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THE ETYMOLOGY OF TURKISH DIALECTAL *HÖRTÜK* ‘WOUND’

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Abstract

This study investigates the etymology of the word *hörtük* ‘wound’ used in Turkish dialects which has not previously been examined in detail. The study utilizes data from Turkish dialects, historical texts, and other Turkic languages. It argues that *hörtük* derives from the verb *bert-* through a series of phonological changes (*bert-* > *bört-* > **pört-* > **hört-*). The findings contribute to understanding phonological change patterns in Turkic languages and have implications for lexicographic classification in the Derleme Sözlüğü.

1. Introduction

Turkish dialects have a richer vocabulary than the written language (Aksan 2001: 30). One of the elements that enrich the vocabulary in dialects is the phonological changes that occur in words. Any word used in the historical periods of Turkic can sometimes be perceived as another word in Turkish dialects due to phonological changes. Although these words are close to each other in meaning, they are sometimes given as different headings in dictionary studies. In the Turkish dialects, the number of words given as separate articles due to phonological changes in a word sometimes reaches five, as in the example of *edik*, *adik*, *çedik*, *hedik*, *kedik* (Abik 2010: 12). Although the related words are given as separate entries in dictionary studies, it is often understood that these words are similar and the difference is due to phonological changes. However, sometimes the phonological changes that occur in words can become complex and in this case it becomes difficult to establish a relationship between similar words. Therefore, the related words are considered as separate words independent of each other and are treated as independent entries in such studies.

One of the words formed in this way is *hörtük*, which is used in Turkish dialects. *Hörtük* is included as an article in the Derleme Sözlüğü as follows.

hörtük: 'wound (used as a curse)' (DS 2009: 2435).

hörtük: 'atypical wound, unhealed wound' (DS 2009: 4522).

The word *hörtük* is also found in the dialect of Osmaniye-Düziçi with the meaning of 'atypical wound, unhealed wound' (Demirci 2017: 1373).

Hörtük can be argued to have emerged through phonological changes. Accordingly, this word should not be treated as an independent entry in the Derleme Sözlüğü, but should be included together with other related words. However, in order to identify other words related to *hörtük* in the Derleme Sözlüğü, the origin of the word *hörtük* should be known.

It has been observed that the word *hörtük* has not been examined in etymology studies. Therefore, this study examines the etymology of the word *hörtük*. Then, based on the etymology of the word *hörtük*, the words related to *hörtük* in the Derleme Sözlüğü were identified and it was mentioned how these words should be included in the Derleme Sözlüğü.

2. Etymology of the word *hörtük* 'wound'

The word *hörtük* is thought to have been formed by adding the verbal noun suffix {-İk} to the verb **hört-*. There is no **hört-* verb that semantically overlaps with the word *hörtük* in the historical and contemporary periods of Turkic. In this case, **hört-* is most likely the result of a phonological change of another verb used in the historical periods of Turkic and close to it in sound and meaning.

The first change that comes to mind when considering the phonological changes in the verb **hört-* is the /h-/ consonant at the beginning of the word. Turkic words generally lack initial /h-/. There are, however, some exceptions to this rule. Gülsevin categorizes these exceptional uses of Turkic words under 7 headings. 1. /k-/ > /h-/ result of change 2. /g-/ > /h-/ result of change 3. /*p-/ > /h-/ result of change 4. /s-/ > /h-/ result of change 5. /y-/ > /h-/ result of change 6. in onomatopoeic words 7. prothesis of /h-/ (2001: 129). When it comes to these exceptional uses mentioned by Gülsevin, the consonant /h/ can be seen at the beginning of Turkic words. The consonant /h-/ at the beginning of the verb **hört-* also has an exceptional usage. However, it is suggested that the consonant /h-/ at the beginning of the verb **hört-* does not occur as a result of the change of any of the consonants /k-/, /g-/, /*p-/, /s-/, /y-/. Furthermore, this consonant is not believed to occur in word-initial position in onomatopoeic formations, nor is it regarded as a prothetic element. This study argues that the consonant /h-/ at the beginning of this word is a secondary sound resulting from the change of the consonant /b/ or /p/. In the Turkish dialects, as illustrated in the following examples, there is a phonological change of /b-/ > /h-/ or /p-/ > /h-/, especially in some words with rounded-low vowels in the first syllable.

- Gr. *poiraz* > TD *hojrâz* ‘northeast wind’ (Tok 2002: 75). [Tavas-Denizli]
 Gr. *portokâlli* > TD *hortakal* ‘orange’ (Ak 2020: 32). [Aladağ-Adana]
 Gr. *podima* > TD *hoduma* / *hödüme* ‘boots made of tanned, dyed and polished leather’ (DS 2009: 2394). [Çavdır-Burdur/Ula-Muğla]
 Arm. *p’ögrank* > TD *pöhrenk* > *pörenk* > *hörenk* ‘water pipes’ (DS 2009: 2434, 3480). [Bor-Niğde]
 Fr. *pochette* > TD *hoşet* ‘sachet’ (Akca 2009: 1040). [Çamlıdere-Ankara]
 Sırb. *balavurdija* > TD *balavurt* > *halavurt* ‘rude man’ (DS 2009: 500, 2257). [Çerkeş-Çankırı]
 Pers. *puşmâl* > TD *höştemal* ‘loincloth’ (İlgaz 2020: 282). [Hasköy-Bulgaristan]
 Tur. *pörtle-* > TD *hörtle-* ‘(for eyes) to bulge’ (DS 2009: 2435). [Tirebolu-Giresun]
 Tur. *potuk* > TD *hotuk* ‘donkey colt’ (DS 2009: 2420). [Bafra-Samsun]
 TD *badak* ‘short height’ (DS 2009: 459) ~ *hotak* ‘short height’ (DS 2009: 2418). [Mudurnu-Bolu]

Considering the examples, it can be said that a change in the verb **hört-* occurred in the form of /b-/ > /h-/ or /p-/ > /h-/. In this case, it is possible to designate the form of the verb **hört-* before the change in question as *bört-* or **pört-*. There is no verb in the form of **pört-* in the historical periods of Turkic. However, there is a verb in the form *bört-* in Old Uyghur. *Bört-* is used in Old Uyghur in the sense of ‘to touch, to contact’ (Caferoğlu 2015: 50). In Old Uyghur period, this verb, which is also seen in the form of *bürt-*, is used in Buddhist terminology to correspond to the Sanskrit word *sparsa* ‘touching, feeling’, one of the five senses (Clouston 1972: 358). This meaning of the verb does not correspond to the word *hörtük* ‘wound’. Therefore, it would not be appropriate to establish an etymological relationship between the verb **hört-* and the verb *bört-*. In this case, it is necessary to consider that another phonological change occurred in the verb **hört-*.

Since labial consonants have a rounding effect, they sometimes round unrounded vowels in the same syllable as themselves (Johanson 2021: 294–295). Examples of this kind of rounding sound phenomenon are frequently encountered in Turkish dialects. The sounds /b/ and /p/, which are labial consonants, are also effective in rounding the unrounded vowels in the same syllable.

- Ar. *şabr* > TD *sabır* > TD *sabur* ‘patience’ (Gülensoy 1988: 38). [Tavşanlı-Kütahya]
 Gr. *biber* > TD *büber* ‘pepper’ (Gülensoy 1988: 38). [Kütahya]
 Tur. *bebek* > TD *böbek* ‘baby’ (Gülensoy 1988: 38). [Kütahya]
 Tur. *belen-* > TD *bölen-* ‘be swaddled’ (Günşen 2019: 44). [Kırşehir]
 Tur. *bıçak* > TD *buçağ* ‘knife’ (Günşen 2019: 45). [Çiçekdağı-Kırşehir]
 Tur. *beş* > TD *böş* ‘five’ (Caferoğlu 1964: 10). [Niğde]
 Tur. *bil-* > TD *bül-* ‘to know’ (Ertekinoglu 2015: 26). [Ahlat-Bitlis]
 Sırb. *prâse* > TD *persi* > TD *pörsü* ‘piglet’ (DS 2009: 3434, 3481). [Erfelek-Sinop]
 Rus. *peçka* > TD *pöşke* ‘stove’ (DS 2009: 3483). [Bolu]
 Gr. *papaz* > TD *popaz* ‘pastor’ (Gülensoy 1988: 38). [Gediz-Kütahya]
 Gr. *batiki* > TD *patik* > TD *potik* ‘booties’ (DS 2009: 4654). [Acıpayam-Denizli]
 Tur. *pınar* > TD *puñar* ‘fountain’ (Üstüner, Soyyiğit 2023: 107). [Şehitkamil-Gaziantep]
 Ar. *bellüt* > TD *pelit* > TD *pölüt* ‘bonito’ (DS 2009: 3388). [Daday-Kastamonu]
 TD *patlak* ‘popcorn’ (DS 2009: 3413) ~ TD *potlak* ‘popcorn’ (Erdem Nas, Salan 2019: 2008). [Bartın]

As the data demonstrate, the consonants /b/ and /p/ in Turkish dialects can round unrounded vowels in the same syllable with themselves. Considering that the rounded /ö/ vowel in the verb *bört-* / **pört-* is in the same syllable with the consonants /b/ or /p/, which have a rounding effect, it may be argued that this vowel is most likely the result of a rounding sound event. The /ö/ vowel is a rounded, low, front vowel, and its unrounded counterpart is the low, front /e/ vowel. In this case, it is possible to designate the older form of the verb *bört-* / **pört-* as *bert-* / **pert-*. Is there a verb *bert-* / *pert-* in Turkic that can be semantically related to the word *hörtük* ‘wound’?

In Turkic, there is a verb *bert-*, which overlaps semantically with the word *hörtük* and whose examples are first encountered in the Old Uyghur period. In Old Uyghur, *bert-* means ‘to fracture, to hurt’. In this period, the words *bertin-* ‘to be wounded, to injure oneself’ and *bertük* ‘crippled, mutilated’ derived from the verb *bert-* also appear (Caferoğlu 2015: 39–40). The word is additionally used in many historical and contemporary periods of Turkic after the Old Uyghur period.

In *Dīwānu Luyāti’t-Turk*, one of the works of Karakhanid period, *bert-* means ‘to wound, to break in such a way that it cannot be seen broken’ (Ercilasun, Akkoyunlu 2015: 583). In the Khwarezm period there is the word *bertük* ‘bruise, dislocation, wound’ derived from the verb *bert-* (Ünlü 2012: 91). In the Kipchak period, the words *bertin-* ‘to dislodge (an organ of the body)’ and *bertük* ‘dislocated organ’ appear (Toparlı, Vural, Karaatlı 2014: 28). In Chagatai, the word *pertik* / *bertik* ‘bone cracking’ is used (Rahimi 2016: 1467). The verb *bertin-* ‘to sprain and hurt’ appears in Old Anatolian Oghuz (TAS 1963: 523). In Ottoman Turkish, the verbs *bert-*, *pirt-* ‘to bruise, to hurt the flesh without touching the bone, to sprain’, *pirtin-* ‘to bruise, to sprain’ are used (Şemsettin Sami 2019: 983).

The verb *bert-* and various words derived from it are also found in contemporary Turkic languages and dialects. In Azeri dialects, *bertix* means ‘wound’ (ADL 1999: 48). In Bashkir, the words *birt-* ‘to hurt, injure’, *birtäk* ‘hurt place, injured place’ and *birtän-* ‘to be hurt, injured’ are used (Özşahin 2017: 93). In Gagauz, the words *bert-* ‘to dislocate, dislocate, twist’ and *bertik* ‘dislocated, twisted’ occur (Gaydarci et al. 1991: 33). In Karakalpak, the words *mertil-* ‘to suffer damage to an organ from heavy work, to become disabled’ and *mertik* ‘a wound, damage, disability that occurs in a part of the body when something heavy is lifted and sudden falls’ are used (Uygur 2019: 392). In Kazakh, *mertik-* means ‘to be injured’ (Koç et al. 2019: 404). In Kyrgyz, *mertik-* / *mertin-* is used in the sense of ‘to sprain’ (Yuhadin 1994: 563). In Crimean-Tatar, *pert-* ‘to twist’, *pertik* ‘dislocation’, etc. occur (Maşkaraoğlu 2018: 1575). In Tatar, *birtäl-* is used in the sense of ‘to leave a scar’ (Ganiyev et al. 1997: 52).

It is possible to see the verb *bert-* and various words derived from this verb in Turkish and its dialects too. The *Türkçe Sözlük* includes the words *bertil-* ‘1. to hurt, to sprain 2. to bruise, to injure 3. to turn purple, to decay’, *bertik* ‘1. wound, bruise 2. purple stain on the skin, bruise 3. hurt, sprained’, etc. (TS 2011: 313). In the *Derleme Sözlüğü*, the verb *bert-* and the words derived from this verb are as follows:

bertik [*bertig*, *bertik*, *börtük* (II)] ‘1. wound, bruise 2. sprained, bruised joint 3. hurt, sprained 4. purple stain on the skin, bruise 5. bloating in the abdomen caused by indigestion’ (DS 2009: 636–637); *bertilmek* (I) [*berikmek -I*, *berkilmek* (II), *berkmek*,

bertemek, bertikmek (I) -1, 2, 4; *bertimek* -1, 2; *bertinmek, bertlemek* (II), *bertmek* -1, 3] '1. to be hurt, sprained 2. bruised, injured 3. to turn blue (DS 2009: 637); *pertik* 'swelling in places where hands, feet, etc. hurt'; *pertikmek* [*pirtmak* (I) -1] 'to be sprained, crushed, hurt' (DS 2009: 3434).

Based on the examples in historical and contemporary Turkic languages and dialects, it is seen that the verb *bert-* is generally used in the meanings of 'to be wounded, hurt, sprained', etc. The word *bertik* usually means 'wound, bruise, dislocation'. The verb *bert-* and the word *bertik* derived from this verb overlap semantically with the word *hörtük* used in Turkish dialects. Therefore, an etymological relationship can be established between the words *bertik* and *hörtük*. The phonological changes in the word can be explained as *bertik* > *börtük* > **pörtük* > *hörtük*. The fact that the word *bertik* is also found in the dialects in the form of *börtük* supports this change. There are also other examples that support the idea that a change like /b-/ > /p-/ > /h-/ occurred in this word. In addition to the verb *bert-*, the verbs *pirt-* 'to sprain, crush, hurt' and *hirt-* 'to sprain, dislocate, hurt' are used in Turkish dialects, which are semantically very similar to the verb in question. Dialects also have *hirtik* 'dislocation' word (DS 2009: 3434, 2375, 2373). These examples show that the verb *bert-* undergoes a word-initial change of /b-/ > /p-/ > /h-/. Although the presence of the consonant -r- in the sequence b-t might seem to inhibit the devoicing or anticipatory assimilation (b > p), Turkish phonology provides several examples where this change occurs despite the intervening -r-. For instance, *berkit-* > *perkit-* (Uzun 2015: 41) and *bar-mak* > *parmak* (Karaca 2022: 212). These cases demonstrate that the -r- consonant does not consistently act as a barrier to devoicing within Turkic sound change.

In Turkish, the suffix {-Ik} derives adjectives that mostly indicate the result of the action/work performed by the verb, as in examples such as *kesik* 'cut', *çizik* 'scratched', *yırtık* 'ripped', etc. (Banguoğlu 2015: 248). However, in Turkish dialects, in addition to its basic function, this suffix can also derive disease names, as illustrated in the following examples (Güzel 2015: 376).

dönük: '1. leprosy 2. wound caused by being crushed underfoot' (DS 2009: 1586).

ötürük: '1. diarrhea 2. Cholera' (DS 2009: 3361–3362).

üşük: 'a common cold' (DS 2009: 4080).

vuruk: 'wound, bruise' (DS 2009: 4110).

yelpük: '1. shortness of breath, bronchitis 2. Palpitations' (DS 2009: 4241), etc.

As can be seen in the examples, the suffix {-Ik} derives disease names in Turkish dialects. Similarly, in the word *hörtük*, this suffix is attached to the verb **hört-* (< **pört-* < *bört-* < *bert*) to derive a disease name.

3. Conclusion

In conclusion, *hörtük* originates from *bert-* through regular phonological processes. Recognizing this relationship avoids unnecessary duplication in lexicographic works such as the Derleme Sözlüğü. More broadly, the study demonstrates how dialectal data can shed light on historical phonological change in Turkic.

Abbreviations for languages

Ar.	Arabic	Pers.	Persian
Arm.	Armenian	Rus.	Russian
Fr.	French	Sırb.	Serbian
Hung.	Hungarian	TD.	Turkish dialects
Gr.	Greek	Tur.	Turkic

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