Codicological Analysis of Manuscripts of “Mukaddamatu-l-Adab” of Mahmud Zamakhshari in the Funds of the World

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“Mukaddamatu-l-Adab” is a multi-dictionary. That is why it gives important information on the various fields of science. It was copied several times according to demands of the times, its manuscript copies were sent out to the different countries.

**Manuscripts in Uzbekistan.** There are five (№429, 1301/P, 3628, 9477, 7352) Arabic-Persian manuscripts and three (№2699, 3807, 1497/III) Arabic-Persian-Turkic manuscripts in the Institute of Oriental Studies named after Beruni under the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan. There is a unique and singular Arabic-Persian-Turkic-Mongolian manuscript (№202) in the Fund of manuscripts of the State Museum of Literature named after Alisher Navoi. Manuscripts of the dictionary with Turkic language were enough ancient according to their copying time. It attached scientific importance to it, and it shows that it is a very important source for the study of historical lexicology and history of the Uzbek language.
Manuscripts in Russia. There are three rare manuscripts of “Mukaddamatu-l-Adab” in the Fund of manuscripts of the Institute of Oriental Studies under the Academy of Sciences of Russia. The first manuscript was registered under the number of С 1297. Each part of the manuscripts was formed as a completed separate book. They begin with “bismillah” and finish with an ending part. Each page includes eight lines of a text. A text of the Arabic dictionary was written with black ink in a naskh script. The titles were marked. There are various additions in the margins of the manuscript, especially in the margins of its part of nouns. An explanation of some words in the part of letters was given in Arabic under these words. A part of the chapter devoted to the conjugation of verbs was dropped from the manuscript. It finishes with a chapter of al-masdar. The manuscript was copied in 763 A.H./1361-1362.

Another manuscript in this Fund which was registered with the number of A 1192 includes only a part of verbs. Names of the chapters of verbs were given in the first page of this manuscript as a content. This manuscript is considered as one of the sources of “Mukaddamatu-l-Adab” which includes Arabic-Persian-Turkic dictionary. There are nine lines of a text in each page. The manuscript includes a full text of the chapter of verbs. Names of the chapters of verbs in the form of an index are marked. Harakat (diacritical marks) of Arabic text in the manuscript was put correctly. A conventional abbreviation in a form of مثلا – mithluhlu – “similar to it” was used for the explanation of synonyms. Words with diacritical marks are also observed in some places in the Turkic text of the manuscript. The manuscript contains 90 pages.

Another rare manuscript of “Mukaddamatu-l-Adab” which was copied in the XIV–XV centuries is kept in this Fund. This manuscript was registered under number С 271 and includes Arabic-Persian-Turkic dictionary. Turkic dictionary of this copy is enough old and its style is close to the style of “Qisas al-Anbiyo” of Rabghuzi. It might be added to the book by a contemporary of Rabghuzi [1, p. 465]. This manuscript is called as a “copy of Samarkand” in the scientific literature. V.L. Vyatkin bought it in 1897 in Samarkand and sent it to the Academy of Russia [2, p. 10-12]. It is necessary to study the Turkic dictionary of this manuscript and to introduce it into scientific practice.

Dagestan. There is an Arabic-Persian-Turkic trilingual manuscript (№ 26) of “Mukaddamatu-l-Adab” in the Fund of the Institute of History, Language and Literature in Makhachkala. This rare manuscript was copied by a copyist Mahmud ibn Yusuf as-Sabaini as-Saran in Khorezm in 731 A.H./1330. An introduction and chapters of nouns and verbs were added to it [3, p. 26-27].

Tajikistan. A manuscript of “Mukaddamatu-l-Adab” is kept in the Fund of the Institute of Oriental Studies under the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan. This Arabic-Persian manuscript was copied in 1074/1664. An introduction and a part of the chapter of nouns was added to it [4, p. 55-56].

Turkey. More than twenty manuscripts of “Mukaddamatu-l-Adab” are kept in the Funds of manuscripts of Turkey. Many of them are enough ancient according to the time of its copying.

The most ancient manuscript of “Mukaddamatu-l-Adab” is its Yazgat copy. This manuscript was kept in the Fund of the library of “Maorif” in Yazgat city of Turkey under number 396. But it was replaced to the Fund of the library of Sulaimania in Istanbul later.

The manuscript was copied by a copyist Ibrahim ibn Mahmud Sufi al-Muazzzin on Jumadu-l-avval 3, 655 A.H., in May of 1257 in Khorezm.

The second manuscript according to copying time is kept in the library of the University of Istanbul under number 4655. The manuscript is one of the rarest copies of the book in which Turkic dictionary was included. According to the inscription at the end of the work, this manuscript was copied by a copyist Mas’ud ibn Muhammad ibn Musa Khoja al-Barchkandi in Safar 25, 715 A.H., in June 1, 1315. Khoji ibn Yakub bought this manuscript on Zulkhijja, 840 A.H., in June of 1437 for 220 midad dirham.

Another rare copy of “Mukaddamatu-l-Adab” is a manuscript of the library of Damad Ibrahim Pasha under number 1149. Damad Ibrahim’s personal stamp and stamps of his vaqf were put on the first pages of the manuscript. It begins with an introduction. A Persian translation of the introduction was given under its Arabic text. Chapters devoted to verbs, letters, declension of nouns, conjugation of verbs were ended with a special colophon. The main Arabic text was written in a big script of naskh, and Persian text was written in a script of nasta’liq with dark ink. All titles were written with red ink. An Arabic explanation of some words at the beginning of the chapter of letters was given under them. Every page has 7 lines with a text.

This rare manuscript was copied by Ibadullah Muhammad ibn Yusuf as-Saroyi in a famous madrasah of Khorezm, “al-Baida”. It was given that this manuscript was copied at the beginning of Sha’ban of 738 of Hijra, at the end of February of 1388. This manuscript is kept in the library of Sulaimania now.

A manuscript which was registered with a number 1619 in the Fund of manuscripts of the Museum of Archeology in Istanbul is one of the important copies of “Mukaddamatu-l-Adab”.

Zaki Validi calls this manuscript as “Oltin Orda” copy [5, s. 84]. This manuscript is a completed copy.
of the work and all existed chapters are included in it. There is a beginning of the work, chapters of nouns and verbs and treatises in Arabic and Persian at the end of the manuscript. One of these treatises was written by Ahmad ibn Mahmud ibn Muhammad an-Nishapuri, called as “a teacher of Khorasan” and devoted to the science of Music. Each chapter of the manuscript begins with “bismillah” and finishes with “tamma”. A title was marked with red ink. Many additions were added into the margins of the manuscript, and stamped by its owners. Each page contains 15 lines. Persian text was written with black ink and Turkic text was written with
A manuscript in the Fund of the library of Nation under number 2009 was copied by Mavlono Hisamuddin al-Jandi in 749 A.H., in 1348 in Jand city of Khorezm. This manuscript which contains of texts of Arabic, Persian, Turkic dictionaries that must be studied in the future.

Another manuscript of the work called as Khadicha Turkhon was registered under number 322 in the library of New Jami in Istanbul. It is a rare manuscript of “Mukaddamatu-1-Adab”, which has scientific importance and it was written in a special method. Its Arabic dictionary was provided with a text of Persian and Turkic synonyms. The manuscript begins with an introduction, after which a chapter of nouns was given.

According to the information given in a colophon of the manuscript, it was copied by a copyst Abdulmajid ibn Abdulmajid as-Sivasi on Rabiu-l-akhir 769 A.H. on November and December of 1376 in madrasah of Hanak in Konya next to Tulu Jome of Amir Sirghatmush in Egypt.

A manuscript under number 2243 in the library of Ahmad II under the Fund of manuscripts of Topkapı in Istanbul, which was copied in the XIII-XIVth centuries, a manuscript under number 2470 in the same library which was copied by Shams Khivaqi in the XIVth century, a manuscript under number 2741 with an Arabic-Persian-Turkic dictionary was included is a copy of Ofif Afandi. This manuscript under number 2768 was copied in 799 A.H., in 1379. Musa ibn Mursil, who was famous as Sheikh Daqqoq, copied it. Its Turkic dictionary has special importance.

One of rare manuscripts of “Mukaddamatu-l-Adab” of which an exact date of its copying was given and Arabic-Persian-Turkic dictionary was included is a copy of Ofif Afandi. This manuscript under number 2768 was copied in 799 A.H., in 1379. Musa ibn Mursil, who was famous as Sheikh Daqqoq, copied it. Its Turkic dictionary has special importance.

One of the important manuscripts of “Mukaddamatu-l-Adab” is a manuscript in the Fund of the library of Nation under number 2850. This manuscript was copied by Hibatullah ibn Qosim ibn Ahmad ibn Mas’ud ibn Hisamuddin as-Saroyi especially for the court of Amir Murod ibn Amir Shahin ibn Amir Izzuddin.

The manuscript contains 370 pages. This copy of the book was completed on Ramadhan 800 of Hijra, on Tuesday (June 12 of 1398).

Arabic-khorezmian copy of “Mukaddamatu-l-Adab” was introduced into scientific use as “a copy of Konya”. This manuscript was firstly kept in the library of Yusuf Ogho under number 1755, and it is currently kept under number 5010. The scientific study of the manuscript and analysis of its copying characters shows that it was copied in the XIIth century. Besides, the Arabic text of the book was written in big a script of suls-naskh which is similar to the script of manuscripts of the XII-XIIIth centuries. This proof also shows that it is an ancient copy.

Zaki Validi Toghon got acquainted with a text of this manuscript for the first time in 1927 and began to study it in 1948. He published a book named as “Mukaddamat al-Adab with Khorezmian translation” in Istanbul in 1951[6].

There are several rare manuscripts of “Mukaddamatu-l-Adab” in the library of the Turkish language in Ankara. Finding these manuscripts gives more information about copies of the book. The first of them is a manuscript with Arabic, Persian and Turkic dictionaries under number A 187. The chapter of nouns was lost in this manuscript. Its text begins with the chapter of verbs. There are Turkic synonyms under many Arabic words. A text of the Persian dictionary is not completed. The text of the manuscript has special scientific importance. Because a text of both Arabic dictionary and Turkic dictionary was provided with diacritic marks to be easy for readers. The text in each page was given in 11 lines. Persian and Turkic synonyms were written equally. There are various additions and
stamps of the owner of the book on the margins of the manuscript. The chapter of verbs ends with a brief conclusion. According to the information given in it, this manuscript was fully copied on Zu-l-qa’da 873 of Hijra, on Sunday, on May 24 of 1469 in madrasah of Aya Sofia in Constantinople. The manuscript contains chapters of letters, declension of nouns, and conjugation of verbs of “Mukaddamatu-l-Adab”. Each of these chapters begins with “Bismillah” and ends with traditional “tamma”. There is information about a copyist and date of this manuscript at the end of it. Its copyist is Abdulkarim Muntalavii Er Hasan Baz’ali Taqvi.

The second manuscript in the library of the Turkish language is kept under number A 502. The manuscript includes chapters of nouns and verbs. The first four pages of the chapter of nouns were lost and completed by another copyist later. Each page contains eleven lines of a text. A text of the chapter of verbs is completed. A text of its last page was written by another copyist. This manuscript includes the Arabic-Turkic dictionary, but Persian synonyms of the words were added to the fifty pages to the beginning of the chapter of verbs.

A script of the Persian dictionary differs from a script of Turkic dictionary. It is important that the Turkic dictionary of this manuscript is similar to Turkic dictionary of the copies of Tashkent. In this respect, it is also very important to study a text of this manuscript.

Also, several rare manuscripts of “Mukaddamatu-l-Adab” with Turkish dictionary are kept in the Funds of this library.

There are many rare manuscripts of “Mukaddamatu-l-Adab” in the Funds of manuscripts of Turkey. Many of them are in the library of Sulaymania. Besides, there are some copies, which are currently kept in different private libraries of manuscripts. For example, there is a manuscript in the library of Lala Ismail under number 674 which was copied in 736 A.H., in 1336, a manuscript under number 1444 in the library of Kharajji og’li in Bursa, and more than ten rare manuscripts in the Funds of manuscripts of Izmir, Fatih, Serez and Aya Sofia.

All copies of “Mukaddamatu-l-Adab” in the Funds of manuscripts of Turkey are important and rare sources. It is worthy to state that many of these manuscripts, which include the Turkic dictionary, were copied in the territory of Uzbekistan. It shows that these manuscripts serve as an important source for the study of our culture, history of the science, and our spiritual heritage. Mainly Arabic-Persian, Arabic-Turkic, Arabic-Turkish, Arabic-Khorezmian bilingual and Arabic-Persian-Turkic trilingual copies are found among the manuscripts of Turkey. The research of the manuscripts of “Mukaddamatu-l-Adab” which are kept in Turkey opens new horizons in the study of this work.

Eight rare manuscripts of “Muqaddamatu-l-Adab” are stored in funds of Iran.

An important one of these manuscripts is a copy of “Shushtar”. A scholar from Turkey, Nuri Yuje published a transliteration of the Turkic dictionary of this manuscript in 1988 [7]. This manuscript is stored in Sheikh Muhammad Taqi’s library who lives in the district of Shushtar of Iran. Orkhan Bilgin discovered this manuscript in 1967. Then he brought it to Istanbul and made its microfilm in the Sulaymaniyah library. Some defects in the microfilm that appeared during the process of the preparation were compared with the manuscript by Metrol Tulum.

Nuri Yuje researched on the Turkic dictionary of the book based on this prepared text. Comparing Shushtar copy of “Muqaddamatu-l-Adab” with its Tashkent copies shows that it is one of the rare manuscripts of the book.

Turkic dictionary of Shushtar copy of “Muqaddamatu-l-Adab” contains 3506 words. 2908 of them are Turkic, 598 are adopted – 450 Arabic, 133 Persian, 5 Mongolian, 4 Khorezm, 3 Sogdhi, 2 Russian, 1 Tibetan, and 1 Greek – words [8, s. 24-25].

We can say that Iran manuscripts of “Muqaddamatu-l-Adab”, especially Shushtar copy are considered as rare manuscripts of the dictionary. The study of the text of Shushtar copy confirms that it was copied in the 13-14th centuries. It is a special copy among other manuscripts of “Muqaddamatu-l-Adab” because Turkic dictionary was widely explained in it. The comparative study of manuscripts of this work stored in Iran with its other copies is considered as an important scientific task.

There is a rare manuscript of “Muqaddamatu-l-Adab” in the Rampur Saray library of India. This copy contains the Turkic dictionary. It is registered as No. 3810. It was copied in the 13-15th centuries.

Three rare manuscripts of “Muqaddamatu-l-Adab” are stored in England, in the Museum of Britain. One of them, which is registered as No. 7429 has special scientific importance. This copy consists of the part of verbs and has Arabic, Persian, Turkic dictionaries. Moreover, it has also a Khorezm dictionary in some places [9, s. 6]. It was copied in 770 A.H./1359.

The second manuscript contains the part of nouns and has an Arabic-Persian-Turkic dictionary. It was copied on Rajab of 864 of Hijra – on April-May of 1460. A copyist’s name is Ahmad ibn Yusuf ibn Ibrahim ibn Yaqub Nagidi. According to information, Greek synonyms of some words were given in the manuscript [10, p. 345].

The next manuscript is an ancient copy of the book. It was copied in 771/1371. The manuscripts of “Muqaddamatu-l-Adab” which are stored in the Museum of Britain of England differ from others that...
they are ancient, special and that they contain Khorezm and Greek synonyms. These manuscripts have scientific importance as rare copies of the book.

There are 12 rare manuscripts of the book in the fund of manuscripts of the National Library of France. It has been recently known two manuscript copies of “Muqaddamatu-l-Adab”, which are stored in this fund. According to information sent by a French scholar, an employee of the National Center for Scientific Researches under the Strasbourg University of Humanitarian Sciences, the study of books in the Funds of manuscripts gave a chance of discovery of new rare copies of the book. It is given a scientific explanation of rare manuscripts of “Muqaddamatu-l-Adab”, which are stored in the funds of manuscripts of the Paris National Library.

Manuscript No. Ancien Fond 34 (Paris Supplement turk 287) is an ancient and rare copy of “Muqaddamatu-l-Adab”. This manuscript has the second part – a part of verbs – of the book and it has an Arabic-Turkic dictionary. The fact that its written language is ancient, and writing features of its Turkic dictionary confirm that it was copied in the 12-13 centuries in Khorezm. This manuscript is one of the important copies of “Muqaddamatu-l-Adab”. It also gives important information for the preparation of the text of the Turkic dictionary.

Another manuscript is stored in the Paris National Library as No. 1631. It is a copy of the book, which has an ancient Arabic-Persian dictionary. The manuscript contains the Introduction and parts of nouns and verbs. The part of nouns is completed. A page was lost at the beginning of the part of verbs. It begins with a verb of salabahu. The text of this part is not completed and added to the Arabic dictionary later, in 776 A.H./1374. The mention in the manuscript, the Turkic dictionary was given next to their forms with important source for the study of the book. According to information, Vanebelen bought this manuscript in Cairo and presented it to the National Library in August of 1673.

Another copy is registered as No. Ancien Fond 1256-1. The first part of this copy, which contains its 1-207 pages includes “Muqaddamatu-l-Adab”. This copy is one of the completed manuscripts of the book. It was copied in the 16th century.

Another manuscript is registered as No. Ancien Fond 1290. It has an Arabic-Persian dictionary of the book and was copied in the 16th century. Total volume of the copy is 51 pages.

Another copy is registered as No. Ancient Fond 1317. It has only a part of the nouns of the book. Besides an Arabic-Persian dictionary, Turkic synonyms were also given in it. The manuscript was copied in the 16th century. According to information, Vanebelen bought this manuscript in Cairo and presented it to the National Library in August of 1673.

Another copy is registered as No. Renandol 481. It is one of the rare manuscripts of the book, which has three languages. It was copied in 895 of Hijra – in 1490. Its Arabic dictionary was written on a large naskh script, Persian and Turkic dictionaries were written on nasta’liq script. Moreover, there are three Arabic-Persian manuscripts No. 412, 413, 414, and Arabic-Persian-Turkic manuscript in the funds of the Paris National Library.

Five manuscripts of “Muqaddamatu-l-Adab” which are stored in the funds of France include a Turkic dictionary. They are important sources for the complex study of the book because of their ancient period of copying.

There are some rare manuscripts of “Muqaddamatu-l-Adab” in the fund of the Berlin State Library. They are beautiful examples of bookmaking art. The first copy of the book in the fund is registered as No. 66. This manuscript of “Muqaddamatu-l-Adab” was copied on Safar of 681 A.H. (on May of 1282). It contains a full five parts. This copy of “Muqaddamatu-l-Adab”, which has an Arabic-Turkic dictionary, serves as an important source for the study of the book. According to the mention in the manuscript, the Turkic dictionary was added to the Arabic dictionary later, in 776 A.H./1374. The Turkic dictionary has a special writing style. For example, all words in which there is a letter ت in the Turkic dictionary were given next to their forms with a letter ت. For example, تاريخ – ta:rikh, تاريخ – ta:rikh, تارخ – tatar. As scholars state, it is a special
feature of the Bolgar-Tatar writing style. It shows that the Turkic dictionary of the manuscript was added to it in the territory of Bolgar.

Besides, completed Arabic-Persian dictionary copied in 694 A.H./1294, a manuscript with a Persian dictionary, which includes only a part of nouns copied in 840 A.H./1436, a manuscript copied in 847 A.H./1439 and Arabic-Persian manuscripts, which include only a part of nouns copied in 916 A.H./1511 are stored in this fund. There are copies with Turkic dictionary among the manuscripts of “Muqaddamatu-l-Adab” in the fund. They are a manuscript with a part of verbs, which was copied in 959 A.H./1552, a copy which was copied in 1000 A.H./1591 and a rare manuscript of which a period of copying was mentioned [11, p. 242-245].

It must be stated that there are ten rare manuscripts of “Muqaddamatu-l-Adab” in the funds of manuscripts in the Berlin State Library of Germany. They were copied in the 13-16th centuries. These are bilingual – Arabic-Persian, Arabic-Turkic, and trilingual – Arabic-Persian-Turkic copies. Dictionaries in these manuscripts, especially the Turkic dictionary has special importance.

A manuscript of “Muqaddamatu-l-Adab” which was copied on Rabi al-Avval 13 of 663 A.H. (1625) is stored in the collection of manuscripts of the East in Bologna, in Italy [12].

In conclusion, it can be said that Mahmud Zamakhshari’s “Muqaddamatu-l-Adab” has been famous as an important source since it had been written. It is a rare book, which can give important information about the various fields of science and culture. That is why it was copied many times and sent to the famous manuscript funds of the world. There are many copies, which were copied in Uzbekistan and later brought off among them.

“Muqaddamatu-l-Adab” was copied many times and widely spread because it is a multilingual source. Although it was written in Arabic, its parts of nouns and verbs were provided with Persian, Turkic, Mongol, and Khorezm dictionaries. Because these parts were written in Arabic, but they are not an explanatory dictionary.

As a result of scientific research, near seventy rare manuscripts of “Muqaddamatu-l-Adab”, which include parts of nouns and verbs, were discovered. Continuation of this scientific research is considered as an actual task of Philology.

REFERENCES