

「KÜŃÜGA」, 「KÜJÜM」, 「KÜJÜL」, 「KÜJÜ(L)Š」 《LEADER》

Analyzing the “Ancient Choson” title **(x)uŋu ~ *(x)uŋan* “lord; ruler” (雄, 王儉), we mentioned the Sillic version of the term - 金 [MC **kjim*] “king; sovereign”, which shows undeniable signs of the lexeme **küjüm* “leader; chief”. The lexeme **küjüm* consists of the stem **küjü-* < **kuńu-* “to lead” and the ending **-m*, opposed to another ending with similar functions - **-ga* or **-gu*. The form 雄 **(x)uŋu* (see Silla 次次雄), registered in Korean materials, is interpreted as a formation with **-gu* from the stem **(x)uńu-*, associated with t.-ma. **(x)uŋu* “the head of the clan; elder; leader”.

It is possible to point out the third way of forming the concept “head, chief, leader” - **k'uńu-* + **-l*. In the ancient Japanese list of Korean surnames (see 新撰姓氏録, 815), there is a record that “in the local speech, the boss, lord (宰) was called 吉, so 吉 became a surname”. In Old Korean, the Chinese reading of 吉 [MC **kjit*, MKor. *kil*] was embodied as **kjül*. This makes it possible to look at **kjül* as **küjül*, synonymous with **(x)uŋu ~ *(x)uŋan* and **küjüm*. The form ending with the **-l*, apparently, was implemented in Mongolian. In the Turkic tradition, the variant with the final **-lš* or **-lč* (< **-l̥*) was clearly used, see 吉師 [MC **kjit-š̥i*], 吉士 [MC **kjit-z̥i*], 吉支 [MC **kjit-č̥i*].

The formal and semantic similarity of the Alt. **küńüga* “leader, chief; lord” with Germ. *König*, Eng. *king* is striking. Unfortunately, these two words have not yet been scientifically compared.