ/-I” (A. Ardıç, (*Kendi web sayfamız ve makalelerimizde verdiğimiz ‘ATA-el-yazması sözcüklerinin sonundaki U/Ü sesinin zamanla I/İ sesine dönüştüğünü gösterir örnekler’*)). There is a construction in Turkish which means “belonging to”. In English generally only the possessor is

⁷ Appendix Entry 4

⁸ Appendix Entry 1c

⁹ Appendix Entry 1b

marked as in Ahmet's car. The 's tells us that the car belongs to Ahmet. The possessed (Formation of the Possessed) item in Turkish is suffixed with -i, -ı, -u, -ü (Such as; his, hers, its. Buffer -n- is used when suffixed to vowels: → -si, -sı, -su, -sü. The only exception is 'su' (water). 'Su' uses the buffer letter -y- such as 'suyu'.(Guise) In addition, suffixes '-ı -i -u -ü' is added to single syllable words ending in a consonant and a noun of result from the verb modified such as 'ölmek' (to die) → 'ölü' (a corpse), 'yapmak' (to make) → 'yapı' (a construction, a building). (Guise)

- b. “-mek/-mak”: these are suffixes of Turkish infinitive. They turn the root word into a verb as well as also a concrete noun. Furthermore, the “k” drops when (me[k]/ma[k]) another suffix is added beside it (Clauson, Eyuboğlu, Guise)
- c. The suffixes “-AR” and “-ER” (-ar -er -ır -ir -ur -ür -r) in Turkish are simple present tense positive participle formations. (The Simple Present Tense is used for habitual situations. The wide tense participle is an adjective. It precedes the noun which it describes. (Guise)) Turkish simple tense regular single syllable verb formation for verbs of one syllable which end in a consonant the positive tense sign is -ar or -er. There are some exceptions to this general rule. This tense is the only one which shows some irregularity in its formation. There are few verbs which take -ar or -er as their causative sign. (Guise)
 - [-ar/-er/-ır/-ir/-ur/-ür properly an Aorist (past tense) Participial Suffix; forms a few Nouns and Noun/Adjectives. In addition to that, -r- (after vowels)/-ar/-er- (the ordinary form after consonants)/-ır/-ir- (very rare, after Dissyllable Nouns in which the second vowel, -ı/-i-, is elided, fairly common. The (Denominal Noun) -ar/-er (also -rer in ikkirer)/-şar/-şer (after vowels) forms Distributives after Numerals, e.g. birer ‘one each’, and Adjectives of quantity, e.g. azar ‘a few each’; very rare; also a Deverbal and Conjugational Suffix. (Clauson)
 - In addition to this, the suffixes '-ar', '-er', '-r', which make verbs from nouns in Turkish language, are also seen. Examples of this can be seen in Turkmen-Turkish and Azerbaijani-Turkish. (For example, we can produce the verb 'suv-ar (suvar)' (watering) by adding it to the word 'suv (su (water))'.

2. Interchanging Letters

The author did not differentiate the dieresis and cedillas. Thus, both options are considered.

3. Phonetic Vowel Harmony Rule

In modern Turkish a vowel usually follows a consonant and a consonant follows a vowel. However, in most old Turkic languages, two vowels in a word could follow each other. In modern Anatolian Turkish, generally second vowel in a structure can be dropped while only the first vowel maintains its function.

Furthermore, the Turkish Vowel Harmony Rule governs these structural amendments, and all alterations are based on the dialectic differences.

The Turkish Vowel Harmony Rule refers to an echoing phonetic value of the previous vowel in a word. In other words, the vowels of suffixes must mirror the final vowel of the word being suffixed in a same phonetic value. Most suffixes must follow the rule of vowel harmony (Clauson, Guise).

Within the Vowel Harmony Rule, there are two sets of vowels. The first set consists of the letters “A, I, O, U”; the second set consists of the letters “E, İ, Ö, Ü”. These vowels only appear in words as either one of these sets, for within one word, a vowel such as “O” cannot be seen with any other vowels outside “A, I, O, U”. Similarly, the same rule allows the phonetic listing of combined letters (syllabic characters) in the Voynich Manuscript. Since most combined letters appear as two consonants, the vowel that is placed initially is not limited to any vowel harmony set – unless the combined letter is not the root of the word. The initial vowel in the root governs which vowel set is employed in added affixation.

4. Dropping Vowels

In Turkish, a vowel often follows a consonant, and a consonant often follows a vowel. Throughout most old Turkic languages, two vowel letters in a word could follow each other (Such as: “ŞAILLAK”). In modern Anatolian Turkish, generally, the second vowel in a structure can be dropped while the first vowel still maintains its function (Such as: “ŞALLAK”). The vowel harmony rule¹⁰ governs this concept. However, it is important to keep in mind that there are some rare exceptions (Clauson, Eyuboğlu, Guise). In addition to this, in rare cases throughout the VM, if there are three vowels side by side, the last two vowels can be dropped.

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¹⁰ Appendix Entry 3

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