

Language Analysis-Mongolian



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Abstract

This paper consists of a thorough analysis of the Mongolian Language and its key features. The basic idea is to analyse them against the language universals (features which are found common across some major sections of languages). As a part of analysis, to collect information, 3 approaches were taken :(1) Web Resources and (2) analysing 'Uregdseniig huleegch'(a Mongolian Short Film) (3)In Conversation with the local dialect speaker (it is still under process as I am unable to contact my counterpart in Mongolia due to lack of internet facilities). The findings have been presented after the complete analysis from all modes.

Introduction

Mongolian (In **Mongolian script**: *Monggol kele.svg* Монгол көл; in **Mongolian Cyrillic**: МОНГОЛ ХЭЛ, mongol khel) is a language of the Mongolic language family and is the most predominant and ancient member of its language family. The native speakers of the language are about **3.6 million** and if we include the overall count across all dialect variations then this count goes on to **5.2 million**. Mongolian is an official language in

the states of Mongolia and People's Republic of China. It has an official minority language status in the state of Inner Mongolia [China]. The textual form of the language is regulated by the State Language Council of Mongolia and in China by the Council for Language And Literature Work (the areas where it is majorly spoken).

The language of Mongolian is written in **Cyrillic** script (Commonly used for representing languages of eastern Europe and middle Asia). But for social networking reasons it was also written in Latin. Scripting also depends upon region as in Inner Mongolian [China] it is written in the traditional Mongolian Script (also called as "**Hudum Mongolbichig**"). Mongolian literature is well attested in written form from the 13th century but has earlier Mongolic precursors in the literature of the Khitan and other Xianbei peoples. The Bugut inscription dated to 584 CE and the Inscription Of Hüis Tolgoi dated to 604-620 CE appear to be the oldest substantial Mongolic or Para-Mongolic texts discovered.



Figure:1 HeatMap depicting the number of Mongolian Speakers(w.r.t density)

History

Modern Mongolian evolved from Middle Mongol, the language spoken in the Mongol Empire of the 13th and 14th centuries. The Mongolian language is of the Altaic language family, originating with the Mongolic language. It has evolved directly from Middle Mongolian.

Mongolian is related to the extinct **Khitian** language. The earliest text that we can see that was written in what we can recognize now as being "Old Mongolian" is the Stele of Yisungge(1224AD).

Moreover, since the state was an active part of the ancient silk route and since the Mongol empire spread across various parts of the world, it has been at great subject to language change (will discuss in detail).

In the 17th to the 19th centuries, the language period was classified as Classical Mongolian. During this time, the language was standardised with multiple rules formed on syntax. The language form of that time is quite different from Modern Mongolian, as Modern Mongolian is a little more amorphic in terms of language.

Dialects



Figure 2: Dialects and their

There are mainly 15 languages (according to Juha Janhunen's Analysis). His book titled as "Mongolian" accounted for the Mongolian Dialects.

The book divides the dialects into 4 major categories:

1. **Dagur branch** - spoken in the northeast area of Manchuria in China, specifically in Morin Dawa Daur Autonomous Banner of Hulun Buir, and in Meilisi Daur District of Qiqihar, Heilongjiang.
2. **Mohol branch** - consisted of Moghol language, spoken in Afghanistan, and is possibly extinct.
3. **Shirongolic branch** - made up of roughly 7 languages, and which are spoken in the Amdo region of Tibet.
4. **Central Mongolic branch** - made up of roughly 6 languages, and which are spoken centrally in the country of Mongolia, as well as Manchuria and Inner Mongolia to the east, Ordos to the south, Dzungaria to the west, and Siberia to the north.

The status of certain varieties in the Mongolic group—whether they are languages distinct from Mongolian or just dialects of it—is disputed. There are at least three such varieties: Oirat (including the Kalmyk variety), Buryat and Ordos. Some Western scholars propose that the relatively well researched Ordos variety is an independent language due to its conservative syllable structure and phoneme inventory. This also leads the researchers to the problem of how to classify Chakhar, Khalkha, and Khorchin in relation to each other and in relation to Buryat and Oirat.

This dispute (of classification) is not only limited to just languages but also to many theories as well. The Altaic theory proposes that the Mongolic family is a member of a larger, now discredited Altaic family that would also include the Turkic and Tungusic, and usually Koreanic languages and Japonic languages as well. (But this theory is less accepted and thus a subtle connection with multiple other languages is disconnected while analysing)

Lingua Franca

Khalkha dialect of the Mongolian state (mainly spoken in the mainland Mongolia) acts as the Lingua Franca and becomes the representation of the official Mongolian Language. The entire standard Grammar and the text which is considered as look up text for rules and various analysis in the language is in this dialect itself. This dialect is in as the Lingua Franca due to multiple reasons but the most prominent of them being -> As it was spoken in and around the financial and cultural capital of the Mongolian State i.e the capital city of Ulaanbaatar or in short the central region.

Orthography

The traditional Monogolian script was not ideal for writing the Mongolian language (due to its inability to represent loanwords from Tibetan, Sanskrit and Chinese in Mongolian texts). So for that reason In 1567 the translator and scholar **Ayuush Güüsh** added extra letters to the traditional Mongol Script . This variation of the traditional Mongolian Script was termed as **Galik Script**. So till the mid 20th Century **Latin** replaced the existing script . Then in 1941 **Cyrillic** alphabet was adopted as the official writing system in Mongolia. Whereas, In the People's Republic of China, Mongolian is a co-official language with Mandarin Chinese in some regions, notably the entire Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. The traditional alphabet has always been used there, although Cyrillic was considered briefly before the Sino-Soviet split.

Some Features of the **Traditional Monogolian Script** :

1. Type of writing system: phonemic alphabet with separate letters for consonants and vowels.
2. Direction of writing: left to right in vertical columns running from top to bottom.
3. The letters have a number of different shapes, the choice of which depends on the position of a letter in a word and which letter follows it.

Vowels									
Initial	ᠡ	ᠡ	ᠡ	ᠡ	ᠾ	ᠡ	ᠡ	ᠡ	ᠡ
Medial	ᠡ	ᠡ	ᠡ	ᠡ	ᠾ	ᠡ	ᠡ	ᠡ	ᠡ
Final	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠴ	ᠴ	ᠾ	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ
Cyrillic	А	Ӑ	Ӗ	Ӗ	Ӓ	Ӗ	Ӗ	Ӗ	Ӗ
Latin	A	E	I	O / U	Ө / Ү	E	Ӗ / Ю	Ӗ	Ӗ
Consonants									
Initial	ᠮ	ᠮ	ᠮ	ᠮ	ᠮ	ᠮ	ᠮ	ᠮ	ᠮ
Medial	ᠮ	ᠮ	ᠮ	ᠮ	ᠮ	ᠮ	ᠮ	ᠮ	ᠮ
Final	ᠮ	ᠮ	ᠮ	ᠮ	ᠮ	ᠮ	ᠮ	ᠮ	ᠮ
Cyrillic	Н	Ҥ	Ҥ	Ҥ	Ҥ	Ҥ	Ҥ	Ҥ	Ҥ
Latin	N	Ng	B	P	Kh, Q	Gh, Ү	M	L	X
Initial	ᠴ	ᠴ	ᠴ	ᠴ	ᠴ	ᠴ	ᠴ	ᠴ	ᠴ
Medial	ᠴ	ᠴ	ᠴ	ᠴ	ᠴ	ᠴ	ᠴ	ᠴ	ᠴ
Final	ᠴ	ᠴ	ᠴ	ᠴ	ᠴ	ᠴ	ᠴ	ᠴ	ᠴ
Cyrillic	Ч	Ҫ	Ш	Т	Д	Ч	Ж	Ӣ	Р
Latin	G	S	Sh	T	D	Ch	J	Y	R
Initial	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ
Medial	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ
Final	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ	ᠵ
Cyrillic	В	Ф	Ч / Ц	Г	К	Ц	З	Х	Лх
Latin	V	F	Ch / Ts	G	K	Ts	Z	H	Lkh

Figure 3 : Showing the writing system in the different scripts used to write Mongolian

Phonology

This entire analysis done for Phonology is done for the Lingua Franca

Introduction

In Khalkha there are seven monophthong vowel phonemes. This alignment seems to have superseded an alignment according to oral backness(to be discussed in detail).

Mongolian Cyrillic	IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet)
а	ɑ
и/й	i
о	ɔ
ө	o
ү	ʊ
ү	u
э	e

Khalkha also has four diphthongs: /ui, օi, օi, ai/. Vowels can also combine to form a further three diphthongs, and so seven in total: ia (иа), ua (уа) ei (эй). For example: ай in далай (eyes), иа in амиараа (individually), ой in ногой (dog), ya in хуаран (barracks), үй in үйлах (to cry), үй in үйлдвэр (factory), эй in хэрэгтэй (necessary).

There are 29 consonant phonemes in Mongolian. The following table lists the consonants of it. The consonants enclosed in parentheses occur only in loanwords.

		Labial		Dental		Velar		Uvular
		plain	pal.	plain	pal.	plain	pal.	
Nasal		m	m̥	n	n̥	ŋ		
Plosive	voiceless/voiced	p	p̥	t	t̥	g	g̥	g
	voiceless aspirated	(pʰ)	(p̥ʰ)	tʰ	t̥ʰ	(kʰ)	(k̥ʰ)	
Affricate	voiceless			ts	tʃ			
	voiceless aspirated			tsʰ	tʃʰ			
Fricative	central	(f)		s	ʃ	x	x̥	
	lateral			ɮ	ɮ̥			
Trill				r	r̥			
Approximant		w	w̥		j			

Vowels:

There are seven long vowels [i:, e:, a:, u:, ʊ:, o:, ɔ:] and six short vowels [i, ɪ, e, a, ʊ, ɔ] in initial syllables. While in non-initial syllables, there are full vowels [i, ɪ, e, a, ʊ, ɔ, ɒ] as well as their phonetically reduced forms.

[ʃiʃig]	шилийг	'glass-ACC'	[pi:rig]	бийрийг	'brush-ACC'
[siʃer]	шилээр	'glass-INST'	[pi:rer]	бийрээр	'brush-INST'
[piʃpur]	бишүүр	'hypocrite'	[ti:ʃul]	дийшүүл	'to win-CAUS'
[ɛniʃgir]	чилгэр	'sturdy'	[ti:ʃig ht]	дийшэлт	'victory'
[tiʃig]	дэлийг	'mane-ACC'	[te:ʃig]	дээлийг	'robe-ACC'
[tiʃer]	дэлээр	'mane-INST'	[te:ʃer]	дээлээр	'robe-INST'
[tiʃgur]	дэлгүүр	'shop'	[te:gur]	дээгүүр	'over'
[tiʃgir]	дэлгэр	'wide'	[ce:ʃper]	зээлбэр	'loan-word'
[taʃig]	даалыг	'seventy-ACC'	[pa:ʃig]	баалыг	'lap-dog-ACC'
[taʃar]	даалаар	'seventy-INST'	[pa:ʃar]	баалаар	'lap-dog-INST'
[taʃoʃ]	далуул	'seventy-COLL'	[ca:roʃ]	зааруул	'to dislocate'
[carəʃ]	зарла	'to announce'	[sa:rəʃ]	саарал	'grey'
[suʃtig]	сүлдийг	'emblem-ACC'	[su:ʃig]	сүүлийг	'tail-ACC'
[suʃter]	сүлдээр	'emblem-INST'	[su:ʃer]	сүүлээр	'tail-INST'
[puʃur]	бүлүүр	'paddle'	[tu:gur]	дүүгүүр	'sling'
[purtüʃ]	бүрдэл	'range'	[tu:ʃgür]	дүүлгэр	'frisky'
[soʃig]	сулыг	'loose-ACC'	[co:rig]	зуурыг	'moment-ACC'
[soʃar]	сулаар	'loose-INST'	[co:rar]	зуураар	'moment-INST'
[corgoʃ]	зургуул	'six-COLL'	[co:roʃ]	зуруул	'ink-slab'
[coroʃ ht]	зуралт	'pencil lead'	[to:ʃoʃ]	дуулал	'singing'
[toʃig]	дөлийг	'flame-ACC'	[po:rig]	боорийг	'kidney-ACC'
[torwuʃ]	дорвүүл	'four-COLL'	[co:ʃruʃ]	зоолрүүл	'to soften'
[toʃor]	дөлөөр	'flame-INST'	[po:ror]	боорөөр	'kidney-INST'
[soʃör]	солор	'cross-eyed'	[co:ʃroʃ ht]	зоолролт	'softening'

The measurements in the paper of **Jan Olof Svantesson** show that the duration of a short vowel in the initial syllable is almost exactly half (on average 48 per cent) of the duration of a long vowel. The duration of a full non-initial vowel is, on average, 61 per cent of the duration of a long initial vowel, and reduced non-initial vowels have a duration which is 34 percent of the duration of a long initial vowel. Although full vowels in non-initial syllables developed historically from long vowels (10.5), their duration in modern Mongolian is closer to the duration of a short vowel in the initial syllable than to the duration of a long vowel.

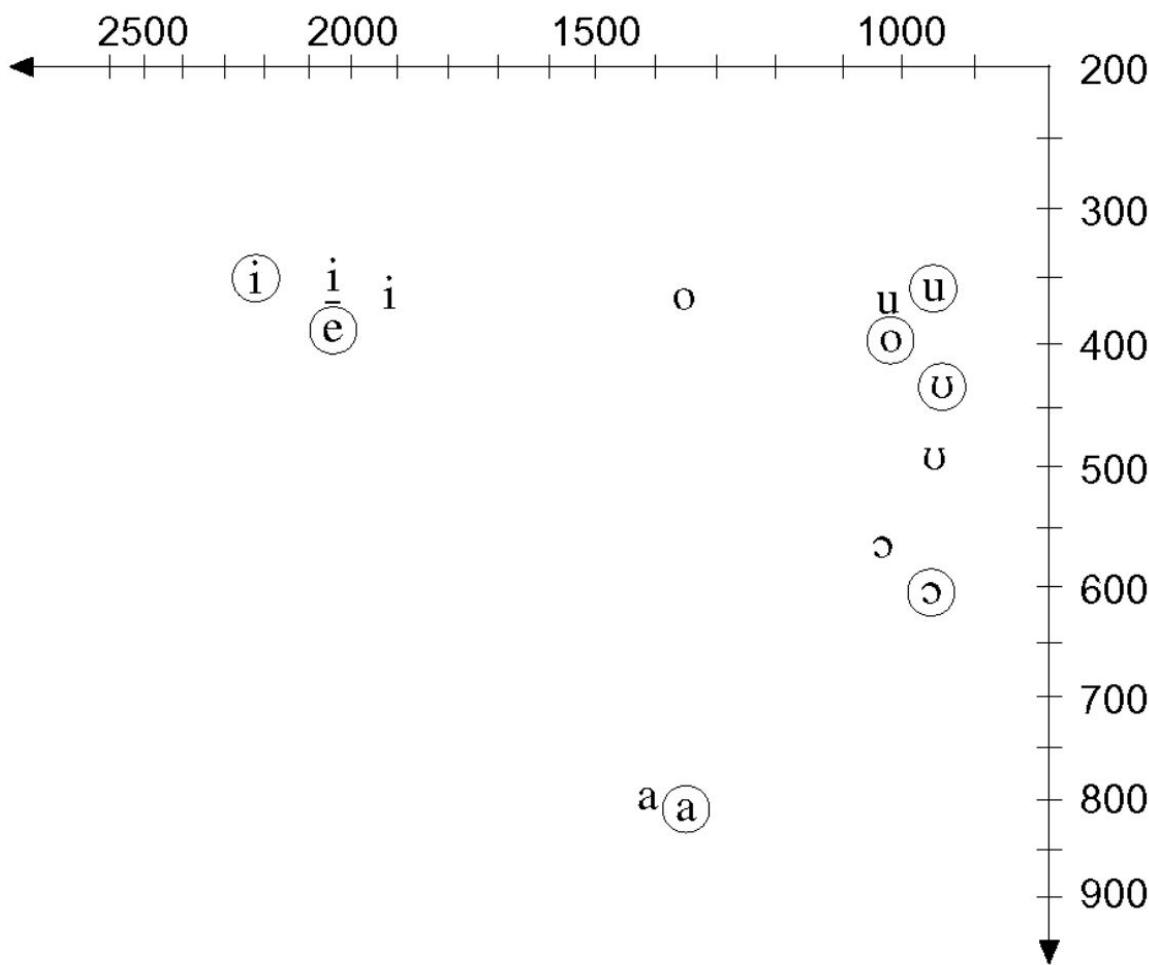


Figure 4 : Mean formant frequencies (F1 and F2) for short initial vowels compared to long initial vowels (circled).

The qualities of corresponding long and short initial vowels are approximately the same, but the short ones are usually slightly centralized, as illustrated in Figure 4. The only major exception is [o], whose long and short versions have rather different qualities, although they function

phonologically and historically as a long ~ short pair, and are written with the same Cyrillic letter (ӨӨ and Ө). In a narrow phonetic transcription they could be written as [o:] and [θ].

Reduced vowels occur only in non-initial syllables, and their quality depends on the preceding full vowel.

Vowel Harmony:

The vowels are aligned into three vowel harmony groups by a parameter called ATR (advanced tongue root); the groups are –ATR, +ATR, and neutral. There are multiple explanations for the vowel harmony in the Mongolian Language but we will follow the **Svantesson** method where he divides it into the category of being **pharyngeal**[ʊ, ɔ, a], **non pharyngeal** [u, o, e] and **neutral**[i]. In his explanation ,the pharyngeal is more or less equivalent to [RTR] 'retracted tongue root' ; the opposite feature [ATR] 'advanced tongue root'.

	+ATR ("front")	-ATR ("back")	Neutral
IPA Characters	e, u, o	a, ʊ, ɔ	i
Mongolian Cyrillic characters	Э, Ү, Ө	А, Ү, Ө	И and Й

All the vowels in a noncompound word, including all its suffixes, must belong to the same group. If the first vowel is –ATR, then every vowel of the word must be either /i/ or a –ATR vowel. Likewise, if the first vowel is a +ATR vowel, then every vowel of the word must be either /i/ or a +ATR vowel. In the case of suffixes, which must change their vowels to conform to different words, two patterns predominate. Some suffixes contain an archiphoneme /A/ that can be realized as /a, ɔ, e, o/. For example:

- orx [household] + -Ar (instrumental) → orxor [by a household]
- xarʊʒ [sentry] + -Ar (instrumental) → xarʊʒar [by a sentry]{a soldier stationed to keep guard or to control access to a place.}

Other suffixes can occur in /U/ being realized as /ʊ, u/, in which case all –ATR vowels lead to /ʊ/ and all +ATR vowels lead to /u/. For example:

- aw [to take] + -Uʒ (causative) → awʊʒ

If the only vowel in the word stem is /i/, the suffixes will use the +ATR suffix forms.

The vowel phoneme HI is neutral to vowel harmony, in the sense that it can occur in non-initial syllables of words whose first syllable has a non-pharyngeal vowel [e, u, o] as well as in words with a pharyngeal vowel [a, ʊ, ɔ] in its initial syllable. The pronunciation is different in these two cases, however, and in detailed phonetic transcriptions we write [i] in non-pharyngeal words and [ɪ] in pharyngeal words.

Rounding harmony- Mongolian also has rounding harmony, which does not apply to close vowels. If a stem contains /o/ (or /ɔ/), a suffix that is specified for an open vowel will have [o] (or [ɔ], respectively) as well. However, this process is blocked by the presence of /u/ (or /ʊ/) and /ei/. E.g. ᠡᠷ--tsə came in, but ᠡᠷ-ʊʒ-tsə inserted.

Palatalized vowels

There is a class of **palatalized vowels** in the Mongolian Language:

Consonant palatalization is contrastive in Mongolian, but the palatalized consonant phonemes are found only in words with pharyngeal vowels [a, ʊ, ɔ]. When these vowels (long or short) are followed by a palatalized consonant, their pronunciation is changed so that the final part of the vowel becomes more [i]-like. Since they occur only before palatalized consonants, they must be regarded as allophones of the corresponding plain vowels. The non-pharyngeal vowels [e, u, o] never occur before palatalized consonants.

Consonants:

Stops and affricates

There are four places of articulation for stops in Mongolian: labial, dental, velar, and uvular. In addition, there are palatalized labial, dental, and velar stops, which contrast with the plain (non-palatalized) ones. There are also dental and alveopalatal affricates. The velar, palatalized

velar, and uvular stops, which have only one manner of articulation, are often voiced, unlike the other stops. Furthermore they function phonologically as voiced consonants .

In Mongolian,The final part of the vowel preceding an aspirated stop is usually pronounced with clearly audible aspiration noise and is at least partially devoiced. The duration of preaspiration was measured from the beginning of the devoicing of the vowel to the beginning of the closure phase of the consonant. Preaspiration is most salient when the preceding vowel is in the same word, that is, when the consonant is in medial or final position, but occurs also in the vowel [i:] of the first word [pi:] T of the carrier sentence when it precedes an aspirated consonant. For example, the sentence frame with the word [tʰalga] 'steppe-RFL' is pronounced [pi:tʰałgagisš] 'I said steppe'. {steppe is a large area of flat unforested grassland in south-eastern Europe or Siberia}

Fricatives

There are five fricatives, [x, χ,x^j, s, š]. Velar [x] occurs in words with non-pharyngeal vowels [e, o, u] and uvular [χ] in words with pharyngeal vowels [ø, ɔ, a] . The palatalized fricative [x^j] probably has a purely palatal pronunciation. The sibilant fricatives [s, š] are post aspirated in word-initial and medial position.

Nasals

There are six nasals [m, m^j , n, n^j , ɳ, N] . Velar [ɳ] occurs only in words with non-pharyngeal vowels and uvular [N] only in pharyngeal words. Unlike the other nasals, these two are found only in syllable codas, and in connected speech they are normally realized only as nasalization of the preceding vowel, or of its final part if it is long.

Liquids

The liquids in Mongolian are the lateral fricative [ʒ], the vibrant [r], and the corresponding palatalized consonants [ʒ^j,r^j]. The presence of the lateral fricative [ʒ] while a plain lateral [l] is absent is a typologically unusual feature.

There is also a voiceless lateral [ɬ] found in word-initial position in a few Tibetan loan-words. It differs from [ʒ] not only by being voiceless but also by having higher intensity and more high-frequency noise , and it is differentiated from [ʒ] even by those speakers who devoice [ʒ].

Glides

The glide [w] (and palatalized [w^j]), which has developed historically from the Old Mongolian stop *p when it occurred after a vowel, functions phonologically as a consonant. Phonetically, [w] is less rounded than e.g. English [w] and is sometimes described as a bilabial fricative [β]; it is, however, a glide (approximant) rather than a fricative.

Word and Syllable structure

Mongolian surface syllables have the structure (C)V(V)(C)(C)(C). The syllable will be regarded as consisting of an onset (the initial consonant) and a rhyme, which in its turn consists of a vowel nucleus and a coda (the final consonants). The onset and coda may be absent. If a word was monosyllabic historically, *CV has become CVV. [ŋ] is restricted to codas (else it becomes [n]), and /p/ and /p^j/ do not occur in codas for historical reasons. For two-consonant clusters, the following restrictions obtain:

- a palatalized consonant can be preceded only by another palatalized consonant or sometimes by /g/ and /ʃ/
- /ŋ/ may precede only /ʃ, x, g, g^j/ and /g/
- /j/ does not seem to appear in second position
- /p/ and /p^j/ do not occur as first consonant and as second consonant only if preceded by /m/ or /b/ or their palatalized counterparts.

There are multiple Syllable types of Mongolian. But, the number of possible syllable types is largest in word-initial position, where long and short vowels contrast, and where syllables may or may not have an onset.

Epenthetic vowels (An epenthetic vowel is a vowel inserted into a phonological environment to repair a marked or illegal structure. The epenthetic vowel in a given language is usually assumed to be a default vowel) do not occur in initial syllables.

Following are the **few examples** of the Syllable types and their words ->

(a) *Monosyllabic words*

CVV	guu	гуу	'mare'
VV	oo	оо	'powder'
CVi	xui	хүй	'group'
Vi	ai	ай	'category'
CVC	t ^h ɔt ^{jh}	тотъ	'parrot'
VC	aj	ая	'melody'
CVVC	suułż	сүүл	'tail'
VVC	aaw	аав	'father'
CViC	cuiłż	зүйл	'type'
ViC	ailż	айл	'family'
CVCC	taws	давс	'salt'
VCC	art	ард	'people'
CVVCC	nuurs	нүүрс	'coal'
VVCC	aałżc	аалз	'spider'
CViCC	maiłżs	майлс	'cypress'
ViCC	ɔims	оймс	'sock'
CVCCC	tawst ^h	давст	'salty' ('salt-AR')
VCCC	iłżst ^h	элст	'sandy' ('sand-AR')
CVVCCC	nuursč ^h	нүүрсч	'coalman' ('coal-AGNR')
VVCCC	<i>no examples found – probably accidental gap</i>		
CViCCC	maiłżst ^h	майлст	'cypress-AR'
ViCCC	ɔimst ^h	оймст	'sock-AR'

(b) *Word-initial*

CV	ja.ż̥a	ялаа	'fly'
V	a.tu	адуу	'horse'
CVV	tʰuu.ż̥ai	туулай	'hare'
VV	aa.ruż̥	ааруул	'dried curds'
CVi	pai.šəŋ	байшин	'building'
Vi	ai.məg	аймаг	'district'
CVC	xon.ti	хөндий	'hollow'
VC	uż̥.gər	үлгэр	'story'
CVVC	paaw.gai	баавгай	'bear'
VVC	uur.xai	урхай	'mine'
CViC	naiż̥.cur	найлзуур	'sprout'
ViC	aiż̥.tʰai	айлтай	'family-COM'
CVCC	xant.gai	хандгай	'elk'
VCC	ars.ż̥əŋ	арслан	'lion'
CVVCC	gaans.tʰai	гаанстай	'pipe-COM'
VVCC	aał̥c.tʰai	аалзтай	'spider-COM'
CViCC	maiż̥s.tʰai	майлстай	'cypress-COM'
ViCC	ɔims.tʰɔi	оймстой	'sock-COM'
CVCCC	tawstʰ.tʰai	давсттай	'salty-COM'
VCCC	iż̥stʰ.tʰe	элсттэй	'sandy-COM'
CVVCCC	nuursč̥.tʰe	нүүрсчтэй	'coalman-COM'
VVCCC	uurstʰ.ż̥a	урстлаа	'to be angry-TERM-RFL' (<i>uurs-tʰż̥-a</i>)

(c) *Word-internal*

CV	ja.ż̥a.tʰai	ялаатай	'fly-COM'
CVi	tʰuu.ż̥ai.tʰai	туулайтай	'hare-COM'
Cə	ar.ğə.ż̥a	аргалаа	'dried dung-RFL'
CVC	aa.ruż̥.tʰai	ааруултай	'dried curds-COM'
CViC	xa.rais.nas	хайранаас	'to jump-PSTP-ABL' (<i>xarai-sŋ-as</i>)
CəC	sar.məg.č̥əŋ	сармагчин	'monkey'
CVCC	sa.narx.səŋ	санаархсан	'to intend-PSTP' (<i>sanarx-sŋ</i>)
CViCC	puc.gairx.səŋ	бузгайрхсан	'to be haughty-PSTP' (<i>pucgairx-sŋ</i>)
CəCC	sur.wəż̥č.ż̥əgč̥	сурвалжлагч	'journalist'
CVCCC	sa.narxth.ż̥a	санаархлаа	'to intend-TERM-RFL'
CViCCC	puc.gairxth.ż̥a	бузгайрхлаа	'to be haughty-TERM-RFL'
CəCCC	nu.ż̥əmstʰ.tʰai	нулимсттай	'tearful-COM'

(d) *Word-final*

CV	ja.ż̥a	ялаа	'fly'
CVi	tʰuu.ż̥ai	туулай	'hare'
CVC	şag.şor	шагшуур	'biscuit-stick'
CViC	xa.raix	хайрх	'to jump-FUTP'
CəC	uż̥.gər	үлгэр	'story'
CVCC	sa.narx	санаарх	'to intend'
CViCC	puc.gairx	бузгайрх	'to be haughty'
CəCC	gu.təmč̥	гудамж	'street'
CVCCC	mo.gorstʰ	мөгөрст	'gristly' (gristle-AR)
CViCCC	no examples found – probably accidental gap		
CəCCC	nu.ż̥əmstʰ	нулимст	'tearful' (tear-AR)

Prosodic Features

Focal Accent

- We distinguish two pragmatic types of focus, broad and narrow. A constituent can get narrow focus either by the pragmatic context, or by a lexical focus marker. Broad focus occurs in neutral utterances without narrow focus.
- When the focused word is aaw, there is an **FO** rise on the long vowel in this word, and when the focused word is jama with a short initial vowel, the first vowel has low, and the second one high **FO**. In both cases, this can be analysed as a **LH** (lowhigh) sequence, and in both cases the peak is the highest one in the sentence.
- When focus is on the last word of an utterance, usually a verb since Mongolian is a verb-final language, it is not marked with the rising focal accent tone.

Stress

- Stress in Mongolian is non phonemic.(isn't distinguishable).The different phonetic properties which signal a stressed syllable in other languages, especially in languages with contrastive stress, have different functions in Mongolian and do not converge to form a unified phenomenon of word stress in this language.
- A Mongolian utterance often has a tonal downstep to a low piten which spreads over the rest of the utterance. This occurs in neutral utterances without narrow focus as well as in utterances with narrow focus marked by a focal rise LH.
- Mongolian tends to place the rheme(the part of a clause that gives information about the theme) at the end of an utterance. The final verb is pragmatically important, and the position before the final verb is the syntactic focus position, as in Turkish and Hungarian, so that a constituent can be focused by moving it to this position.
- Walker (1997) proposes that stress falls on the rightmost heavy syllable unless this syllable is word-final:
 - LHH¹HL [ʊ.ʒan.pa:tʰ.́rin.xəŋ] {the residents of Ulaanbaatar}

Morphology

- Mongolian is an Agglutinative language.(So there are many derivational morphemes.)

- Mongolian lacks gendered nouns (which Spanish where the nouns are assigned a gender like el niño (child or son)), or definite articles like "the".
- Example: bajguullagynh-> **root baj + epenthetic -g- + causative -uul- + derivative suffix -laga + complex suffix -ynh**
- There are 10 classes of stems in Mongolian which are -> There are ten classes of stems: **nouns, adjectives, numerals, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, postpositions, conjunctions, particles and interjections.**

Singular	First Person	Second Person
Plural	nominative bi	ci
	accusative namaig	camaig
	genitive minii	cinii
	oblique nad-	cam-
Plural	nominative bid	ta
	genitive bidnii, manai (excl.)	tanai
	oblique bidn-, man- (excl.)	tan-

Nominal Morphology

- ★ **Nominal** refers to a category used to group together nouns and adjectives based on shared properties)
- ★ Nouns can take suffixes for number, case and possession (in that order). Adjectives precede the noun and are invariable. Nominal compounds are quite frequent.
- ★ **Cases- nominative (unmarked), genitive, dative, accusative, ablative, instrumental, comitative and directional.**
 - If a direct object is definite, it must take the accusative
 - If a direct object is unspecific it must take the nominative case.

- Below is a table showing the cases and their examples.

<i>case</i>	<i>suffix</i>	<i>nom</i> ('book')	<i>ger</i> ('house')	<i>dalai</i> ('sea')	<i>mal</i> ('cattle')
nominative	unmarked	nom	ger	dalai	mal
accusative	-ig	nomig	geriig	dalaig	maliig
genitive	-in	nomin	geriin	dalain	maliin
dative	-d	nomd	gert	dalaid	mald
ablative	-As	nomoos	gerees	dalaigaas	malaas
instrumental	-Ar	nomoor	gereer	dalaigaar	malaar
possessive	-tAi	nomtoi	gertei	dalaitai	maltaai

- ★ In Mongolian , plurality may be left unmarked or it can be indicated with one of several suffixes, like -Ud, -nUd, -cUd, -s, -d. A noun that is modified by a numeral is left unmarked.
- ★ **Gender**-Mongolian nouns have no Grammatical Genders.Sex is expressed only in the inherent meaning of the word , which fact plays no role in declencion.
- ★ **Comparison**-as there are no comparative forms, adjectival nouns are compared by placing the standard of comparison in the ablative case. The superlative is expressed by a construction with the genitive xamg-iin 'of all'.
- ★ **Pronouns**- There are 5 types of Pronouns in Mongolian.Following are those:

- *Personal Pronoun*
- *Possessive Pronoun*
- *Demonstrative Pronoun*
- *Interrogative-indefinite Pronoun*
- *Reflexive Pronoun*

Singular		First Person	Second Person
	nominative	bi	ci
	accusative	namaig	camaig
	genitive	minii	cinii
	oblique	nad-	cam-
Plural			
	nominative	bid	ta
	genitive	bidnii, manai (excl.)	tanai
	oblique	bidn-, man- (excl.)	tan-

- Personal pronouns exist for the first and second person.

- The third person is supplied by two demonstrative pronouns (**proximal** ene and **distal** tar).
- Pronouns are inflected in fewer cases than nouns. Only the genitive is marked in the singular and the plural while the accusative is only distinguished in the singular; for the other cases a common oblique stem is used.
- The second person plural ta is used mainly as an honorific 2nd person singular; when plurality is meant the particle nar is added (ta nar).
- The genitives of the personal pronouns are used as possessive pronouns.
 - They precede the head noun, but with minor modifications may be used after it (1sg. miny, 2sg. ciny, 1 pl. maany, 2 pl. taany, 3rd sg./pl. ny).
- The interrogative pronouns are xen ('who?'), yüü ('what?') xezee ('when?'), xedii ('how much?'), xeden ('how many?'), xaa ('where?'). Combined with the enclitic "c" they become indefinites e.g. xenc ('whoever'). The reflexive pronoun is öör-.

Verbal Morphology

- ★ The independent words derived using verbal suffixes can roughly be divided into three classes:
 - **final verbs**(which can only be used sentence-finally)
 - **Participles** (which can be used clause-finally or attributively)
 - **converbs**(which can link clauses or function adverbially)
- ★ In Mongolian, verbs are marked for aspect, tense and mood but not for person and number.
- ★ Derivative Productive verbal suffixes are present . For example : jar'- 'to speak', jarilts- 'to speak with each other'.
- ★ Negation is mostly expressed by the suffix -güi after participles and by the negation particle bi after nouns and adjectives; negation particles preceding the verb exist, but tend to be replaced by analytical constructions.
- ★ **Person** and **number** are not marked in Mongolian language.
- ★ **Tense**
 - There are basically two types of tenses **past** and **non-past** (present-future)

- The tenses when combined with the perfective and imperfective aspects, give four basic forms:
 - perfective past
 - imperfective past
 - perfective non-past
 - imperfective non-past.
- Each of the non fundamental tenses are marked by a separate suffix.
 - The present/future tense is formed by adding either на, но, нэ, or нө to the stem.
 - байна is the present/future tense verb for to be.

★ Mood

- There are two major types of mood.
 - Indicative
 - Imperative
- The indicative has durative, terminative, confirmative and resultative modal forms.
- The imperative has precative, voluntative, prescriptive, permissive, desiderative, dubitative and potential forms.
- Each of these forms is marked by a specific suffix.
- The Mongolian optative or "wishing form" (Хүсэх Хэлбэр) is used largely to "tell another person about a wish not connected to the listener".

★ Aspect

- Aspect is a grammatical category that expresses how an action, event, or state, denoted by a verb, extends over time.
- There are four major types of mood.
 - imperfective or progressive (ongoing action)
 - perfective (completed action)
 - habitive (repetitive or habitual action)
 - intensive (sudden or forceful action)
- Imperfective aspect is expressed by using an imperfective converb with a lexical main verb and the auxiliary bai 'to be' which indicates tense.
- Perfective aspect is expressed by combining the perfective participle of the main verb with the auxiliary bai.
- Perfective aspect is expressed by combining the perfective participle of the main verb with the auxiliary bai.

- By adding the suffix -cx to a stem a new verbal stem with an intensive aspect is created.
- The last position is occupied by suffixes that express tense, evidentiality and modality. So it also expresses Aspect .

★ Voice

- Classical Mongolian features five voices: **active, passive, causative, reciprocal, and cooperative** .

★ Participles

- **futuritive, imperfective, perfective, habitive and agentive.**
- Middle Mongol had a slightly larger set of declarative finite verb suffix forms and a smaller number of participles, which were less likely to be used as finite predicates.
- In a passive sentence, the verb takes the suffix -gd- and the agent takes either dative or instrumental case, the first of which is more common.

★ Converb

- In theoretical linguistics, a converb (abbreviated cvb) is a nonfinite verb form that serves to express adverbial subordination: notions like 'when', 'because', 'after' and 'while'.
- It is an important feature of the Mongolian and is one of those Linguistic features which was coined by studying Mongolian in detail.

Syntax

Important Features

- ★ The basic word order for the Mongolian Language is Subject-Object-Verb.
- ★ Indirect objects usually precede direct objects but the order of the other constituents is quite free. Modifiers such as adjectives and numerals precede the noun they modify. However, certain quantifiers follow it.
- ★ Case suffixes are added to the last word of the phrase.
- ★ Functional roles are indicated by the case system supplemented by postpositions. Converbs are important in sentence linking.
- ★ Mongolian uses differential case marking, being a regular Differential Object Marking (DOM) language.

- ★ Mongolian also exhibits a specific type of Differential Subject Marking (DSM), in which the subjects of embedded clauses (including adverbial clauses) occur with accusative case.

Phrase Structure

★ Features for structure(Initially NP)

- The noun phrase has the order: demonstrative pronoun/numeral, adjective, noun.
- A noun phrase in Mongolian may, in general, be modified by another noun phrase: thus from tümen and delxijn uls we form delxijn uls tümen.
- Attributive sentences precede the whole NP.
- Normally the object, being part of the verb phrase, follows the subject, but we often find the subject .
- Moreover, it is interesting to observe that Mongolian allows considerable right-depth in noun phrases - indeed, English allows considerable left-depth in noun phrases(Compared with English because of the similar word order).
- Possessive pronouns (in different forms) may either precede or follow the NP.

★ Features for structure(VP)

- Verbal phrase consists of the predicate in the center, preceded by its complements and by the adverbials modifying it and followed by modal particles.
- There are several types of nominal predicative constructions, with or without a copula.
- The last position is occupied by suffixes that express tense, evidentiality, modality, and aspect.(mentioned earlier)

Clauses

- ★ Unmarked phrase order for Mongolian is subject–object–predicate.
- ★ Predicate generally remains in clause-final position.
- ★ Mongolian allows for adjectival depictives that relate to either the subject or the direct object.

Complex Sentences

Following are the methods through which Mongolian deals with complex sentences.

- Conjoin clauses is to have the first clause end in a converb.
 - For example :

<i>bid üün-iжg</i>	<i>ol-bol</i>	<i>čam-d</i>	<i>ög-nö</i>
we	it-ACCUSATIVE	find-CONDITIONAL.CONVERBAL.SUFFIX	you.FAMILIAR-DATIVE
'if we find it we'll give it to you'			

- Sometimes postpositions govern complete clauses. In contrast, conjunctions take verbal nouns without case.
 - For example :

<i>jadar-san</i>	<i>učraas</i>	<i>unt-laa</i>
become.tired-PERFECT	because	sleep-WITNESSED;PAST ^[95]
'I slept because I was tired'		

- Lastly, there is a class of particles, usually clause-initial, that are distinct from conjunctions but that also relate clauses.
 - For example :

<i>bi olson,</i>	<i>harin čamđ</i>	<i>ögöhgüj</i>
I find-PERFECT	but you-DATIVE	give-IMPERFECTIVE-NEGATION
'I've found it, but I won't give it to you'.		

- In the subordinate clause the subject, if different from the subject of the main clause, sometimes has to take an accusative or genitive case.

Questions

- In Mongolian , a question marker is used to mark a question.
- In Mongolian, yy and yy are used when the last word ends in a short vowel or a consonant, and their use depends on the vowel harmony of the previous word.

Semantics

Colour Terms:

1. There are seven basic color terms in Mongolian, i.e these nine colours have the terms of colours for denoting the colours .

Following are the nine colours :

- a. White
 - b. Red
 - c. Black
 - d. Blue (clear distinction in light and dark)
 - e. Pink
 - f. Brown
 - g. Green
 - h. Yellow
 - i. Orange
2. English word blue has two different meanings in Mongolian /khukh and tsenker/ as well as the English word “brown”, whereas different in English from each other words “violet” and “pink” have the same meaning in Mongolian.
 3. The way Mongolians related yellow color to natural phenomena, meals, naming the horses by its color (coat) has become the reflection of the Mongolians’ thinking (mentality) and expresses its main husbandry and way of thinking.(Thus any colour with the slightest connection to yellow has been named by the experimenters).
 4. In Mongolian, light blue (“qinker”) and dark blue (“huhe”) are strictly distinct, while both light green and dark green are described as one word, nogvagan.

Kinship Terms:

For the kinship terms we look at the first three columns of the tables mentioned below.They consist of the variations of all the terms that exist in Mongolian and covers some variants of it.

<i>yeke ekeyin eke</i>	—	maternal grandmother	MoMo	1.1	2.3	3.2	4.2	5.2	—	7.2	—	9.1	—	AL
<i>ečige</i>	<i>ečge, ečke, ečike, ečē, ejige, öjige</i>	father	Fa	1.1	2.2	3.1	4.1	—	—	7.1	—	9.1	—	SHM, KG, ZYy, MP, IM, AL, RH, HyG, HyT, MA, VdI, Yy, Yb, BLk
<i>eke</i>	<i>ege, öke</i>	mother	Mo	1.1	2.2	3.1	4.2	—	—	7.2	—	9.1	—	SHM, KG, ZYy, MP, IM, AL, RH, HyG, HyT, MA, VdI, Yy, Yb, BLk
<i>ebin</i>	—	father's elder brother	FaElBr	1.1	2.2	3.3	4.1	5.1	—	7.1	8.1	9.2	—	SHM, ZYy, HyG, Yy, Yb, BLk
<i>abaqa 1</i>	<i>abaxa, abu-χa, abu'a</i>	father's younger brother	FaYoBr	1.1	2.2	3.3	4.1	5.1	—	7.1	8.2	9.2	—	SHM, ZYy, HyG, Yy, Yb, BLk
<i>abaqa 2</i>	<i>abaya</i>	father's brother	FaBr	1.1	2.2	3.3	4.1	5.1	—	7.1	—	9.2	—	RH, MP, MA
<i>ečgeyin deü</i>	—	father's brother ³	FaBr	1.1	2.2	3.3	4.1	5.1	—	7.1	—	9.2	—	AL
<i>aya ečē</i>	<i>aya ačā</i>	father's brother	FaBr	1.1	2.2	3.3	4.1	5.1	—	7.1	—	9.2	—	IM

<i>aya</i>	—	brother	Br	1.1	2.1	3.2	4.1	—	—	—	—	9.2	—	KG
<i>egeči 1</i>	<i>ekeči, ekeji, ökeči</i>	elder sister	ElsSi	1.1	2.1	3.2	4.2	—	—	—	8.1	9.2	—	SHM, ZYy, AL, HyG, MA, Yy, Yb, BLk
<i>döyi</i>	<i>düi</i>	younger sister	YoSi	1.1	2.1	3.2	4.2	—	—	—	8.2	9.2	—	SHM, ZYy, HyG, Yb
<i>de'ü 2</i>	<i>de'üü, düü, diyüü öküün, ökin deüüü</i>	younger sister	YoSi	1.1	2.1	3.2	4.2	—	—	—	8.2	9.2	—	AL, MA, Yy, Yb, BLk
<i>egeči 2</i>	<i>ekeči</i>	sister	Si	1.1	2.1	3.2	4.2	—	—	—	—	9.2	—	KG, RH
<i>de'ü 3</i>	<i>düü, ökin de'ü</i>	sister	Si	1.1	2.1	3.2	4.2	—	—	—	—	9.2	—	IM, AL
<i>üye 1</i>	—	paternal cousin	FaBrSo	1.1	2.1	3.4	4.1	5.1	—	7.1	—	9.2	—	ZYy
<i>ke'üken 1</i>	<i>kö'üken, küken</i>	child	Ch	1.1	2.6	3.1	—	—	—	—	—	9.1	—	SHM, RH, HyG, HyT, MA, Yb
<i>kö'ü(n) 1</i>	<i>kü'ün, kö-be'ün, kö'ün šibawun</i>	child	Ch	1.1	2.6	3.1	—	—	—	—	—	9.1	—	SHM, HyT, MA, Yy, BLk
<i>nu'u(n)</i>	—	child	Ch	1.1	2.6	3.1	—	—	—	—	—	9.1	—	ZYy, HyG, Yb
<i>ke'üken 2</i>	<i>kö'üken, küken</i>	son	So	1.1	2.6	3.1	4.1	—	—	—	—	9.1	—	SHM, AL, MA

Table 5. Componential analysis of kinship terms in Middle Mongolian

Form	Variants	Translation	Extension	Intension								Monuments	
				1.1	2.5	3.4	4.1	5.1	—	7.1	—		
<i>boroqai</i>	<i>borqai, boroxai</i>	paternal great-great-grandfather	FaFaFaFa	1.1	2.5	3.4	4.1	5.1	—	7.1	—	9.1	— SHM, MP, HyG, Yb
<i>yolinmuču[q]</i>	—	paternal great-great-grandfather	FaFaFaFa	1.1	2.5	3.4	4.1	5.1	—	7.1	—	9.1	— Yy, BLk
<i>elinčük</i>	<i>elenčik, elinčik, elimmüčü[k]</i>	paternal great-grandfather	FaFaFa	1.1	2.4	3.3	4.1	5.1	—	7.1	—	9.1	— SHM, MP, HyG, Yy, Yb, BLk
<i>ebüge(n)</i>	<i>öbüge(n)</i>	paternal grandfather	FaFa	1.1	2.3	3.2	4.1	5.1	—	7.1	—	9.1	— SHM, ZYy, MP, HyG, Yy, Yb, BLk
<i>yeke ečege</i>	—	paternal grandfather	FaFa	1.1	2.3	3.2	4.1	5.1	—	7.1	—	9.1	— AL
<i>ečē ečē</i>	<i>ačā ačā</i>	paternal grandfather	FaFa	1.1	2.3	3.2	4.1	5.1	—	7.1	—	9.1	— IM
<i>emege(n)</i>	<i>emügen, ömege eke</i>	paternal grandmother	FaMo	1.1	2.3	3.2	4.2	5.1	—	7.1	—	9.1	— SHM, ZYy, HyG, Yy, Yb, BLk
<i>yeke eke</i>	—	paternal grandmother	FaMo	1.1	2.3	3.2	4.2	5.1	—	7.1	—	9.1	— MA
<i>yeke ečge ekīn</i>	—	maternal grandfather	MoFa	1.1	2.3	3.2	4.1	5.2	—	7.2	—	9.1	— AL

Form	Variants	Translation	Extension	Intension								Monuments	
				1.1	2.2	3.3	4.2	5.1	—	7.1	—		
<i>aqai egeči</i>	<i>aχai egeči</i>	father's sister	FaSi	1.1	2.2	3.3	4.2	5.1	—	7.1	—	HyG, Yb	
<i>dewü eče</i>	<i>dū ejē</i>	father's sister	FaSi	1.1	2.2	3.3	4.2	5.1	—	7.1	—	IM	
<i>naqaču</i>	<i>naχaču, na-</i> <i>γaču, naχaču</i>	mother's brother	MoBr	1.1	2.2	3.3	4.1	5.2	—	7.2	—	9.2	—
<i>aya eke</i>	—	mother's brother	MoBr	1.1	2.2	3.3	4.1	5.2	—	7.2	—	9.2	—
<i>abaqa 3</i>	—	mother's brother	MoBr	1.1	2.2	3.3	4.1	5.2	—	7.2	—	9.2	—
<i>naqaču egeči</i>	<i>naχaču egeči</i>	mother's sister	MoSi	1.1	2.2	3.3	4.2	5.2	—	7.2	—	9.2	—
<i>ekeyin ökin</i> <i>digü</i>	—	mother's sister	MoSi	1.1	2.2	3.3	4.2	5.2	—	7.2	—	9.2	—
<i>aqa 1</i>	<i>aχa, aya,</i> <i>aχai</i>	male relative older than Ego, but younger than Ego's parents	ElBr, Fa- YoBr, Fa- ElBrSo, Fa- FaElBrSoSo ... Fa ⁿ El- BrSo ⁿ	1.1	—	—	4.1	—	—	—	—	—	SHM, ZYy, Ph, MP, IM, AL, RH, HyG, MA, Yy, Yb, BLk
<i>de'ü 1</i>	<i>deiün, dewü,</i> <i>de ü, diyü</i> <i>keün, dü,</i> <i>deü' ü</i>	male relative younger than Ego, but older than Ego's children	YoBr, El- BrSo, Fa- YoBrSo, FaFaYoBr- SoSo ... Fa ⁿ YoBrSo ⁿ	1.1	—	—	4.1	—	—	—	—	—	SHM, ZYy, Ph, IM, AL, RH, HyG, HyT, MA, Yy, Yb, BLk

Table 6. Compositional analysis of affinity terms in Middle Mongolian

Form	Variants	Translation	Extension	Intension									Monuments
				1.2	2.2	3.1	4.2	5.1	—	—	—	—	
<i>berigen 1</i>	<i>berigen eke</i>	father's wife	FaWi	1.2	2.2	3.1	4.2	5.1	—	—	—	—	IM, MP
<i>ečgeñ eme</i> ⁷	—	father's wife	FaWi	1.2	2.2	3.1	4.2	5.1	—	—	—	—	AL
<i>abu'a beri-gen</i>	<i>abuža berigen</i>	father's brother's wife	FaBrWi	1.2	2.2	3.3	4.2	5.1	—	—	—	—	Yy, Yb, BLk
<i>ajin</i>	—	father's brother's wife	FaBrWi	1.2	2.2	3.3	4.2	5.1	—	—	—	—	ZYy
<i>baja 1</i>	—	mother's sister's husband	MoSiHu	1.2	2.2	3.3	4.1	5.2	—	—	—	—	HyG, Yb
<i>qadum ečige</i>	<i>qadun ečige, žadun ečige, žadun ečike, žatun ejige, qadam ečge</i>	father-in-law (wife's father)	WiFa	1.2	2.2	3.1	4.1	5.2	6.1	—	—	—	ZYy, AL, RH, HyG, MA, Yy, Yb, BLk
<i>qadum 1</i>	—	father-in-law (wife's father)	WiFa	1.2	2.2	3.1	4.1	5.2	6.1	—	—	—	IM

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⁷ The term *ekeñ ere* 'mother's husband' [AL] which is symmetrical to *ečgeñ eme* should be understood in the meaning 'step-father' because of the absence of polyandry among the mediaeval Mongols. Therefore we do not include it in the table and place it in the category of terms of artificial kinship.

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Form	Variants	Translation	Extension	Intension									Monuments
				1.2	2.2	3.1	4.2	5.2	6.1	—	—	—	
<i>qadum eke</i>	<i>qadun eke, žadun eke, žatun eke</i>	mother-in-law (wife's mother)	WiMo	1.2	2.2	3.1	4.2	5.2	6.1	—	—	—	IM, RH, HyG, Yy, Yb, BLk
<i>aqa 2</i>	—	husband's male relative older than he, but younger than his parents	HuElBr, HuFaYoBr, HuFaElBrSo, HuFaFaElBr-SoSo ... Hu-Fa"ElBrSo"	1.2	—	—	4.1	—	6.2	—	—	—	SHM
<i>ere</i>	—	husband	Hu	1.2	2.1	3.0	4.1	—	6.2	—	—	—	SHM, MA
<i>*küürit</i> ⁸	—	husband	Hu	1.2	2.1	3.0	4.1	—	6.2	—	—	—	Yb
<i>abulin eme</i>	—	first, senior wife	ElWi	1.2	2.1	3.0	4.2	—	6.1	—	8.1	—	SHM
<i>jitiř</i>	—	junior wife	YoWi	1.2	2.1	3.0	4.2	—	6.1	—	8.2	—	RH
<i>eme</i>	<i>eme kö'ü(n), emen</i>	wife	Wi	1.2	2.1	3.0	4.2	—	6.1	—	—	—	SHM, ZYy, IM, AL, MA, Yy, BLk

⁸ The phonetic reconstruction of this term is hypothetic; it does not occur in other Mongolic languages.

Form	Variants	Translation	Extension	Intension								Monuments		
				1.1	2.6	3.1	4.1	—	—	—	—			
<i>kō'ü(n) 2</i>	<i>ke'ün, kūn,</i> <i>kü'ün, kewün,</i> <i>keü'ü, köbe-</i> <i>wün, köbe'ün,</i> <i>kübe'ün</i>	son	So	1.1	2.6	3.1	4.1	—	—	—	—	SHM, Ph, IM, AL, RH, HyG, HyT, MP, VdI, Yy, Yb, BLk		
<i>öki(n)</i>	<i>ökün, ökin</i> <i>kükən, *ökin</i> <i>kö'ükem.⁴</i> <i>*ökin kö'ün,⁵</i> <i>öken kögen</i>	daughter	Da	1.1	2.6	3.1	4.2	—	—	—	—	SHM, ZYy, IM, AL, RH, HyG, HyT, MA, VdI, Yy, Yb, BLk		
<i>yin</i>	—	brother's child	BrCh	1.1	2.6	3.3	—	5.1	—	—	—	ZYy, HyG, Yb		
<i>je'e 1</i>	<i>jeye, jē keü'ü</i>	sister's child	SiCh	1.1	2.6	3.3	—	5.2	—	—	—	9.2	—	HyG, Yy, Yb, BLk
<i>(h)ac̊i</i>	<i>ači keü, hači</i> <i>kö'ün</i>	grandchild (son's son)	SoSo	1.1	2.7	3.2	4.1	5.1	—	—	—	9.1	—	HyG, HyT, ZYy, Yy, Yb, BLk
<i>*kūnī kū'ün⁶</i>	—	grandchild (son's son)	SoSo	1.1	2.7	3.2	4.1	5.1	—	—	—	9.1	—	MA
<i>je'e 2</i>	<i>jē</i>	daughter's child	DaCh	1.1	2.7	3.2	—	5.2	—	—	—	9.1	—	SHM, Yb

⁴ It occurs only as pl. *ökin kö'ükem* in [HyT 3:18a4].⁵ It occurs only as pl. *ökin kö'üt* in [HyT 3:18b1-2].⁶ It occurs only as pl. *kūnī kū'üt* in [MA 333b3].

<i>gergei</i>	—	wife	Wi	1.2	2.1	3.0	4.2	—	6.1	—	—	—	—	SHM, HyG, Yb
<i>beri 1</i>	—	wife	Wi	1.2	2.1	3.0	4.2	—	6.1	—	—	—	—	Yb
<i>qadun</i>	<i>qatun, qatun eme, *qatun haran⁹, za-tun</i>	wife (<i>honor.</i>)	Wi	1.2	2.1	3.0	4.2	—	6.1	—	—	—	—	SHM, HyG, HyT, MP
<i>aqa 3</i>	<i>aγa</i>	wife (<i>honor.</i>)	Wi	1.2	2.1	3.0	4.2	—	6.1	—	—	—	—	Yy, BLk
* <i>törgün</i> ¹⁰	—	wife's kin	WiFa, WiMo, WiFaCh, WiFaP ⁿ , WiFa ⁿ Ch ⁿ ...	1.2	—	—	—	—	6.1	—	—	—	—	SHM
<i>qadum 2</i>	—	wife's kin	WiFa, WiMo, WiFaCh, WiFaP ⁿ , WiFa ⁿ Ch ⁿ ...	1.2	—	—	—	—	6.1	—	—	—	—	MA
<i>berigen 2</i>	<i>bergen</i>	elder brother's wife	ElBrWi	1.2	2.1	3.2	4.2	5.1	—	—	—	—	10.1	SHM, ZYy, HyG, MA, MP, Yy, Yb, BLk

⁹ It occurs only as pl. *qatut haran* in [HyT 3:18a2].¹⁰ It occurs only as pl. *törgüt* [SHM § 61].

Form	Variants	Translation	Extension	Intension								Monuments	
				1.2	2.1	—	4.2	—	6.1	—	—		
<i>berigen eme</i>	—	widow of an elder brother, who became Ego's wife by the custom of levirate	ElBrWi > Wi	1.2	2.1	—	4.2	—	6.1	—	—	—	SHM
<i>beri 2</i>	—	younger brother's wife	YoBrWi	1.2	2.1	3.2	4.2	5.1	—	—	—	—	10.2 HyG, MA
<i>de 'ü beri</i>	—	younger brother's wife	YoBrWi	1.2	2.1	3.2	4.2	5.1	—	—	—	—	10.2 Yb
<i>kürgen azai</i>	—	elder sister's husband	EISiHu	1.2	2.1	3.2	4.1	5.2	—	—	—	—	10.1 Yy, Yb, BLk
<i>kürgen dö 'ü</i>	—	younger sister's husband	YoSiHu	1.2	2.1	3.2	4.1	5.2	—	—	—	—	10.2 Yy, Yb, BLk
<i>baja 2</i>	—	sister's husband	SiHu	1.2	2.1	3.2	4.1	5.2	—	—	—	—	RH
<i>güregen 1</i>	—	sister's husband	SiHu	1.2	2.1	3.2	4.1	5.2	—	—	—	—	SHM
<i>de 'ü 4</i>	—	husband's male relative younger than he, but older than his children	HuYoBr, HuEl-BrSo, HuFaYo-BrSo, HuFaFa-YoBrSoSo ... HuFa ⁿ YoBrSo ⁿ	1.2	—	—	4.1	—	6.2	—	—	—	SHM

<i>üye 2</i>	—	husband's paternal cousin	HuFaBrSo	1.2	2.1	3.4	4.1	5.1	6.2	—	—	—	—	SHM
<i>gaya</i>	—	husband's second cousin	HuFaFaBrSoSo	1.2	2.1	3.6	4.1	5.1	6.2	—	—	—	—	SHM
<i>χadun dö'ü</i>	—	wife's younger brother	WiYoBr	1.2	2.1	3.2	4.1	5.2	6.1	—	8.2	—	—	ZYy
<i>qadum egeči</i>	—	wife's elder sister	WiElSi	1.2	2.1	3.2	4.2	5.2	6.1	—	8.1	—	—	MA
<i>qadum de 'ün</i>	—	wife's younger sister	WiYoSi	1.2	2.1	3.2	4.2	5.2	6.1	—	8.2	—	—	MA
<i>baja 3</i>	—	wife's sister's husband	WiSiHu	1.2	2.1	3.2	4.1	5.2	6.1	—	—	—	—	MA
<i>quda</i>	<i>yuda</i>	father-in-law	ChSpFa	1.2	2.1	3.2	4.1	—	6.1	—	—	—	—	SHM, HyG, MP, Yb
<i>beri 3</i>	—	daughter-in-law	SoWi	1.2	2.6	3.1	4.2	5.1	—	—	—	—	—	SHM, ZYy, AL, RH, HyG, MP, Yy, BLk
<i>güregen 2</i>	<i>güregen gü-'ün, gürgen, kürigen, käregen, küreken, kürgen</i>	son-in-law	DaHu	1.2	2.6	3.1	4.1	5.2	—	—	—	—	—	SHM, ZYy, IM, AL, RH, HyG, MP, Vdl, Yy, Yb, BLk

Number Terms

The Mongolian number system is complexity-free and follows a pattern similar to English (but there is a slight difference as between 11-19 English follows a bit other system where it doesn't call it onety one rather calls it a new number as eleven while Mongolian calls it a term equivalent to "onety one".

Numeral		Cardinal	Ordinal
0	□	тэг (teg) □ □□	
1	□	нэг (neg) □ □□ □□□	нэгдүгээр (negdügeer)
2	□	хоёр (khoyor) □ □□ □□□ □□□□	хоёрдугаар (khoyordugaar)
3	□	гурав (gurav) □ □□ □□□ □□□□	гуравдугаар (guravdugaar)
4	□	дөрөв (döröv) □ □□ □□□ □□□□	дөрөвдүгээр (dörövdügeer)
5	□	тав (tav) □ □□ □□□	тавдугаар (tavdugaar)
6	□	зургаа (zurgaa) □ □□ □□□ □□□□	зургаадугаар (zurgaadugaar)
7	□	долоо (doloo) □ □□ □□□ □□□□	долоодугаар (doloodugaar)
8	□	найм (najm) □ □□ □□□ □□□□	наймдугаар (najmdugaar)
9	□	ес (yes) □ □□ □□□	есдүгээр (yesdügeer)
10	□□	арав (arav) □ □□ □□□	аравдугаар (aravdugaar)

		арван нэг (arvan neg) 	
11			арван нэгдүгээр (arvan negdүgeer)
12		арван хоёр (arvan khoyor) 	арван хоёрдугаар (arvan khoyordugaar)
13		арван гурав (arvan gurav) 	арван гуравдугаар (arvan guravdugaar)
14		арван дөрөв (arvan döröv) 	арван дөрөвдүгээр (arvan dörövdügeer)
15		арван тав (arvan tav) 	арван тавдугаар (arvan tavdugaar)
16		арван зургаа (arvan zurgaa) 	арван зургаадугаар (arvan zurgaadugaar)
17		арван долоо (arvan doloo) 	арван долоодугаар (arvan doloodugaar)

		арван найм (arvan najm) 	
18	□□		наймдугаар (arvan najmdugaar)
19	□□	арван ес (arvan yes) 	есдүгээр (yesdügeer)
20	□□	хорь (khori) 	хорьдугаар (khordugaar)
21	□□	хорин нэг (khorin neg)	хорин нэгдүгээр (khorin negdügeer)
22	□□	хорин хоёр (khorin khoyor)	хорин хоёрдугаар (khorin khoyordugaar)
23	□□	хорин гурав (khorin gurav)	хорин гуравдугаар (khorin guravdugaar)
24	□□	хорин дөрөв (khorin döröv)	хорин дөрөвдүгээр (khorin dörövdügeer)
25	□□	хорин тав (khorin tav)	хорин тавдугаар (khorin tavadugaar)
26	□□	хорин зургаа (khorin zurgaa)	хорин зургаадугаар (khorin arvan zurgaadugaar)
27	□□	хорин долоо (khorin doloo)	хорин долоодугаар (khorin doloodugaar)
28	□□	хорин найм (khorin najm)	хорин наймдугаар (khorin najmdugaar)
29	□□	хорин ес (khorin yes)	хорин есдүгээр (khorin yesdügeer)
30	□□	гуч (guch) 	

Months(Mongolian Calendar)

The twelve months of the year are referred to by their number, such as first month, second month, and so on.

Number	English name	Mongolian name	Pronunciation
1	January	Нэгдүгээр сар	Negdügeer sar
2	February	Хоёрдугаар сар	Hoyordugaar sar
3	March	Гуравдугаар сар	Guravdugaar sar
4	April	Дөрөвдүгээр сар	Dörövdugeer sar
5	May	Тавдугаар сар	Tavdugaar sar
6	June	Зургадугаар сар	Zurgadugaar sar
7	July	Долоодугаар сар	Doloodugaar sar
8	August	Наймдугаар сар	Naimdugaar sar
9	September	Есдүгээр сар	Yösdügeer sar
10	October	Аравдугаар сар	Aravdugaar sar
11	November	Арван нэгдүгээр сар	Arvan negdügeer sar
12	December	Арван хоёрдугаар сар	Arvan hoyordugaar sar

In colloquial usage, the first 5 days of the week are referred to as first day, second day, etc. Saturday is referred to as *Hagасain ödör* (translation: half-good day), and Sunday is referred to as *Bütен sain ödör* (translation: full good day), a result of 5 full working days and Saturday as a half working day during the communist era.

The names of Tibetan origin are used in more formal settings, and almost exclusively in written documents, while the Sanskrit names are practically absent in modern usage.

Number	Colloquial	Pronunciation	Tibetan origin	Pronunciation	Sanskrit origin	Pronunciation
1	Нэг дахь өдөр	Neg dakhi ödör	Даваа гараг(Cap)	Davaa	Сумъяа	Sumiyaa
2	Хоёр дахь өдөр	Hoyor dakhi ödör	Мягмар гараг	Myagmar garig	Ангараг	Angarag
3	Гурав дахь өдөр	Gurav dakhi ödör	Лхагва гараг	Lkhagva garig	Буд	Bud
4	Дөрөв дэх өдөр	Döröv dakhi ödör	Пүрэв гараг	Pürev garig	Бархасбадь	Barkhasbadi
5	Тав дахь өдөр	Tav dakhi ödör	Баасан гараг	Baasan garig	Сугар	Sughar
6	Хагас сайн өдөр	Khagas sain ödör	Бямба гараг	Byamba garig	Санчир	Sanchir
7	Бүтэн сайн өдөр	Bütен sain ödör	Ням гараг(Hap)	Nyam garig	Адъяа	Adiya

Real Life examples and analysis

Video Analysis

The short movie is titled “Uregdseniig huleegch”. A story about a soldier and his left off family, the story consists of mainly sad genre and consists of scenes full of emotions. The Phonology was quite similar to what expected but the major take away was similarity in ways of showing expressions. The feature of stress and intonation was clearly visible in the language . A striking feature was repetition of a part to increase emphasis which is quite similar to other languages.Vowel frequency in all the sounds was quite easily noticeable as well.

The link of the movie is in the references

Chat with the native Speaker

I had a talk with one of the native speakers of Mongolian. His name is Erweekhei and who is a Rap Artist at Trap Underground / Old School at Хэмнэл by profession.

We had a nice phone call in which we talked about how Mongolian is a language different from English(Due to his profession he knew little english).

I asked him to pronounce certain words to get if the features regarding the phonology match with the analysis that we did.

1. Tutorial -/tutoriel/
2. Vampire-/fempeir/
3. Semolina-/semoline/
4. Orange-/orenge/
5. Bizzare-/piggar/
6. Event-/ifent/

This analysis was done on the basis of his knowledge of English language as I told him the meaning and spelling and he tried to spell it . From example 1 and 2 we see how Mongolian speakers adapted to use unvoiced fricative and from example 3 we see how vowel harmony has changed the last vowel to ensure that all vowels belong to the same vowel category(+ATR).

Greenberg Universals in Mongolian(Following are the universals present in Mongolian)

1. "With overwhelmingly greater than chance frequency, languages with normal SOV order are postpositional."

This universal is followed in Mongolian.
2. "If a language has dominant SOV order and the genitive follows the governing noun, then the adjective likewise follows the noun."

For example- Good evening __ becomes Оройн мэнд (meaning evening good).
3. "In declarative sentences with nominal subject and object, the dominant order is almost always one in which the subject precedes the object."

For example: Anubhav is the son of Rajesh. Becomes анубхав бол ражешийн хүү (anubkhav bol rajyeshiin khüü) .
4. In a language with dominant SOV order there is no alternative basic order, or only OSV as the alternative, then all adverbial modifiers of the verb likewise precede the verb. (This is the 'rigid' subtype of III.)"

For example-Anubhav killed Rajesh becomes анубхав ражешийг алав(anubkhav rajyeshiig alav).
5. "When a yes-no question is differentiated from the corresponding assertion by an intonational pattern, the distinctive intonational features of each of these patterns are reckoned from the end of the sentence rather than from the beginning."

This happens in Mongolian with each implying a different sense.
6. "In conditional statements, the conditional clause precedes the conclusion as the normal order in all languages."

For example: if it rains, the flowers bloom . In Mongolian -> бороо орвол, цэцэг цэцэглэнэ (here the first part represents the conditional of raining).
7. "If the nominal object always precedes the verb, then verb forms subordinate to the main verb also precede it."

For example : I like to kill with knives → Bi khutgaar alakh durtai (alakh is kill)
I like to kill boys sitting in the park → bi tsetserlegt suuj bui khövgüüdiig alakh durtai (suuj is sitting)
8. "In expressions of volition and purpose, a subordinate verbal form always follows the main verb as the normal order except in those languages in which the nominal object always precedes the verb."

Present In Mongolian.

9. "When the descriptive adjective precedes the noun, the demonstrative and the numeral, with overwhelmingly more than chance frequency, do likewise."

For example: Brave man → Зоригтой хүн(Zorigtoi khün)

Two man→ (khoyor Khün)

This man→ (Ene zaluu)

10. "When the general rule is that the descriptive adjective follows, there may be a minority of adjectives which usually precede, but when the general rule is that descriptive adjectives precede, there are no exceptions."

There is no exception in Mongolian

11. "When any or all of the items (demonstrative, numeral, and descriptive adjective) precede the noun, they are always found in that order. If they follow, the order is either the same or its exact opposite."

Followed in Mongolian Language.

12. "If in comparisons of superiority the only order, or one of the alternative orders, is standard-marker-adjective, then the language is postpositional. With overwhelmingly more than chance frequency if the only order is adjective-marker-standard, the language is prepositional."

Mongolian is a postpositional language . So the marker comes first like Japanese

For eg. She is more beautiful than me → ter nadaas üzesgelentei (nadaas is equivalent to than and üzesgelentei is equivalent to beautiful)

13. "If a language is exclusively suffixing, it is postpositional; if it is exclusively prefixing, it is prepositional."

In Mongolian both derivational and inflectional morphology happens as suffixes.

14. "If a language has inflection, it always has derivation."

15. "If both the derivation and inflection follow the root, or they both precede the root, the derivation is always between the root and the inflection." For example: the word bajguullagynh consists of the root baj- 'to be', an epenthetic -g-, the causative -uul- (hence 'to found'), the derivative suffix -laga that forms nouns created by the action (like -ation in 'organisation') and the complex suffix –ynh denoting something that belongs to the modified word (-yn would be genitive)(inflectional).

16. "A language never has more gender categories in nonsingular numbers than in the singular."

Mongolian has no gendered noun but have a morphological change for plurality.

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