Future as a modal marker in Krymchak

The present paper discusses some special cases of modality expressions found in Krymchak religious texts, with a focus on formal and semantic means from both diachronic and comparative perspectives. The Krymchak language is no longer spoken variety; thus, the texts under survey include Krymchak translations of Daniel, Song of Songs, The Book of Miracles and Wonders, and Ruth dated to 18th and early 20th centuries. Although linguistic expressions of modality have been frequently discussed in Turkology (Johanson 2000, Erdal 2004, Rentzsch 2020), the modal system of this particular language has not been investigated in depth. Krymchak employs a broad spectrum of markers to express modality, including the Optative, Necessitative, Imperative, as well as Conditional and Aorist. Additionally, the Krymchak modal system is extended with the Future marker -ACAQ. To express the future tense, written Krymchak uses the suffix –(V)r, a multipurposive item which is also used to express the present tense. The suffix -ACAQ forms participial constructions, nominalized items, and expresses a certain mode of the verb. Jankowski (2021:175) argues that optative-future substitution -GAy for –(V)r is evidenced in parallel Karaim-Krymchak texts, like bolɣay-bolïr. Our data show optative/future and aorist/future replacements. Here, I discuss the items that do not convey tense, but share functional and semantic properties of aspect, including intension, potential action, tendency, and assumption.

Examples:

(1) Da   verdiler   göŋlülerinde   ki   qoluq etmeyǯekler,   da
    CONJ give-PST3PL   heart-POSS3PL.LOC PTCL knee AUX.NEG.FUT3PL CONJ
    baš   urmaǯaqlar   avodazara larïna   anǯaq   taŋrïlarïna (Daniel 3:27(28))
    head strike-NEG.FUT3PL   idol-POSS3PL.DAT   but   god-POSS3PL.DAT
    "They promised that they would not worship nor pray to his idols, but to their God"

(2) Anǯaq ki   vardïr   kökte   taŋrï bildirir   χan Nebukadnečarɣa
    but   PTCL EXIST.COP heaven-LOC god   know-CAUS.AOR king PN.DAT
    ki   olaǯaqtïr   soŋuna   künlerniŋ (Daniel 2:28)
    PTCL be-FUT.COP   end-POSS3.DAT   day-PL.GEN
    "But there is a God in heaven who will make known to king Nebuchadnezzar what would be at the end of days"

(3) Bildi   ki,   o   bir   bala doɣaǯaq   dedikleri,   bu   bala-dïr
    (Erdal&Ianbay, 46)
    Know-PST3 PTCL DEM   INDEF baby be born-FUT say-PST1PL DEM baby-COP
    "(S)he knew that this baby was the child about which it had been said that he would born"

Reference

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