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Presenting and Translating Pharmaceutical Terms into Multiple Languages: A Case of an Early 20th Century Glossary

Abstract. *In the present paper, we discuss how terms for various plants and medicines are represented in Materials for a Glossary of Foreign Pharmaceuticals of the Caucasus and Central Asia. Compiled by Édouard Šteber, the book was published in 1902. The glossary consists of two lexicographic parts, the former being a collection of entries arranged in alphabetical order, each of them consisting of Latin terms for plants and medicines accompanied with equivalents from various languages and varieties of the Caucasus and Central Asia, whereas the latter is an alphabetically arranged list of foreign terms for plants and medicines accompanied with respective Latin names. Šteber provides terms and their translations in thirty-six languages and varieties of the Caucasus and Central Asia.*

Keywords: *Multilingual glossary, pharmaceuticals, Šteber, Caucasus, Central Asia*

When someone comes across an earlier multilingual lexicographic resource, particularly a hardly claimed one before, it may cause double interest, both in terms of the history of language documentation and of how individual items are translated into various languages and their varieties. This is exactly true with the book which is a case in point in the present paper. This is *Materials for a Glossary of Foreign Pharmaceuticals of the Caucasus and Central Asia* [1], compiled by Édouard Šteber, and published in 1902 in Ekaterinoslav (present-day Dnipro, Ukraine).

Initially, we will provide some information about the author. Édouard Šteber was born in 1862, in the district of Tetrtskaro, Georgia. He was a chemist by education and spent quite a lot of years working at the Ekaterinoslav Mining College. In 1941, as an ethnic German, he was exiled in Kazakhstan where he died next year. We believe that it is necessary to dwell upon the spelling of this last name. The Catalogue of the German National Library provides three spelling options; they are: (1) Shteber, Édouard Al'bertovich; (2) Šteber, Édouard Al'bertovič (Vollständiger Name); (3) Stoeber, Eduard [2]. The preferred version is (2) Šteber, Édouard Al'bertovič. The same spelling is maintained by other international resources; see, for instance, VIAF [3]. We, therefore, identify him as Édouard Šteber.

The title and metadata of the book are in Russian; however, the only cohesive portions, appearing in Russian, are the Foreword [1, p. V-VII] and the Introduction [1, p. IX-XI].

The most comprehensive portions of the book are the two lexicographic parts; Part 1 is a list of entries arranged in alphabetical order, each of them consisting of Latin terms for plants and medicines accompanied with equivalents from various languages and varieties of the Caucasus and Central Asia. Part 2 is an alphabetically arranged list of foreign terms for plants and medicines accompanied with respective Latin names.

In entries, individual terms are tagged with respect to a people, language, and locality it pertains to; tags are provided as abbreviations of respective names in German. Below we provide a table representing Šteber's tags and clarifications alongside presently used respective onyms and comments whenever necessary:

Table 1. Tags and their clarifications

Tags (Šteber)	Clarifications (Šteber)	Clarifications (Kikvidze & Tsikhishvili)	Comments (Kikvidze & Tsikhishvili)
<i>Abch</i>	Abkhazian	Abkhazian	
<i>Ar</i>	Arabic	Arabic	
<i>Arm</i>	Armenian	Armenian	
<i>Avar</i>	Avar	Avar	
<i>Balk</i>	Balkar	Karachay-Balkar	
<i>Buch</i>	Bukharian	Bukharian	Judeo-Tajik
<i>Chiw</i>	Khivan	Khwarezmian	
<i>Did</i>	Lezgins of the Dido Community	Tsez (Dido)	
<i>Dig</i>	Digor	Digor dialect of the Ossetian language	
<i>Gre</i>	Greek	Pontic Greek	
<i>Grs</i>	Grusinian	Kartlian dialect of the Georgian language	
<i>Gur</i>	Gurian	Gurian dialect of the Georgian language	
<i>Imer</i>	Imeretian	Imeretian dialect of the Georgian language	
<i>Ing</i>	Ingush	Ingush	
<i>Inuch</i>	Lezgin Hinukhs	Hinukh	
<i>Isr</i>	Mountain Jews	Judeo-Tat	
<i>Kab</i>	Kabardian	Kabardian	
<i>Kalm</i>	Kalmyk	Kalmyk	

<i>Kap</i>	Lezgins of the Kapucha Community	Bezhta	
<i>Kas, Kasik</i>	Lezgins of the Kazikumukh Community	Lak	
<i>Kum</i>	Kumyk	Kumyk	
<i>Lesg</i>	Lezgins at large and of Zakatal okrug	Lezgitic and Avaro-Andic languages	
<i>Mingr</i>	Mingrelian	Megrelian	
<i>Nog</i>	Nogai	Nogai	
<i>Os</i>	Ossetian	Ossetian	
<i>Pe</i>	Persian	Persian	
<i>Samurs</i>	Samurzakan	Samurzakan	Normally, this glossonym refers to a variety of Megrelian; however, Šteber uses the tag for Abkhazian specimina
<i>Sart</i>	Sart	Sart	
<i>Swan</i>	Swanetian	Svan	
<i>Ta</i>	Transcaucasian Tatars (Azerbaijani language)	Azerbaijani	
<i>Tal</i>	Talysh	Talysh	
<i>Tschr</i>	Circassian	Circassian	
<i>Tscht</i>	Chechen	Chechen	
<i>Tu</i>	Turkish	Turkish	
<i>Turcm</i>	Turkmen	Turkmen	
<i>Usbek</i>	Uzbek	Uzbek	

There are thirty-six tags. It is more than clear that the tags are based on German spellings of respective ethnonyms, toponyms, and glossonyms; some of the most illustrative examples are the following: *Abch* – Abkhazian, *Buch* – Bukharian, *Chiw* – Khivan, *Inuch* – Hinukh, *Tscht* – Chechen, etc. However, it is questionable whether and how they are adequate. It is questionable owing to the tags such as, for instance, *Samurs*, referring to Samurzakan. Normally, this glossonym refers to one of the dialect varieties of Megrelian; however, judging from the items provided in the entries, including the tag, this is Abkhazian (*NB*: there already is a tag for this language (*Abch*) in Šteber’s tagset).

As for the Kartvelian (South Caucasian) languages and their dialect varieties, the way they are represented in the tagset bares the imprint of the deliberate biased approaches practiced in the Russian Empire. Specifically, *Grs* (<*Grusinisch) is clarified as Georgian [1, p. X]; besides, there are the tags *Gur* and *Imer* which are presented as the entities equal to *Grs*. Thus, the reader is made to consider that *Grs*, *Gur*, and *Imer* are three different languages. Actually, as observation of the respective lexical items in the entries has made it clear, *Grs*, *Gur*, and *Imer* stand for individual dialect varieties of Georgian (*Grs*– Kartlian, *Gur*– Gurian, and *Imer* – Imeretian). For the sake of clarity, we should inform the reader that there are four Kartvelian (South Caucasian) languages; they are: Georgian, Megrelian, Laz, and Svan. The glossary in point presents data from three dialect varieties of Georgian; Laz specimina do not appear in it. It should be noted that, in the glossary, there is no entry including terms from all the varieties listed. Truly enough, some of the language varieties are much more representative than others. Below we quote some of the most representative entries in the glossary.

Table 2. Sample entries from Part 1

<i>№</i>	<i>Latin Names</i>	<i>Translations</i>
1.1.	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i> L.	Акацыхур, Акацахур (<i>Abch</i>) Инберберис, Зириасвад (<i>Ar</i>) Катцахур, Дцорени, Зриск (<i>Arm</i>) Тукужгу (<i>Balk</i>) Зирх (<i>Buch</i>) Зин (<i>Did</i>) Турту (<i>Dig</i>) Котцахури, Мжуана (<i>Grs</i>) Кватцахори, Кватцарохи (<i>Gur</i>) Квацахури (<i>Imer</i>) Чаштирг (<i>Ing</i>) Зенасаджа (<i>Inuch</i>) Катхансулук, Качансулук (<i>Kab</i>) Соно (<i>Kap</i>) Катьгузлук (<i>Kum</i>) Сумах (<i>Kum, Ta</i>) Гемало (<i>Lesg</i>) Тырте (<i>Os</i>) Зеришк (<i>Pe, Ta</i>) Зариндж, Зиришк (<i>Ta</i>) Мустерг (<i>Tscht</i>) Зырк (<i>Sart</i>) Кизылзырк (<i>Sart, Chiv</i>)
1.2.	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i> L.	Амза, Апà (<i>Abch, Samurs</i>) Тегош, Пичи, Шадж (<i>Arm</i>) Накх (<i>Avar</i>) Нарад (<i>Balk</i>) Ачит (<i>Did</i>) Питиà (<i>Gre</i>) Питчви (<i>Grs, Gur, Imer</i>) Дехк, Гех (<i>Ing</i>) Ачирпы (<i>Inuch</i>) Уздыгей, Воздгей (<i>Kab, Tschr</i>) Никешохо (<i>Kap</i>) Керагай (<i>Kum</i>) Кан (<i>Lesg</i>) Надзуи (<i>Mingr</i>) Пичи, Назы (<i>Os</i>) Нензе [P. Nordmannina stev] Гогиб [P. sylvestris] (<i>Swan</i>) Дорол, Шам, Каз, Абастуман (<i>Ta</i>) Чам (<i>Ta, Tu</i>) Баген (<i>Tscht</i>)
1.3.	<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.	Абагма, Атоноихе (<i>Abch</i>) Укти (<i>Ar</i>) Камун, Кабут (<i>Ar, Pe</i>) Хндегн, Тентрвени (<i>Arm</i>) Тлегеро (<i>Avar</i>) Шурматасаджа (<i>Did, Inuch, Kap</i>) Тхипһсела (<i>Grs</i>) Дидгули, Дудгула, Анцли (<i>Grs, Imer</i>) Джаргвела, Мачи, Кһруахе, Грукулусхе (<i>Imer</i>) Чинжигра (<i>Ing</i>) Баразжей, Бараже (<i>Kab</i>) Партпарт (<i>Lesg</i>) Джашкһвида (<i>Mingr</i>) Фадахт (<i>Os</i>) Зира (<i>Pe</i>) Ахуар (<i>Samurs</i>) Мурвар, Хавалагач (<i>Ta</i>) Сырп (<i>Tschr</i>)

1.4.	Vitis vinifera L.	Адж (<i>Abch</i>) Инаб, Кармулшараб (<i>Ar</i>) Вас, Ваз, Ворт (<i>Arm</i>) Джозум (<i>Balk</i>) Ангури (<i>Buch</i>) Халали (<i>Chiw</i>) Квиды (<i>Did</i> , <i>Inuch</i>) Стафили, Ампелос, Амбелос (<i>Gre</i>) Курдзени, Вази (<i>Grs</i> , <i>Gur</i> , <i>Imer</i> , <i>Mingr</i>) Дзгвамбли (<i>Imer</i>) Книшмиши (<i>Grs</i> , <i>Gur</i> , <i>Imer</i> , <i>Mingr</i>)Жузун (<i>Kab</i>) Кодо (<i>Kap</i>) Гюзум (<i>Kum</i>) Сивиль, Цибиль (<i>Lesg</i>) Санавсир (<i>Os</i>) Так, Рӓз, Мах, Ангур (<i>Pe</i>) Хагуг, Узюм, Тӓнег (<i>Ta</i>) Санӓшха (<i>Tschr</i>) Узум (<i>Tscht</i>)
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Below we present how entries are composed and arranged in Part 2 of the glossary:

Table 3. Sample entries from Part 2

<i>№</i>	<i>Term & Tag</i>	<i>Latin name</i>
2.1.	Аацерахуш (<i>Abch</i> , <i>Samurs</i>)	Pinus sylvestris
2.2.	Абас туман (<i>Ta</i>)	Pinus sylvestris
2.3.	Абгул (<i>Ar</i>)	Juniperus Sabinae
2.4.	Абер (<i>Pe</i>)	Spongia marina
2.5.	Абетн (<i>Arm</i>)	Polyporus fermentarius
2.6.	Абсиндис зетти (<i>Grs</i>)	Oleum Absinthi
2.7.	Авзест (<i>Os</i>)	Argentum
2.8.	Агадза (<i>Nog</i>)	Morus
2.9.	Агач байӓу (<i>Balk</i>)	Lignum Santalinum rubrum
2.10.	Агриомараса (<i>Gre</i>)	Pyrethrum carneum
2.11.	Аж (<i>Ing</i>)	Pyrus malus
2.12.	Аза (<i>Kap</i>)	Rhododendron Caucasicum
2.13.	Ассун (<i>Kalm</i>)	Potulacca oleracea
2.14.	Айва (<i>Tu</i>)	Cydonia vulgaris
2.15.	Айу май (<i>Kum</i>)	Axunge Ursi
2.16.	Алагажъ (<i>Isr</i>)	Lignum Santalinum rubrum
2.17.	Алеш (<i>Tal</i>)	Fagus sylvatica
2.18.	Ал мурут (<i>Chiw</i>)	Pyrus communis
2.19.	Анжир (<i>Usbek</i>)	Ficus Carica
2.20.	Андра (<i>Swan</i>)	Rubia tinctorum
2.21.	Ангури (<i>Buch</i>)	Vitis vinifera
2.22.	Аой (<i>Kab</i> , <i>Tschr</i>)	Azalea pontica

As is seen from the quoted entries, the compiler of the glossary prefers the Cyrillic alphabet for spelling pharmaceutical terms of the languages differing from each other genetically, typologically and geographically, as well as with respect to language contacts. It goes without saying that this choice could hardly provide for the adequate transcription/transliteration of a wide array of phonemes in the language varieties presented in it. This is particularly true with the Caucasian languages with their quantitatively and qualitatively diverse consonant systems. The most salient illustration of the aforementioned is the oppositions of voiceless aspirated stops and voiceless ejective stops in the Caucasian languages (as well as in two Indo-European languages spoken in the Caucasus: Armenian and Ossetian, both being represented in the glossary in point). For the sake of clarity, below we will provide some Georgian minimal pairs in order to showcase the oppositions:

- (1) **p^huri** ‘cow’ – **p’uri** ‘bread’
- (2) **k^hari** ‘wind’ – **k’ari** ‘door’
- (3) **t^hit^ha** ‘variety of ovoid grapes’ – **t’t’a** ‘tulip’
- (4) **c^hera** ‘slanting’ – **c’era** ‘write’
- (5) **t^hala** ‘straw’ – **t^h’ala** ‘grove’

For an overview of these phonemic distinctions in Georgian, see, for instance, Aronson [4], Shosted & Chikovani [5], etc.

It is noteworthy that Ā. Šteber does his best to graphically mark these oppositions in his transliteration conventions; here are some of the illustrations:

p^h – p’

Atriplex hortense L. – Khorophe (*Mingr*) [k^horoph^he]

Pyrus communis L. – Панта (*Grs*) [p’ant’a]

k^h – k’

Camphora. – Кхапури (*Grs*)

Agrimonia eupatorium L. – Биркава (*Imer*) [birk’ava]

t^h – t’

Brassica rapa L. – Талгами (*Grs*) [t^halgami]

Malva sylvestris L. – Тухти (*Imer*) [t’uxt’i]

c^h – c’

Asparagus officinalis. – Сатацури (*Grs*) [sat’c^huri]

Berberis vulgaris L. – Котцахури (*Grs*) [k’oc’axuri]

t^h – t^h’

Zingiber officinale Rosc. – Зарданчо (*Grs*) [zandant^ho]

Lamium album L. – Тчиншчрисдеда (*Grs*) [t^h’in t^h’ris deda]

Although Šteber’s endeavors seem to be a positive breakthrough in comparison with his predecessors (for a detailed discussion, see, for instance, [6], [7], [8], etc.), he fails to be equally consistent throughout his glossary.

The glossary can be regarded as a rather representative lexicographic resource with respect to the fact that it includes terms for medicinal plants and other pharmaceuticals in thirty-six languages and/or varieties of the Caucasus and Central Asia. Moreover, the idioms, represented in it, differ in terms of their genetic affinities, typological properties, areal distribution, language contacts, functional status, etc. It goes without saying that this truly representative resource should be valued as a repository of translation equivalents of not only just field-specific terms but also of items of general vocabulary into multiple languages and/or varieties.

The translation equivalents should be explored both in individual languages (comparing to how they appear in contemporaneous sources, whether available, as well as to their present-day appearances) and cross-linguistically (trying to retrieve evidence related to cognates, borrowings, and the like).

It should be noted that *Materials for a Glossary of Foreign Pharmaceuticals of the Caucasus and Central Asia*, compiled by Ėduard Šteber, an ethnic German who was born in Georgia, lived and worked in Ukraine, and died in Kazakhstan, and published more than a century ago and still being largely an unclaimed resource, provides researchers a lot of food for further exploration of the aforementioned and many other aspects, both within various branches of linguistics, Translation Studies, and beyond, thus opening vast avenues for coming across a great deal of so far unknown data and new findings.

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