Figurative comparative constructions in Epic (based on the Yakut Epic Olonkho "D'ulurujar Njurgun Bootur" and the Altai Heroic Epic "Maadaj-Kara")

Образные сравнительные конструкции в эпическом тексте (на материале якутского олонхо «Дьулуруйар Ньургун Боотур» и алтайского героического эпоса «Маадай-Кара»)

Construcciones comparativas figurativas en Epic (basado en el Yakut Epic Olonkho "D'ulurujar Njurgun Bootur" y el Altai Heroic Epic "Maadaj-Kara")

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Abstract

The paper analyzes structure and semantics of figurative comparative constructions describing appearance of main characters in the Yakut epic Olonkho "D'ulurujar Njurgun Bootur" written by a classic Yakut writer P.A. Ojunskij as compared to the Altai heroic epic "Maadaj-Kara". It has been found that, comparative polypredicative constructions with figurative meaning play a leading role in description of those characters in the Yakut Olonkho while in the Altai epic monopredicative constructions are found in similar cases. In the analyzed descriptions with comparative polypredicative constructions, the predicate of the subordinate predicative unit used as a comparison standard is formed by analytic-synthetic structures – attribute participles combined with the postposition *курдук*. In the Altai epic as opposed to the Yakut Olonkho, the major means to describe characters are noun constructions with the affix *–дый* and constructions with the syntactic words *кептӱ*

Аннотация

В статье анализируется структура и семантика образных сравнительных конструкций, описывающих внешний вид основных персонажей в якутском олонхо «Дьулуруйар Ньургун Боотур», созданным классиком якутском литературы П.А. Ойунским, в сопоставлении с алтайским героическим эпосом «Маадай-Кара». Установлено, что при описании внешностей этих персонажей якутского олонхо ведущую роль играют сравнительные полипредикативные конструкции с образным значением, тогда как в алтайском эпосе в аналогичных случаях имеют место монопредикативные построения. В рассматриваемых описаниях якутского олонхо, которые представляются сравнительными полипредикативными конструкциями, предикат зависимой предикативной единицы, выступающей в качестве эталона сравнения, оформляется

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'like, as if', *кеберлÿ* 'like, as if', *чилеп* 'like, as if', *ушкуш / ошкош* 'like', *тÿҥей* 'alike'. Comparative polypredicative constructions with the participle form *–гандый* as a predicate of the subordinate predicative unit are used much less. Active functioning of comparative polypredicative constructions in the Yakut Olonkho results from extensive and intensive use of syntactic means of figurativeness of various levels in the Olonkho.

Keywords: Yakut heroic epic Olonkho, Altai epic, contacts, figurativeness, comparative construction, polypredicativeness, comparison standard, comparison indicator.

аналитико-синтетическими структурами – определенными причастиями в сочетании с послелогом *курдук*. В алтайском эпосе, в отличие от якутского олонхо, основным средством описания персонажей служат именные конструкции с аффиксом *–дый* и конструкции со служебными словами *кептÿ* 'словно, подобно', *кеберлÿ* 'словно, подобно', *чилеп* 'словно, подобно', *ушкуш / ошкош* 'словно', *тÿҥей* 'похож'. Значительно реже используются сравнительные полипредикативные конструкции с причастной формой *-гандый* в качестве сказуемого зависимой предикативной единицы. Активное функционирование в якутском олонхо сравнительных полипредикативных конструкций является результатом экстенсивного и интенсивного использования в тексте олонхо разноуровневых синтаксических средств выражения образности.

Ключевые слова: якутский героический эпос олонхо, алтайский эпос, контакты, образность, сравнительная конструкция, полипредикативность, эталон сравнения, показатель сравнения.

Resumen

El artículo analiza la estructura y la semántica de las construcciones comparativas figurativas que describen la aparición de los personajes principales en la épica de Yakut Olonkho "D'ulurujar Njurgun Bootur" escrita por un escritor clásico de Yakut P.A. Ojunskij en comparación con la épica heroica de Altai "Maadaj-Kara". Se ha encontrado que, las construcciones polipredicativas comparativas con significado figurativo juegan un papel principal en la descripción de esos personajes en el Yakut Olonkho, mientras que en el Altai se encuentran construcciones monopredicativas épicas en casos similares. En las descripciones analizadas con construcciones polypredicative comparativas, el predicado de la unidad predicativa subordinada utilizada como estándar de comparación está formado por estructuras analítico-sintéticas, participios de atributos combinados con la posición курдук. En la epopeya de Altai en oposición al Yakut Olonkho, los principales medios para describir los personajes son construcciones de sustantivos con el afijo –дый y construcciones con las palabras sintácticas кептÿ 'like, if if, кеберлÿ' like, if if, чилеп 'like, como si ', ушкуш / ошкош' me gusta ', тÿҥей' igual '. Las construcciones polypredicative comparativas con la forma participio –гандый como predicado de la unidad predicativa subordinada se usan mucho menos. El funcionamiento activo de las construcciones polipredicativas comparativas en el Yakut Olonkho resulta del uso extenso e intensivo de medios sintácticos de figuración de varios niveles en el Olonkho.

Palabras clave: Epopeya heroica de Yakut Olonkho, epopeya de Altai, contactos, figuración, construcción comparativa, polifredividad, estándar de comparación, indicador de comparación.

Introduction

The paper deals with Yakut polypredicative constructions (PPC) expressing comparative relations based on epic formulae describing appearance of main characters in the Olonkho "D'ulurujar Njurgun Bootur" (Ojunskij, 2003) using the structural-semantic method and comparative analysis. These constructions are compared to Altai comparative constructions used in the epic "Maadaj-Kara" (Maadaj-Kara, 1973) to describe appearance of main characters. The considered epic texts are one of the best folklore pieces. The Olonkho "D'ulurujar

Njurgun Bootur" was translated into Russian (Ojunskij, 1975), "Maadaj-Kara" was translated into Russian and Yakut (Madaj Xara = Maadaj-Kara, 2015).

The analyzed Yakut and Altai epics were studied in terms of simple comparative constructions (Prokopieva, Ozonova and Zakharova, 2018). Comparative PPC have not been studied before. Yakut comparative PPC – compound sentences – were studied by E.I.Ubryatova (Ubryatova, 1976) and Ju.I. Vasiliev (Vasiliev, 1995) who defined and described synthetic (indicators *-лыы, -тан, -тааҕар*) and analytic-synthetic means (participle forms in combination with the syntactic words *курдук, дылы, саҕа, кэриэтэ*) of expressing comparative relations.

Use of comparison in Olonkho has not been adequately described yet. There are papers (see e.g. (Dedjukina, 2010; Gerasimova and L'vova, 2016; L'vova, 2017)) where ways to express comparison in Olonkho are analyzed in structural-semantic and linguo-folkloristic terms. Z.I. Dedjukina found that out of 3,500 comparative phrases selected from Olonkho texts comparative constructions with the postposition *курдук* are the most used (70 %), constructions with the postposition *саҕа* make 29 %, while constructions with the indicator of the comparative case (*-тааҕар*) 1 % (Dedjukina, 2010). L.N. Gerasimova and S.D. L'vova suggest that in the Olpnkho texts they studied a storyteller "generally uses comparisons that are used as conventionalised formulae in Yakut" (Gerasimova and L'vova, 2016). Formulae from Olonkho are also found in informal language of the Yakut: "… formulae and formula-like expressions in their functional sense, strictly speaking, are not proper epic as they were widely used in Yakut speech actually by everybody" (Sleptsov, 1990). In Yakut epic studies, epic formulae are, first of all, artistically polished tirades "containing wholesome descriptive pictures and images" (Vasiliev, 1978). Such formulae are "brief, their point is concentrated in the base phrase, their meaning is aphoristic, and their artistic form is poetic. They are easy to memorize and thus they are traditionally passed from one storyteller to another, from one text to another" (Illarionov, 2006). Meaning of formulae is determined by meanings of their components (Robbek, 2014).

In Yakut studies, Olonkho poetics is considered in terms of comparison images in the paper by folklorists (Efimova and L'vova, 2017) where it is concluded that "in Yakut oral tradition, the level of mastering the artistic means of comparison has reached its highest" (Efimova and L'vova, 2017).

In the Altai language, comparative PPC were studied by L.N. Tybykova. Her study shows that in Altai comparative relations are expressed by nominal and verbal constructions. In nominal constructions, nouns and pronouns are used as comparison subject and standard, while in verbal constructions the situation in the subordinate part of a compound sentence. Comparative PPC are represented by synthetic and synthetic-analytic constructions (Tybykova, 1989).

In the Altai language, comparative relations are studied on the epic "Maadaj-Kara" translated Russian as the first step of studying comparative constructions in this text in terms of anthropocentric theory of comparison (Anisimova, 2013). We described Yakut comparative constructions as compared to Altai (Efremov, 2017). The results of structural-semantic analysis of the constructions under discussion showed that each language possesses unique means of expressing these relations. In particular, Yakut as opposed to Altai demonstrates extensive development of comparative PPC which results from historical development of these languages. It is known that Yakut early separated from other Turkic languages and had contacts with Mongolic languages. It is evidenced by the fact that "the system of aspects and verbal word formation" of figurative and onomatopoeic verbs "have a direct link to morphology of Mongolian verb" (Ubryatova, 2011). Comparative monopredicative and polypredicative constructions in Yakut are also used to express figurative semantics.

In Khakass, comparisons are studied comparatively in Khakass and Russian epic texts as means to create imagery in such texts (Vojtenko, 2015). In epic of Mongolic peoples, semantics of formulae constituted by epitheton ornans and conventionalized comparisons is covered (Dampilova, 2015). Functions of comparisons in the structure of Mansi epic have been investigated (Gerasimova, 2017).

Methods

In our paper, we analyzed figurative comparative PPC of the Yakut language used to describe appearance of Olonkho main characters using the structural-semantic method. The constructions under discussion are considered as a part of epic formulae (EF) since they are involved in expressing the latter. They are compared to those

in Altai that describe appearance of epic heroes in the epic "Maadaj-Kara".

Results and Discussion

Further, we deal with comparative constructions used to describe appearance of heroes of the Upper and Underworld and female characters in Yakut and Altai epics. Examples are provided by Russian translations by V. Derzhavin (Yakut Olonkho) and S. Surazakov (Altai epic) and glosses[274]. The translation of the Yakut Olonkho is characterized as poetic, while the translator of the Altai epic "sought to show poetic sense of the said in Russian without taking poetic license" [Maadaj-Kara, 62].

The analysis of the Altai heroic epic "Maadaj-Kara" reveals wide use of comparative constructions such as the ones with synthetic indicators (comparative affix *-дый*, ablative affix *-даҥ*, comparative participle affix *–гандый*) as well as analytic indicators (*кептӱ* 'like, as if', *кеберлӱ* 'like, as if', *чилеп* 'like, as if', *ушкуш / ошкош* 'like', *тӱҥей* 'alike'). Most frequent are constructions with the comparative affix *–дый* and the comparative indicator *кепту* 'like'. It is worth mentioning that active use of comparative syntactic words *кеберлӱ* 'like, as if' and *кепту* 'like, as if' is vharacteristic for folklore texts, above all epic. Most examples are nominative constructions within simple sentences.

First of all, comparative constructions are used for describing main heroes: Maadaj-Kara and his wife Altyn-Targa, their son Kögüdej-Mergen, beauty Altyn-Küskü, their enemy from the Underworld Kara-Kula kaan, as well as the hero's steed, people, livestock, etc.

Appearance of the Middle World heroes in Yakut and Altai epics

In the Yakut Olonkho, heroes of the Middle World are described using bipredicative comparative constructions with a one-component subordinate predicative unit (SPU), the subordinate predicate of which is expressed by past participle (indicator *-быт*) combined with the postposition *курдук*. In the Altai epic, monopredicative comparative constructions with comparison standards and indicators expressed by affix and analytic means are used.

Epic formula "Appearance of the hero Njurgun Bootur"

In the Yakut epic appearance of the hero Njurgun Bootur is represented by description of his muscle, shin and forearm compared with a block: *Баай тиитим бастыҥ дүлүҥүн / Балтаччы уран барыллаабыт курдук / Барылы ньыгыл быччыннаах эбит… / Уолах тиитим уһун дүлүҥүн / Ууран-тутан усталаабыт курдук / Ньодо дьороҕор сотолоох эбит, / Эриллэҕэс тиитим орто дүлүҥүн / Оломооттоон ылан олоппут курдук / Эриллэ дапсыл харылаах эбит* (115) 'Крепкие, мощные **мышцы** его, / **Словно** корни лиственниц вековых, / **Голени** прямые его, / **Как** два толстых длинных бревна / Из очищенных лиственниц молодых, / **Локоть** согнутый, как рычаг, / **Как** средний могучий сук / Изогнутой кедровой сосны' (Derzhavin, 89). 'Strong, powerful **muscles** of his, / **Like** roots of century-old larches, / Straight **shins** of his, / **Like** two thick long logs / From stripped young larches, / The **elbow** bent like a lever, / **Like** a middle strong branch, / of a bent cedar pine'.

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[274] Glosses from the Altai heroic epic are provided by Candidate of Philology A.A. Ozonova.

баай rich	тиит-им larch-POSS.1SG	бастыҥ best
дүлүҥ-э-н block-POSS.3SG-ACC	балтаччы filled	уур-ан put-CVB
барыллаа-быт contour-PPFCT	курдук POSTP	барылы ньыгыл very strong
быччыҥ-наах muscles-POSSV	эбит it appears that-EVID	уолах large
тиит-им larch-POSS.1SG	уһун long	дүлүҥ-э-н block-POSS.3SG-ACC
ууран-тутан hold=CVB	усталаа-быт hold lengthway-P. PFCT	курдук POSTP
ньоҕдо дьороҕор slender	сото-лоох shin-	эбит, it appears that-EVID
эриллэҕэс cross-fibred	тиит-им larch-POSS.1SG	орто middle
дүлүҥ-э-н block-POSS.3SG-ACC	оломооттоон ылан cut quickly= CVB	олоп-пут put into-PPFCT
курдук POSTP	эриллэ дапсыл strong crooked	хары-лаах elbow-POSSV

Epic formula "Appearance of the hero Maadaj-Kara"

In the Altai epic the main character, hero Maadaj-Kara is described through parts of his face: eyebrows, beard, nose, lashes, eyes, cheeks. This formula is represented by nominal monopredicative comparative constructions, with standard of comparison being expressed by adjectives (e.g. *килиҥ кара*), nouns and indicator of comparison being the affix -*дый*: ***Килиҥ кара бу кабакту, / Кирбе кара бу сагалду, Коо кырлаҥ бу тумчукту, Кош агаштый бу кирбиктӱ. / Кöргöн кöзи кöк чолмондый, / Кööркий бойы су алтындый. / Jарым кайа бу лай jаакту, / Бӱдӱй кайа бу бӱдӱштӱ, / Кызыл-барал бу чырайлу / Баатырым болбый кайтты./ Бек тер бӱткен бу белине / Бежен айгыр мал jӱргедий, / Ак jаланьдый арказына / Алтан ӱӱр кой тургадый, / Эки jарын ортозына / Jӱс байталым тебелеедий, / Эки кöстиҥ ортозына / Тöртöн ирик тебелеедий.*** (Maadaj Kara, 75) 'Брови — **как черный бархат**, / Густая черная борода, / Нос, **подобный прямому хребту горы**, / Ресницы, <u>похожие</u> на северный лес, / Зоркие глаза, **подобные синим звездам**, / Сам он, дорогой, чистому **золоту подобен**. / Щеки его — **с полскалы**, / Голова его — **с целую скалу**, / Лицо его — **как красный маральник** – / Таков был мой богатырь. / На крепко сложенной его пояснице / Пятьдесят табунов могут пастись, / На широкой, как луг, спине / Шестьдесят отар могут стоять. / Между двумя его лопатками / Сто кобылиц могут укрыться, / Между двумя его глазами / Сорок баранов могут стоять'. 'Eyebrows are **like black velvet**, / Thick black beard, / Nose **like a straight mountain ridge**, / Lashes **looking like** northern woods, / sharp eyes **like blue stars**, / He himself is dear **as** pure **gold**. / His cheeks are **as big as half of a cliff**, / His head is **as big as a cliff**, / His face is **like red rosebay** - / That is my hero. / On the strong built small of his back / Fifty herds can pasture, / On the back as wide as a meadow / Sixty flocks can stand. / Between two his shoulder-blades / A hundred mares can hide, / Between two his eyes / Forty sheep can stand'.

килин̇ velvet	*кара* black	*бу* this
кабак-ту, eyebrow-POSSV	*кирбе* thick	*кара* black
бу this	*сагал-ду,* beard-POSSV	*коо* slender
кырлан̇ bent	*бу* this	*тумчук-ту,* nose-POSSV
кош northern	*агаш-тый* woods-COMP	*бу* this
кирбик-тӱ eyelashes-POSSV	*кӧр-гӧн* see-PART	*кӧз-и* eyes-POSS.3
кӧк blue	*чолмон-дый,* star-COMP	*кӧӧркий* dear
бой-ы oneself-POSS.3	*су* PTCL	*алтын-дый.* gold-COMP
jарым half	*кайа* cliff	*бу* this
лай PTCL	*jаак-ту,* cheek-POSSV	*Бӱдӱн* whole
кайа cliff	*бу* this	*бӱдӱш-тӱ,* appearance-POSSV
кызыл-барал red rosebay	*бу* this	*чырай-лу* face-POSSV
баатыр-ым hero-POSS.1SG	*бол-бый* be-CV.NEG	*кайтты.* PTCL.MOD
бек strong	*тер* sweat	*бӱт-кен* build-PART
бу this	*бел-и-не* small of the back-POSS.3-DAT	*бежен* fifty
айгыр stud	*мал* livestock	*jӱр-гедий,* go-PP
ак white	*jалан*̇*-дый* meadow-COMP	*арка-зы-на* back-POSS.3-DAT
алтан sixty	*ӱӱр* flock	*кой* sheep
тур-гадый, stand-PP	*Эки* two	*jарын* shoulder blade
орто-зы-на middle-POSS.3-DAT	*jӱс* hundred	*байтал-ым* mare-POSS.1SG
тебеле-едий, stand-PART	*эки* two	*кӧс-тин*̇ eyes-GEN
орто-зы-на middle-POSS.3-DAT	*тӧртӧн* forty	*ирик* neuter sheep
тебеле-едий stand-PART		

Appearance of characters from the Underworld in Yakut and Altai epics

Epic formula "*Appearance of an Underworld character in the Yakut Olonkho*"

Is represented by comparative bipredicative constructions with impersonal and personal SPU. Subject participants of the situation, actants, are 'ice pick' (in Russian translation *сошник* 'ploughshare') and 'scythe' as nouns in the accusative case in impersonal SPU; 'hill, mountain' in personal SPU. Moduli of comparison in these constructions are *teeth*

(example 1), *claws* (example 2), *face* and *eyes* (examples 3 and 4) of an Underworld character. Example 1. *Амаан-дьамаан айаҕын / Аҥал-саҥал аһан, / (Аҕыс анньыыны / Адаарыччы аспыт курдук) / Дьэбин күөх тиҥсири хара тиистэрэ* (Dyuluruyar Nyurgun Bootur, 116)

'Железные ржавые зубы его, / Черные кривые клыки, / <u>Похожие</u> на сошники, / То и дело мелькали во рту' (Derzhavin, 90). 'Iron rusty teeth of his, / Black crooked fangs, / <u>Looking like</u> ice picks, / Every so often flickered in the mouth'.

амаан-дьамаан	айах-а-н	аҥал-саҥал
bottomless	mouth-POSS.3SG-ACC	slowly
ас-ан	аҕыс	анньыы-ны
open-CVB	eight	ice pick-ACC
адаарыччы	ас-пыт	курдук
awkward	drive into-PPFCT	POSTP
дьэбин	күөх	тиҥсири
rust-NOM	green	seeking
хара	тиис-тэр-э	
black	tooth-PL-POSS.3SG.	

(2) (*Уон дьааҥы хотуурун / Умсарыта туппут курдук*) / *Уон дэгиэ хара тынырахтара* (Dyuluruyar Nyurgun Bootur, 148) 'Пальцы его, / Выпуская десять / Острых

когтей, / Словно косы-горбуши, кривых...' (Derzhavin, 113). 'Fingers of his, / Showing ten / Sharp claws, / Bent like scythes'.

уон	дьааҥы хотуура-н	умсарыта
ten	Verkhoyansk scythe-ACC	upside down
туп-пут	курдук	уон
hold-PPFCT	POSTP	ten
дэгиэ	хара	тынырах-тар-а
hooked	black=	claw-PL-POSS.3SG.

(3) (*Сыыр быстыбытын курдук*) / *Сылларыта сытыйбыт / Сытамматах сырайын / Сыллаҥнатан кэбистэ, / (Хайа хайдыбытын курдук) хаспахтаах, / Хааннаах сиикэй эт бэргэ хараҕынан <...>* (Dyuluruyar Nyurgun Bootur, 49) 'Безобразная харя его / Стала морщиться,

дергаться, / Плюща нос, / Будто силился улыбнуться он / Из глазницы узкой, как щель горы, / Красными веками окружен, / Его единственный глаз' (Derzhavin, 36). 'His ugly muzzle / Began to crinkle, twitch, / Flattening his nose, / As if he tried to smile / From the eyehole as thin as a crack of a mountain, / Surrounded by red eyelids, / Is his only eye'.

сыыр	быһын-быт-а-н	курдук
hill-NOM	collapse-PPFCT-POSS.3SG-GEN	POSTP
	сытан-матах	
сылларыта сытыйбыт	turn out-NEG	сырай-а-н
crinkle ugly-PPFCT		face-POSS.3SG-ACC
сыллаҥнаа-т-ан	кэбистэ	хайа
crinkle-CAUS-CVB	AUX	mountain
хайын-быт-а-н	курдук	хаспах-таах,
collapse-PPFCT-POSS.3SG-GEN	POSTP	hole
хааннаах	сиикэй эт бэргэ never-healing	харах-а-нан
blood-ADJ	scar	eye-POSS.3SG-INSTR

Epic formula describing appearance of an Underworld character in the Altai epic Kara-Kul

When describing the Altai Underworld character, special attention is given to mouth and eyes that

are compared to lake, half moon, the mouth of the Underworld. The indicators of comparison

are analytic indicators *кеберлӱ* 'like, as if' and *кептӱ* 'like, as if': *Кӧргӧн <u>кӧзи кӧл</u> кеберлӱ, / Кӧгӧргӧн лӧ бу чагылган, / Ай **оозы** таамы кептӱ, / Ачылган ла бу кызарган* (Maadaj Kara, 91) 'Зоркие его глаза, словно озера, / Синими став, сверкают, / Рот, похожий на полумесяц, / Как пасть преисподней, раскрыт и краснеет.' 'His sharp eyes like lakes, / Having turned blue, sparkle, / The mouth looking like half-moon, / Is open and red like the mouth of the Underworld'.

кӧр-гӧн	*кӧз-и*	*кӧл*
see-PART	eyes-POSS.3	lake
кеберлӱ	*кӧгӧр-гӧн*	*лӧ*
like	turn blue-PART	and
бу	*чаг-ыл-ган*	*ай*
this	sparkle-PASS-PART	moon
ооз-ы	*таамы*	*кептӱ*
mouth-POSS.3	underworld	like
ач-ыл-ган	*ла*	*бу*
open-PASS-PART	CONJ	this
кызар-ган		
turn red-PART		

Appearance of beauties in Yakut and Altai epics

When describing appearance of beauties in Yakut and Altai epics as with Middle World heroes and Underworld characters, various standards of comparison are used. However, to describe faces of female heroes both epics use sun and moon as standards of comparison.

Epic formula of the female hero Kyys N'urgun in the Yakut Olonkho

Uses monopredicative and bipredicative constructions with the indicator of comparison *курдук*. The standards of comparison are glittering of the setting sun, rays of the rising sun, sable fur, beaver fur, cowberry juice.
*Киирэн эрэр күн / Килбиэнин курдук / Килбиэннээх **иэдэстээх**, / Тахсан эрэр күн / Сардаҥатын курдук / Сардаҥалаах **ньуурдаах**, / (Киис кыыл барахсан / Килбиэннээх кэрэ түүтүн / Кэккэлэппит курдук) / Кырталдьыйан кӧстӧр / Кылапаччыгас **кыламаннаах**, (Уу буобуратын / Уоттаах түүтүн / Уурбут-туппут курдук) / Субул курдук Сураанын **хаастаах**, (Уулаах отон уутун ылан Ууран-тутан соппут курдук) / Холобурдаан эттэххэ / Хоро-чопчу **уостаах** эбит* (Dyuluruyar Nyurgun Bootur, 459) 'Красным отблеском Заходящего дня Горел <u>румянец</u> ее; Белым отблеском Восходящего дня Светилось ее <u>лицо</u>. Словно выложенные в ряд Шерстинки блестящие из хребта Отборного соболя-одинца, Блестели, сквозя, <u>Ресницы</u> ее. Словно выложенные в ряд Огнистые волоски Черного морского бобра, Выгнулись Длинные <u>брови</u> ее. Как брусники осенней сок, <u>Губы</u> у ней красны.' 'Her <u>flush</u> was burning like the red setting sun; her <u>face</u> was shining like the rising sun. Like a row of shining hair from the select singleton sable's back her <u>eyelashes</u> were shining through. Like a row of red hair of a black beaver her long <u>eyebrows</u> are bent. Her lips are red as juice of autumn cowberries'.

киирэн эр-эр	күн	килбиэн-э-н
set=PPres	sun	shining-POSS.3SG-GEN
курдук	килбиэннээх	иэдэс-тээх,
POSTP	radiant	cheeks-ADJ
тахсан эр-эр	күн	сардаҥа-та-н
rise-PPres	sun	луч-POSS.3SG-GEN
курдук	сардаҥалаах ньуур-даах,	киис кыыл барахсан
POSTP	white faced	singleton sable
килбиэн-нээх	кэрэ	түү-тэ-н
shining-ADJ	beautiful	fur-POSS.3SG-ACC
кэккэлэт-пит	курдук	кырталдьый-ан
put in a row-PPast	POSTP	shine-CVB
кӧһүн-ӧр	кылапаччый-гас	кыламан-наах,
seem-PPres	shine-ADJ	eyelashes-ADJ

уу буобура-та-н	уот-таах	түү-тэ-н
beaver- POSS.3SG-GEN	fire-ADJ	fur-POSS.3SG-ACC
уурбут-туппут	курдук	субул-NOM
put beautifully-PPres	POSTP	a row of hay
курдук	сурааһын	хаас-таах,
POSTP	line	eyebrows-ADJ
уулаах отон-Ø	уу-та-н	ыл-ан
cowberry-NOM	juice-POSS.3SG-ACC	take-CVB
ууран-тут-ан	сот-бут	курдук
attach-CVB	spread-PPast	POSTP
холобурдаа-ан	эт-тэх-хэ	хоро-чопчу
cite as an example-CVB	say-COND-DAT	round button
уос-таах	эбит	
lips-ADJ	EVID	

Epic formula of the beauty Altyn-Küskü in Altai epic

The Altai epic uses the following means to describe Altyn- Küskü's beauty: the comparative affix -дый, comparative construction with the ablative case indicator –даҥ, and the postposition ушкуш / ошкош 'like, as if'.

*Ай кеберин айга бербес, / Алтын **ушкуш** бу болуптыр, / Кӱн кеберин кӱнге бербес, / Кӱмӱш **ушкуш** эмди бол**тыр**. / Солоҥы**дый** бу качарлу, / Толы ай**дый** ол чырайлу, / Кӧргӧн кӧзи кӧк чолмон**дый**, / Кӧӧркий **бойы** су алтын**дый**, / Чыккан ай**даҥ** чыпчыылду, / Тийген кӱн**неҥ** кеп-кеендӱ* (Maadaj Kara, 225) 'Луноподобное лицо ее на луну не сменяешь, / **Как золото**, блестело, / Солнцеподобное лицо ее на солнце не сменяешь, / **Как серебро**, сияло. / Щеки **подобны радуге**, / Лицо круглое, **как полная луна**, / Зоркие глаза — **как синие звезды**, / Сама — **как чистое золото**. / Взошедшей луны прекраснее, Лучей утреннего солнца краше.' 'Her moonlike face you will not change for the moon, / **Like gold** it glittered, / Her sun-like face you will not change for the sun, / **Like silver** it shone. / Her cheeks are **like a rainbow**, / The face is as round **as the full moon**, / Sharp eyes are **like blue stars**, / She herself is **like pure gold**. / She is more beautiful than the risen moon, more pretty than rays of the morning sun.'

ай	*кебер-и-н*	*ай-га*
moon	face-POSS.3-ACC	moon-DAT
бер-бес,	*алтын*	*ушкуш*
give= PART.NEG	gold	like
бу	*бол-уптыр,*	*кӱн*
this	be-EVID	sun
кебер-и-н	*кӱн-ге*	*бер-бес,*
face-POSS3-ACC	sun-DAT	give- PART.NEG
кӱмӱш	*ушкуш*	*эмди*
silver	like	now
*бол-ты*р.	*солоҥы-дый*	*бу*
be-EVID	rainbow-COMP	this
качар-лу	*толы*	*ай-дый*
cheeks-POSSV	full	moon-COMP
ол	*чырай-лу,*	*кӧр-гӧн*
he	face-POSSV	see-PART
кӧз-и	*кӧк*	*чолмон-дый*
eyes-POSS.3	blue	star-COMP
кӧӧркий	*бой-ы*	*су*
dear	oneself-POSS.3	pure
алтын-дый,	*чык-кан*	*ай-даҥ*
gold-COMP	rise-PART	moon-ABL
чыпчыылду,	*тий-ген*	*кӱн-неҥ*
beautiful	get-PART	sun-ABL
кеп-кеендӱ		
pretty		

Conclusion

The comparative analysis of comparative constructions used to describe appearance of main characters of the Yakut heroic epic "D'ulurujar Njurgun Bootur" by P.A. Ojunskij and the Altai epic "Maadaj Kara" by A.G. Kalkin revealed the following similarities and differences:

a) Figurative comparative constructions are major means to describe appearance of main characters in traditional epic formulae both in Yakut and Altai epics;

b) In the Yakut epic, such constructions are characterized by both monopredicative and polypredicatve structure while in the Altai epic they are, as a rule, monopredicative;

c) Standards and indicators of comparison are different in the analyzed constructions. The following standards are used to describe appearance of main characters: 1) *Middle World hero* – Yakut Olonkho: larch; Altai epic: velvet, mountain ridge, woods, star, gold, cliff, rosebay; 2) *Underworld character* – Yakut Olonkho: ice pick, scythe, hill; Altai epic: lake, half-moon, Underworld mouth; 3) *beauties* – Yakut Olonkho: sun, moon, sable fur, beaver hair, cowberry juice; Altai epic: moon, sun, gold, silver, rainbow, stars. Indicators of comparison: Yakut Olonkho – postposition *курдук*; Altai epic – comparative affix *-дый*, ablative case affix *–таҥ*, comparative participle *–гандый,* and comparative syntactic words *кептӱ* 'like, as if', *кеберлӱ* 'like, as if', *чилеп* 'like, as if', *ушкуш / ошкош* 'like', *тӱҥей* 'alike'.

Active functioning of comparative polypredicative construction in the Yakut epic results from intensive and extensive use of syntactic means of expressing figurativeness of various levels.

Abbreviations

1, 3 SG – personal affix, 1, 3 person singular;
3PL – personal affix, 3 person plural;
NOM – indefinite case;
ABL – ablative case;
ACC – accusative case;
AUX – auxiliary verb;
COMP – comparative affix *–дый*;
CONJ – conjunction;
GEN – genitive case;

DAT – dative case;
EVID – indicator of the past evidential tense ending with *–птыр*;
NEG – negative form of verb, participle, adverbial participle;
POSTP – postposition;
PP – participle ending with =быт;
PART – participle form;
PASS – passive affix;
POSS – possessive affix,
POSSV – possession form;
PRTCL – particle;
P. PFCT – past perfect;
ADJ – adjective;
ADV – adverb(ial);
equality sign – morpheme joint of word forming and form-building affixes;
dash – morpheme joint of morph superposition.

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