

TURCOLOGICA

Herausgegeben von Lars Johanson

Band 95

2013

Harrassowitz Verlag · Wiesbaden

Béla Kempf

Studies in Mongolic Historical Morphology

Verb Formation in the
Secret History of the Mongols

2013

Harrassowitz Verlag · Wiesbaden

To my Mother

Preface

This book is an extensively revised version of the PhD dissertation that I defended at the University of Szeged, Hungary, in 2009. The work was begun in 2003 in the frame of the doctoral course *Comparative and Historical Turkology*, led by the late Professor Árpád Berta and Professor András Róna-Tas.

During the years since I finished the PhD course, a number of people and institutions have greatly helped both myself and my work, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for their support.

Professor Árpád Berta provided me with a possibility to work further on my thesis as a research assistant in the Research Group for Turkic Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the University of Szeged.

After it was necessary for me to leave the research group, the Department of Inner Asian Studies and its head, Professor Ágnes Birtalan, kindly held a protective shield above my head in a very critical situation. I am also grateful to György Kara, Alice Sárközi and the late Katalin Uray-Kóhalmi for sharing their knowledge with me.

I wish to express my gratitude to my colleagues at the Klebelsberg Library of the University of Szeged, and especially to its head, Béla Mader, who admitted me to work in the Oriental Collection of the Library. Without the background provided by the Library that was so necessary for my scientific work, this book would not have come into existence.

Many thanks go to Professor Lars Johanson for his friendship, and for allowing me to publish my work in the series *Turcologica*.

Most of my gratitude, however, goes to my family, and especially to my wife Bayarma and our daughter Emese, for their never-ending support and encouragement.

* The Project is supported by the European Union and co-financed by the European Social Fund (grant agreement no. TAMOP 4.2.1/B-09/1/KMR-2010-0003).

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Bibliografische Information der Deutschen Nationalbibliothek
Die Deutsche Nationalbibliothek verzeichnet diese Publikation in der Deutschen
Nationalbibliografie; detaillierte bibliografische Daten sind im Internet
über <http://dnb.dnb.de> abrufbar.

Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek
The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche
Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available in the internet
at <http://dnb.dnb.de>.

For further information about our publishing program consult our
website <http://www.harrassowitz-verlag.de>

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Printed on permanent/durable paper.
Printing and binding: Hubert & Co., Göttingen
Printed in Germany

ISSN 0177-4743
ISBN 978-3-447-06895-6