Introduction:
"Altaic-type" Languages

YAMAKOSHI, Yasuhiro
ILCAA, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

1. General remarks

This special feature in the present volume is an outcome of the ILCAA (Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa) joint research project "Typological study on 'Altaic' languages" (April, 2015–March, 2018). The aim of this project was to propose two main components, as outlined below: 1) the typological features of "Altaic-type" languages, by analyzing the common morphological/syntactic structures found in these languages, and 2) a suitable model of description for "Altaic-type" languages.

The "Altaic-type" is one of the linguistic types suggested by Kamei, Kono, and Chino (1996). It is important to first distinguish between "Altaic-type" languages and Altaic languages. This is because "Altaic-type" is not a term of comparative study, but of typological study. Altaic languages include the Turkic, Mongolic, and Tungusic language families. These languages in Asia share many grammatical features: SOV/Dependent-Head word order, agglutination, pro-drop, complex verbal inflection (finite verbs, verbal nouns, participles, and converbs), complex clause-combining, and so on. It is interesting that there are other languages which have neither historical nor areal relations to Altaic languages yet share these features. Therefore, we intended to contrast the grammatical features of not only Altaic languages, but also Ryukyuan, Cuzco-Quechuan, Nivkh, Burushaski, and so on. Furthermore, to describe the grammar more precisely, we also consider, through contrasting the features of these languages, what a better framework for describing these "Altaic-type" languages might be.

2. The present volume

This special feature contains six papers. The papers are written by six of the project members and represent parts of the results of the project. Interestingly, the half of these six members point out language contact with neighboring languages.

Shinjiro Kazama focuses on internal-headed relative clauses (IHRCs) found in Altaic languages. Kazama observes how IHRCs are allowed in various Altaic languages such as modern Japanese, old Japanese, Korean, Ewen, Nanai, Turkish, modern Uyghur, and Mongolian. Nanai, Ewen, and Mongolian allow the same IHRC structure as that found in Japanese. In contrast, Turkic languages such as Turkish or modern Uyghur do not. He points out that this is related to some other syntactic features such as the finitization of participles, adverbial characteristics of IHRCs, or the historical process of argument-adding. This suggests that the complexity of clause chaining shared by these languages may influence other syntactic structures.

Sangyub Baek considers continuous aspect in the Tungusic language family from the viewpoint of areal typology. Baek argues that South Tungusic languages such as Hezhen, Solon, and Manchu share a syntactic structure which is very similar to that of Mongolian. In other words, Mongolian might have influenced those languages through their long-term contact.

Fuyuki Ebata aims to examine the differences in phonological and morphosyntactic behavior between Sakha and Tyvan, both of which belong to the Turkic language family. Contrasting it with Tyvan, Ebata precisely describes both regularity and obligatoriness in Sakha. He concludes that such features of Sakha might have been obtained through language contact with the neighboring Tungusic languages and subsequent koineization.

Norikazu Kogura focuses on three indicative forms in Sibe, one of the Manchu-Tungusic languages, in order to clarify both the characteristics of these forms and their development. In many Altaic languages, non-finite forms are sometimes used as indicatives, i.e., finite forms. It is important to consider why this occurs in Altaic languages. Yamakoshi (2017) has argued that this is because non-finite forms developed a finite use as a result of historical change. Kogura in this paper also hypothesizes that these three forms in Sibe have similarly developed over time. He defines this development in Sibe as "re-finitization," one type of finitization in Altaic languages.

Hiroyuki Umetani seeks to give a definition of converbs which function as the predicate of adverbial clauses in Khalkha Mongolian. All Altaic languages have rich non-finite forms such as converbs, participles, and verbal nouns. Khalkha Mongolian also has a rich system of non-finites, however, previous studies have all classified these differently. For example, the forms composed of a verbal stem with both a verbal-nominal suffix and a case suffix are classified as converbs, since these forms syntactically seem to function as the predicate

of adverbial clauses. Umetani proposes several types of forms (successive, purposive comparative, time point) while applying some parameters from the perspective of cross-linguistic features of converbs.

Taiki Yoshimura investigates the "finiteness" of the future participle in Azerbaijani, one of the Turkic languages. There are various difficulties involved in describing the verbal mophosyntax of Altaic languages. One of them is how to describe non-finite forms. This is because non-finite forms such as participles often have finiteness. To solve this difficulty, Yoshimura attempted to analyze the finiteness of the future participle by applying Hudson's (2010) Word Grammar theory. [Due to the editorial problem, Yoshimura's paper will be included as an addendum in *Asian and African Language and Linguistics* 14.]

3. Project meeting programs

In total, eight meetings were held concerning this project (every meeting was held in Japanese). The programs, with the dates, authors, and paper titles, are as follows:

First meeting
Date: Sat. 23 May 2015; Venue: Room 306, ILCAA
    Yasuhiro YAMAKOSHI (ILCAA)
    "Aims and plans of the project"
    Shinjiro KAZAMA (ILCAA Joint Researcher, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)
    "Altaic-type languages"

Second meeting
Date: Sat. 3 Oct. 2015; Venue: Room 304, ILCAA
    Sangyub BAEK (ILCAA Joint Researcher, Hokkaido University)
    "Converbal Endings *-mi* and *-rAk-* in Tungusic from the Perspective of Areal Linguistics"

Third meeting
Date: Sat. 30 Jan. 2016; Venue: Room 306, ILCAA
    Jargal BADAGAROV Bayandalaevich (ILCAA Visiting Professor)
    "Grammaticalization of **a-* and **bü-* in Buryad"
    Honoré WATANABE (ILCAA)
    " 'Altaic type' as observed from Salish"
    Fuyuki EBATA (ILCAA Joint Researcher, Niigata University)
    "The inflection system of Japanese verbs viewed from the syntactic distribution"

Fourth meeting
Date: Sun. 3 July 2016; Venue: Room 304, ILCAA
Organized by Core Project "Linguistic Dynamics Science3" (LingDy3)

Heekyung CHAE (ILCAA Joint Researcher, Graduate School of Global Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)

"The Noun+Noun Complex and Noun+Verb Complex in Nivkh"

Ryo MATSUMOTO (ILCAA Joint Researcher, Kyoto University of Foreign Studies)

"A few types of compounding in Evenki and Nenets"

Shinjiro KAZAMA (ILCAA Joint Researcher, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)

"On the internally-headed relative clause construction in Altaic-type languages"

Fifth meeting

Date: Sat. 1 Oct. 2016; Venue: Room 304, ILCAA

Organized by Core Project "Linguistic Dynamics Science3" (LingDy3)

Daisuke EBINA (ILCAA Joint Researcher, Kobe Yamate University)

"Relative clauses in Quechuan languages"

Shinsuke HIDAKA (Graduate School, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)

"Is the *-ar/-mas* participle a participle in Uzbek?"

Yohei YAMADA (Graduate School, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)

"A verb *aa* in Dagur"

Sixth meeting

Date: Sat. 11 Feb. 2017; Venue: Room 306, ILCAA

Organized by Core Project "Linguistic Dynamics Science3" (LingDy3)

Hiroyuki UMETANI (ILCAA Joint Researcher, University of Tokyo)

"Adnominal clauses in Mongolian"

Noboru YOSHIOKA (ILCAA Joint Researcher, National Museum of Ethnology)

"Clause-chaining in Burushaski"

Seventh meeting

Date: Sun. 11 June 2017; Venue: Room 304, ILCAA

Organized by Core Project "Linguistic Dynamics Science3" (LingDy3)

Hiromi KAJI (ILCAA Joint Researcher, The University of Tokyo)

"Participles in Ewen"

Norifumi KUROSHIMA (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)

"Tense and modality in adverbial clauses in Korean"

Eighth meeting

Date: Sun. 3 Dec. 2017; Venue: Room 304, ILCAA

Organized by Core Project "Linguistic Dynamics Science3" (LingDy3)

Shinjiro KAZAMA (ILCAA Joint Researcher, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)

"Contrastive study on the reflexive pronouns in Altaic languages, Korean and Japanese"

Yasuhiro YAMAKOSHI (ILCAA)

"Finite use of non-finite verbs in Mongolic languages"

Norikazu KOGURA (ILCAA)

"On the development of the nominalizer *ngge* in Sibe and Manchu"

References

Hudson, Richard. 2010. *An Introduction to Word Grammar.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Kamei, Takashi, Rokuro Kono, and Eiichi Chino (eds.). 1996. *Gengogaku Daijiten* [The Sanseido Encyclopedia of Linguistics], vol. 6: Jutsugohen [Terms]. Tokyo: Sanseido. [in Japanese]

Yamakoshi, Yasuhiro. 2017. "Two future expressions in Shinekhen Buryat: Three typological models of the verbalization of participles". *Journal of the Center for Northern Humanities* 10. pp.79–96. [in Japanese]