

ON THE PATRONYMIC IN *-KO*.

by G.Paolo Tardivo.

There is a good list of patronymic worldwide, they could be in pre- or suffixal form. The following introductory list is very popular:

Celtic area: *MacX, McX, O'X, MapX*

Germanic area: *Xson, Xs, Xsen, FitzX / Xwitz*

Slavic area: *Xvič / Xwicz, Хвич*

Romance area: *DeX, DiX, DuX*

Albanian: *Xaj*

Armenian and Persian: *Xjan (Xyan) / Xjuič*

So, I wrote X (*MacX || Xvič*) instead *MacCulley* or *Dragovič*, just to quote some.

Furthermore, around Black sea there are several family names with ending in *-ko*, such as *Stefanenko, Kirilenko*, etc... its origin is not quite clear, and it seems not of IndoEuropean origin. Despite that, the suffix appear very early in eastern Mediterranean written record, as Dr. Philippa Steele wrote:

“It also seems that the patronymic element *-o-ko-o* is usually or always added to a full nominative form of a Greek name with another ending following after it (*a-ra-to-wa-na-ka-so-ko-o-se* < Artowanax + *-o-ko-o-* + *se*; also *a-ra-to-ke-ne-so-ko-o-* ? < Artogenes + *-o-ko-o-*, and *a-sa-ta-ra-to-no-ko-o-* ? < Straton ? + *-o-ko-o-*, in EC₂, which do not appear in the list above because the ending following *-o-ko-o-* is not clear in either case in the inscription).”¹.

Unlikely all others pre- and suffixed forms, the form in *-ko* is not explained in full.

Based on current research between substrata and North Caucasian languages, some interesting lexemes show its real origin.

Either western and central-eastern Caucasian languages shows agreement with the case here; starting from Adyghe speaking area. According to J. Kokov “...Most Kabardian family-names have a long history. Such are, for example, the names formed by means of patronymical **-qʷ'ā** ‘son’ and the possessive element **-jaj** (Of the whole number of Kabardian family-names 190 are formed by means of the suffix **-qʷ'ā**, 92 – by **-jaj**)”².

In central area, it is relevant what M. Tsaroieva wrote: “Le mot plus caractéristique de ce point de vue est **q'u** et ses formes phonétiques **q'o, q'a** («mâle, homme, fils»): *q'o-na-x* («homme, monsieur»); *q'ant* («jeune homme, héros, brave, fils, garçon», qui figure aussi chez les peuples turcs); *q'u-ni-ga* («fils, descendant»). Cette ancienne forme pétrifiée, **q'u, q'o, q'a**, fait partie avec les significations «fils, descendant» de certains anthroponymes vaïnakhs et des noms caractéristiques des autres peuples caucasiens: *Šertaq'o, Suosarq'o*, etc.”³.

Also Daghestanian languages shows continuity, with Lezghian (proper) *χʷa* (also used as suffix: *-χʷa*) ‘son’; and Bezhta, but its use is applied for female: “В Бежтинском языке антропонимы, образованные посредством суффикса **-ко**, соотносятся с женским полом, независимо от источника собственного имени. Производные лексемы имеют значение «дочь кого-то». Например: Рамазан > Рамазаллако «дочь Рамазана» [...]”⁴.

Briefly, it is quite clear what the ending in *-ko* stand for; from *-o-ko-o* to **-qʷ'ā**, and any other similar form. So, it is not different from *MacX* or *Xvič* in meaning. From a phonological analyses, *-wa/-wā > o* Rule is already observed in several other occasions.

To re-analyze family names in X-n-**ko**, the result will be:

1 Steele, P. M., p. 134; op. cit.; see Bibliography.

2 J. Kokov, p. 139; op. cit.; see Bibliography.

3 M. Tsaroieva, p. 253; op. cit.; see Bibliography.

4 Khalilov, M. Sh. p. 21; op. cit.; see Bibliography.

X-*n-ko*

Proper name. **OBL.son** = ‘son of X’.

Once again, there are good indication of common roots between people of Aegean sea and Caucasus mountain.

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