



**The semantic analysis of korean, japanese and tatar onomatopoeic words  
and phenomimes**

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**The semantic analysis of korean, japanese and tatar onomatopoeic words and phenomimes**

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**Abstract**

The relevance of this work is determined by introducing onomatopoeic words and phenomimes of Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages. Onomatopoeic words could be found in many languages (Russian, English etc.). As for phenomimes, this group of words has specific characteristics and not each language has it. But these both groups of words could be found in Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages.

The purpose of this study is not only to research phonetic differences (comparing imitations of Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages to identical phenomena: animal sounds, sounds of natural phenomena, man's emotions or motions), but also to find out basic semantic categories of using ideophones in Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages.

The main material for the study was vocabulary for onomatopoeia and phenomimes in Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages. The key finding of the study may be considered as revealing of specific features of such group of words. The materials of this article may be helpful for school and university teachers of Korean and Japanese at the advanced level, as well as for educators and developers of educational materials.

**Keywords:** Korean language, Japanese language, Tatar language, onomatopoeia, phenomimes, eastern languages



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Our world is not limited by people's speech. We can hear around us a lot of different sounds that are reproduced by nature: sounds of natural phenomena, sounds of animals and plants. People's activity is also followed by sounds: rustle, knock, clatter. Scientific and technical progress made spectrum of sounds wider adding sounds of mechanisms, machines and techniques. When someone speaks about these phenomena he tries to imitate heard sounds. And if it comes to the language it is called *onomatopoeia*. Onomatopoeia consists of unchangeable words that reproduce sounds which are made by people, animals, objects and natural phenomena. According to term of onomatopoeia that is made by S. Voronin [12, P. 165], onomatopoeia is unchangeable words that sustainable in language. Through the process of verbal speech man manages to show the heard sound similar to the original as much as possible. But when it comes to writing people faces with certain difficulties because of limited graphic symbols. And as each language has its own phonetic system the same sound could be written and reproduced differently.

Culture and language are strongly related. And through using vocabulary people can understand other countries' culture. Cultures of Eastern countries have similar aspects even if they have their own original features. For example, people that lived on the territory of Korea and Japan honored nature. East people always have been tried to listen to the things that nature "says", because they wanted to live in harmony. People believed that man should not dominate over the nature. And it had influence on language. So we can find onomatopoeia in Tatar, Korean and Japanese languages. An interesting fact is that in these three languages we can see also *phenomimes* unlike Russian and English languages, for example, where we can find onomatopoeic words. Each group of words has similar and distinguishing features. The similar feature is that they are not name of sounds and motive process, but express them. And the distinguishing feature is that onomatopoeia **express sounds** that reproduced by living creatures or natural phenomena, and phenomimes **give us image** of living creatures' movements or natural phenomena that are shown through people's feelings (visual perception, somatic reaction, touch etc.).

## 2 METHODS

As part of the study we had to solve the following tasks: to research and analyze phonetic differences of onomatopoeia and phenomimes of Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages and to find out their similarities and differences in using.

To solve these tasks, we used a complex of different methods mutually reinforcing each other: the comparative method; the analytical method; the comparative-contrastive and comparative-historical



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methods that helped us to disclose reasons for the similarities of three studying languages. Main subjects for the study were role of onomatopoeia and phenomimes in Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages; vocabulary for onomatopoeia and phenomimes in Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages; specific features of using such words in speech.

### 3 RESULTS

In the Japanese language system, which has a controversial genealogical position among other languages, a great place is occupied by *ideophones*. Ideophones, or onomatopoeic words, or onomatopoeias are special words, the sound of which conveys the impressions and emotions of a person. Japanese onomatopoeia consists of *giongo* (擬音語), *giseigo* (擬声語) and *gitaigo* (擬態語). The *giongo* reproduces sound of voices or sounds of impact on objects. The *giseigo* is more limited term and it is used for reproducing voices of animals and birds. The *gitaigo* is analogue to sound symbolism, so *gitaigo* are determined as words that figuratively or symbolically describe states, phenomena, changes, etc. Onomatopoeic words in modern Japanese language are commonly used by putting particle – to [11, P. 506-510].

Korean vocabulary includes onomatopoeic words (in Korean it is called *uiseongeo* (의성어)) and phenomimes (in Korean it is called *uitaeeo* (의태어)). And these groups of words are regarded as figurative words and are part of adverbs. The peculiarity of the structure of such words serves as one of the good reasons for distinguishing them into a special lexical category. Onomatopoeic words in Korean language have a peculiar sound structure and usually follow the vowel harmony rules and the rules of alternation [3, P. 10]. Onomatopoeia and phenomimes are formed in different ways: alternation of vowels and consonants, iteration of root of the word.

Onomatopoeia and phenomimes are also could be found in Tatar language. The onomatopoeic words are determined as *awaz iyaertemnaere* (аваз ияртемнәре) and phenomimes as *obraz iyaertemnaere* (образ ияртемнәре). Onomatopoeic vocabulary in the Tatar language is a complex system of meanings, which is explained by the variety of sound and light phenomena reproduced by imitative words and the ambiguity of these words, when the same imitation is used to designate various phenomena, sometimes having only a separate similarity [9, P. 169-171].

In the system of Tatar language onomatopoeic words express sounds of surrounding world and phenomimes express imaginative thoughts about light phenomena, the external condition of living beings and objects, movements which are result of visual perception. Phenomimes are connected with



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sensory-visual perception of people's actions or feelings. Some of them have complicated image that include lots of different figurative representations [2, P. 107].

In this study onomatopoeic words and phenomimes of Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages were divided into five groups:

- 1) The imitation of sounds that are reproduced by man: speech, laugh, crying, cough etc.;
- 2) The imitation of sounds that are reproduced by animals, birds etc.;
- 3) The imitation of sounds that are reproduced by man's actions;
- 4) The imitation of sounds that reproduced by different things (machines, mechanisms, tools, weapons, musical instruments, etc.);
- 5) The imitation of noise and natural phenomena.

There are onomatopoeic words and phenomimes of Tatar, Korean and Japanese languages in the table below.

### Onomatopoeic words:

		<b>Tatar</b>	<b>Korean</b>	<b>Japanese</b>
<b>Animals</b>	Dog	ау-ау [auau]	멍멍 [meongmeong]	ワンワン [wanwan]
	Cat	мияу [miyau]	야옹야옹 [yaong-yaong]	ニャーニャー [nyanya]
	Horse	мыш-мыш [mişmiş]	히잉히잉 [hiinghiing]	ヒヒーン [hihi:n]
	Mouse	пи-пи [pipi]	짹짹 [jjigjjig]	チューチュー chouchou
	Lion	P-p-p-p [rrrr]	으르렁으르렁 [eureurongeureuron g]	ガオー gaō
	Pig	мырк-мырк [mirkmirk]	꿀꿀 [kkulkkul]	ブーブー būbū
	Cow	муу [muu]	음매 [eummae]	モーモー [mōmō]
	Sheep	мәә [mää]	매애애 [maeaeae]	メェー [mē]



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	Frog	ба-ка-ка [bakaka]	개굴개굴 [gaegulgaegul]	ゲコゲコ [gekogeko]
<b>Birds</b>	Cock-a-doodle- doo	кикрикүк [kikirikük]	미 비쭙 [bibejjong]	코케코쭙코— [kokekokkō]
	Cuckoo	кәк-күк [käkkük] кү-кү [kükü]	삐꾹삐꾹 [ppeokkugppeokku g]	カッコー [kakkō]
	Crow	кар-кар [karkar]	각각 [kkagkkag]	カーカー [kākā]
	Duck	бак-бак [bakkak]	꽹꽹 [kkwaegkkwaeg]	ガーガー [gāgā]
	Pigeon	гөр гөр [görgör]	구구 [gugu]	クルック— [gurukkū]
<b>Insects</b>	Bee	безз-безз [bezzbezz]	윙윙 [wing-wing]	ブンブン [bunbun]
	Cricket	чарр-чарр [Çarçar]	귀똥귀똥 [gwittulgwittul]	コロコロ [korokoro]
<b>Inanimate objects</b>	Signal of a car	пип-пип [pippip]	뽕뽕 [ppangppang]	ププ— pupū
	Doorbell	чылыр [Çiltır]	찌르릉 [jjileuleung]	ピンポーン [pinpōn]
	Watch	келт-келт [keltkelt] тик-так [tiktak]	똑딱똑딱 [ttogttagttogttag]	チクタク [chikutaku] カチカチ [kachikachi]
<b>Sounds produced by man's movement</b>	Kiss	пәп [Pär]	뽕뽕 [ppoppo]	チュ— [chū]
	Steps	дөп-дөп [döpdöp] лап-лап [laplap] шап-шоп [Şapşop]	뚜벅뚜벅 [ttubeokttubeok]	バタバタ [batabata]
	Applause	әбәк-чәбәк [äbäk şäbäk]	작작	パチパチ



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			[jjagjjag]	[pachipachi]
<b>Sounds produced by man</b>	Sneezing	әпчи [äpçi]	에취 [echwi]	はくしょん [hakushon]
	Snoring	хыр-хыр [hırhır]	드르렁드르렁 [deuleuleongdeuleuleong]	グーグー [gūgū]
	Heartbeat	тук-тук [tuktuk] дөп-дөп [döp döp]	두근두근 [dugeundugeun]	ドキドキ [dokidoki]
	Crying	вә-вә-вә [vävävä]	엉엉 [eongeong]	エーンエーン [ēnēn]
	Breath of sleeping child	мыш-мыш [mısh- mısh]	새근새근 [saegeunsaegeun]	ぐっすり [gussuri]
	Whisper	Выж [vic]	소곤소곤 [sogonsogon]	ひそひそ [hisohiso]
<b>Sounds of nature</b>	Rustling of leaves	лепер лепер [leperleper]	바삭바삭 [basagbasag]	さわさわ [sawasawa]
	High wind	Ыж [ij] уу-у [uu-u] ыж-ыж [ıjıj]	쌩쌩 [ssingssing]	ひゅうひゅう [hyuhyu]
	Thunder	гөр-р [gör] дөбер-дөбер [döberdöber] дөбер-шатыр [döberşatır]	우르르 팡 ureureu kkwang	ごろごろ gorogoro
	Lightening	чатыр-чотыр [Çatır çotır]	번쩍번쩍 [beonjjeok beonjjeok]	ぴかっと [pikatto]
	Rain	шыбыр-шыбыр [Şıbrşıbrı]	후두두 [hududu] 보슬보슬 [boseulboseul]	ぽつぽつ [potsupotsu] しとしと



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			주룩주룩 [julugjulug]	[shitoshito] ざあざあ [zaazaa]
	Water bubbling	Гөлдөр-гөлдөр [göldergölder] чылтыр- чылтыр [çıtırçıtır]	졸졸 [chulchul]	ちよろちよろ [chorochoro]

Phenomimes:

		Tatar	Korean	Japanese
<b>Visual perception</b>	Shine (of a star)	щем-ощем [Şçem oşçem]	반짝반짝 [banjjagbanjjag]	キラキラ [kirakira]
	Sunlight	ялт-йолт [yaltıolt]	쨍쨍 [jjaengjaeng]	サンサン sansan
	Darkness	дөм [döm]	깜깜 [kkamkkam]	-
	Flashing	жем-жем [cömcöm]	아물아물 [amulamul]	ピカピカ [pikapika]
<b>Mental feelings</b>	Exciting (heartbeat)	жу [ju]	두근두근 [dugeundugeun]	わくわく [wakuwaku] ドキドキ [dokidoki]
	Irritation	-	뽕 [bwelg]	いらいら [iraira]
	Gloom	-	따흐흐 [ttaheuheuk] 또르륵 [ttureureuk]	がっかり [gakkari]
	Hesitating	-	머뭇머뭇 [momutmomut]	ふらふら [furafura]
<b>Man's movements</b>	To do everything fast (be in hurry)	Шалт-шолт [şalt-şolt]	부랴부랴 [buryaburya]	ばたばたふ [batabata]
	To walk slowly and be without strength	Мыкыр- мыкыр [mıkırmıkır]	비틀비틀 [biteulbiteul]	てくてく [tekuteku]



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	To move fast, when other person doesn't know or see	Чаж [çaj]	슬쩍슬쩍 [seuljjeogseuljjeog]	そっと [sotto]
	To twitch (lips, brows etc.), to sway (hip)	алпан-тилпән [alpantilpän]	실룩실룩 [sillugsillug]	ぴくんぴくん [pikunpikun]
	To walk slowly	чап-чоп [çapçop]	엥금엥금 [eonggeumeonggeum]	のろのろ [noronoro]
<b>Man's condition</b>	To be lazy	-	빈둥빈둥 [bindungbindung] 똥굴똥굴 [twingultwingul]	ごろごろ [gorogoro]
	To live healthy	-	무럭무럭 [muleogmuleog]	いきいき [iki-iki]
	To make a big effort	-	아동바동 [adongbadong]	こつこつ [kotsukotsu]
	A throbbing pain	-	지끈지끈 [jikkeunjikkeun]	ずきずき [zukizuki]
	To be drunk (not being able to think and move properly)	-	곤드레만드레 [gondeulemandeule]	ぐでんぐでん [gudenguden]
<b>Touch</b>	<b>Things' qualities</b>			
	Solid	-	빡빡 [ppagppag] 탱탱 [taengtaeng]	かちかち [kachikachi]
	Fluffy, soft	-	나슬나슬 [naseulnaseul]	ふわふわ [fuwafuwa]
	Slippy	-	미끈미끈 [mikkeunmikkeun]	ぬるぬる [nurunuru]
<b>Phenomena</b>	Waggle, waving	-	건들건들 [geondeulgeondeul]	ぴらぴら [pirapira]





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In Korean language onomatopoeic words and phenomimes are inserted into speech by adding a verb 하다 ([hada]; to do). For example: 별이 반짝반짝한다 (A star shines). The same rule goes for Tatar language, by adding a verb итәрә ([itärgä]; to do) to the onomatopoeic words or phenomimes become an adverb of an action or predicate. For example: Ёлдызлар щем-ощем итә (A star shines). In Japanese language there is also a verb する ([suru]; to do) which is added to onomatopoeic words and particle と [to] is also used after onomatopoeia. For example: 星がキラキラする (A star shines).

### 4 DISCUSSIONS

There are several points of view in which part of speech it is worth to include such words in Korean language. Some scientists include figurative words to adverbs [1, P. 23-24] others regard them as a special category of words [4, P. 206], and such source as "Small Dictionary of Korean Language" [13, P. 81-82] excludes them from the category of adverbs and includes them into group of interjections which imitate the sounds of living beings. However, it cannot be considered entirely right, because interjections are the words, which serve for the shortest expression of feelings and volitional impulses without nomination of these feelings, whereas onomatopoeia does not express any specific feelings.

Takehi states that in Japanese the onomatopoeia expression usually consists of an onomatopoeia followed by the particle *to* and the modified verb [6, P. 127-143]. Moriya states that Japanese onomatopoeia is normally adverb [10, P. 21-29].

In Tatar language onomatopoeia expressions are regarded as independent lexical units [8, P. 376]. Due to their structure onomatopoeia and phenomimes in Tatar language are divided into: single, double, repetitive and three-component.

In all three languages there is a common way of compounding two words in order to form an onomatopoeia expression. Also as we can see in the table above, some onomatopoeic words in all three languages are pretty similar, some of them completely different. It could depend on historical background, as for mechanisms for example, because some technologies came to the East from the West. That is why these sounds are similar even with some western languages.

### 5 SUMMARY

Through the vocabulary in the table we can see that the semantics of the use of onomatopoeic vocabulary in some aspects of these languages are the same. For Korean and Japanese, it is also peculiar to use onomatopoeic words that reproduce sounds and images of nature, because of their traditions and religion thoughts. Therefore, we can see kinds of words that are describe rain and wind,



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for example. Moreover, they also use words that are showing man feelings that do not make a sound. We could think that these special words are not necessary, but Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages are including these kinds of words. Also it should be mentioned that despite of the fact that these three languages have a lot of similarities in using onomatopoeic words and phenomimes, in Tatar language range of words that describe sounds and images is not so wide as in Korean or Japanese.

### **6 CONCLUSIONS**

In this research onomatopoeia and phenomimes of Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages were analyzed. It was found out that western people use onomatopoeic words not so often. Usually they use when they speak with a child, trying to teach them something or to explain them something. But Japanese and Korean people can use it in everyday life even by adults. That is why the range of onomatopoeia in their language is a lot wider. Moreover, their vocabulary does not limit only by onomatopoeic words, they also have phenomimes, and even these words are often used. The same goes for Tatar native speakers.

During comparing onomatopoeic words and phenomimes of Korean, Japanese and Tatar language, similarities and differences of such words were revealed. Some sounds are described pretty similar because of historical background. Some sounds are described differently due to different graphic symbols of the language and different views on the world. Also Tatar vocabulary of onomatopoeia and phenomimes are not as wide as in Korean and Japanese languages.

This study can help to reveal the semantic similarities in these three languages. People who speak Korean, Japanese or Tatar use onomatopoeia more often than people who speak western languages. Also it should be mentioned that differences in these languages exist too. So this study also will help for the further investigation of Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages.

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