



PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY IN KARAKALPAKSTAN: FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Zhumagulova Maryash

2nd year student of the Archaeology department, Faculty of History, Karakalpak State
University named after Berdakh, Uzbekistan
e.mail: maryashjumagulova@gmail.com

ABSTRACT: This article analyzes the stages of formation and development of anthropology in the territory of Karakalpakstan based on paleoanthropological materials. Based on craniological materials from the Kokcha-3, Qalali-qir, Jetiasar, Mizdahkan, and Tumak-Kichijik sites, the ethno-anthropological composition of the region's population and the process of its historical formation are highlighted. The research results show that there was an interaction of northern and southern anthropological components in the territory of Karakalpakstan.

Keywords: Paleoanthropology, Ko'kcha-3, Qalali-qir, Jetiasar, Kelteminar culture, craniology, Europoid type, Mediterranean type, ethnogenesis.

Introduction. In the study of the issues of ethnogenesis and ethnic history of the peoples of Central Asia, paleoanthropological materials are one of the most reliable objective sources. In particular, the Khorezm oasis and the lower reaches of the Amu Darya, which are centers of intersection of ancient cultures, provide an invaluable database for anthropologists. The formation of the science of anthropology in Karakalpakstan began not only as a classification of physical types, but also as a process of restoring the consistency of biological and social development of the people of the region.

The systematic development of this scientific direction is inextricably linked with the traditional research of the famous "Khorezm Archaeological and Ethnographic Expedition" under the leadership of S. P. Tolstov, which operated from the 30s to the 50s of the 20th century. The first works of such prominent paleoanthropologists as T. A. Trofimova and V. V. Ginzburg created a fundamental basis for craniological series in the region. They conducted a rigorous metric analysis of human bones from the Kokcha-3 burial ground of the Bronze Age to antiquity and the Middle Ages.

The Karakalpak school of anthropology in its development proved the participation of the northern (Andronovo-Srubnaya) and southern (Indo-Dravidoid) components in the formation of the region's population. Scientific research in this direction later reached its peak in the fundamental monographs of our compatriot, Academician T. K. Khodzhayov. Within the framework of this article, the history of the formation of modern anthropological science and its methodological foundations, starting from the first paleoanthropological excavations in the territory of Karakalpakstan, are discussed.

The earliest stages of anthropological processes in the territory of Karakalpakstan date back to the Neolithic period. It was during this period that the physical type and ethnic foundations of the region's population began to take shape. In 1972-1974, the staff of the Khorezm expedition of the USSR Academy of Sciences conducted research from the Tumak-



Kichijik cemetery, located in the territory of the Sariqamish river delta (northern part of Turkmenistan), to the Neolithic period (BC. IV millennium BC) (Weinberg 1972; Vinogradov 1974, 1975). According to T.A. Trofimova, the skull samples found here are characterized, on the one hand, by their similarity to the skull samples of the Eneolithic period of Southern Turkmenistan (Khapuzdepe) and the Neolithic period of Iran (Hotu Cave), and on the other hand, by their similarity to the northern Proto-Europoid forms, but being more fragile (gracil).

Thus, the physical appearance of the Keltiminar inhabitants of northern Central Asia was based on the Proto-Europoid anthropological complex. In craniological features, the presence of a Mediterranean (sredi-zemnomorsk) combination is less pronounced, and this may indicate the migration of Neolithic groups north of the traditional distribution area of the Mediterranean heritage (Vinogradov, Itina, Yablonsky 1986, Khodzhayov 2014) [Khodzhayov T. K. Anthropology of Central Asia // Russian Journal of Physical Anthropology. - 2021. - No 1. - P. 19-105.]

This connects their origin with southern forms of the Cro-manion type."Review (revision) of all the materials of the Keltiminar culture found in the Tumak-Kichidjik burial ground and the addition of a small amount of new information to it was carried out by L.T. Yablonsky (Yablonsky 1985). He convincingly demonstrated that the Keltiminar population is characterized by significant maturation and belongs to the broad-faced Europoid complex, which is one of the local variants of the ancient formation of the Europoid heritage. The author did not limit himself to showing this, but also tried to prove that a narrow-area element of another origin was also involved in this main complex.

The numerous paleoanthropological materials collected by the Khorezm expedition allow us to focus on the processes of ethnogenesis of the peoples of Central Asia. The craniological materials that form the basis of this work cover the period from the 2nd millennium BC (Ko'kcha 3) to the late Middle Ages (Ko'hna Urganch).

In the eastern outskirts of Khorezm, during the Bronze Age, the anthropological composition of the population turned out to be mixed. It includes two types:

The first approaches the Europoid types of the northern desert zone (Andronovo and Srubnaya cultures).

The second is close to the ancient prognathic variants of Northern India and, possibly, the Near East.

It has been established that the inventory of the Kukcha 3 cemetery is identical with the features of the Andronovo culture of Northern Kazakhstan, the Southern Ural region, and the Srubno-Khvalinsk culture of the Volga region. The oldest skulls on the left bank of the Amu Darya are the Kalaly-Kyr 1st and 2nd excavations, dating back to antiquity (2nd-3rd centuries AD). The skulls, found in the palace building of Kalali-Kyr I, are considered Europoid, meso-brachycrane, relatively tall and narrow-faced.[Trofimova T. A. Ancient Population of Khorezm according to Paleoanthropology. - M.: Publishing House of the USSR Academy of Sciences, 1959. - P. 175.]

As a result of anthropological research conducted in Karakalpakstan, important scientific conclusions were drawn about the ethnic composition of the lower reaches of the Syr Darya and Amu Darya rivers. In particular, the materials of the Jetiasar and Khorezm oases are of particular importance in this regard.

The study of the Jetiasar culture of the lower reaches of the Syr Darya and the monuments of the Khorezm oasis is of great importance in determining the ethnic and racial



composition of the ancient peoples of these regions. According to scientific research, the Jetiasar fortresses differ sharply from other synchronous monuments in the lower reaches of the Syr Darya in terms of their layout and appearance of material culture. Anthropological studies in the territory of Karakalpakstan and Khorezm revealed the peculiarities of the composition of the population of this region. In particular, the materials of the Kukcha 3 cemetery in the territory of the Karakalpak ASSR are of the eastern Mediterranean (East Mediterranean) type. It confirms the presence in these territories from the second half of the 2nd millennium BC. This racial type is also found in burials dating back to the 3rd and 5th centuries AD near the Mizdahkan fortress, located in the lower reaches of the Amu Darya. The skulls of the 2nd-3rd centuries AD, found in the ossuary burials of the Kalali-kir 1 fortress in the Khorezm oasis, are also distinguished by their proximity to the Mediterranean type. The Northern Tagiskan necropolis in the lower reaches of the Syr Darya (BC. IX-VIII centuries BC), the female skull was also classified as a Europoid of the Eastern Mediterranean type.

Comparative analysis of the Jetiasar and Qalali-qir groups reveals a number of racial differences. The anthropological composition of the population of Kalaly-Kyr is mixed, and along with the European elements, Mongoloid elements are also observed. On the contrary, Mongoloid inclusions are not observed in the skulls of Jetiasar, and they are clearly Europoids. The cranial bones are characterized by a significantly large cranial index (79.9) and a rather flat facial skeleton. In terms of physical characteristics, in the Qalali-qir series, the protrusion angle of the nasal bones is smaller, which confirms the presence of a degree of Mongoloidity in the groups. In addition, a number of skulls of the Qalali-Qir series have been found to have occipital-parietal (occipital-parietal) deformity. [Trofimova T. A. Ancient Population of Khorezm according to Paleoanthropological Data. - M.: USSR Academy of Sciences Publishing House, 1959. - P. 175.]

According to the research of L.T. Yablonsky, the Southern Aral Sea region (Sarykamysh delta) on the eve of antiquity was a center of complex demographic processes. As the author notes: "People of different anthropological and, obviously, ethnic origins migrated to this region simultaneously from the north and east. This did not prevent them from establishing close contact with each other" (page 59). It was as a result of the mutual synthesis of these different ethnic waves that the Quysisoy culture of a syncretic nature was formed on the left bank of the Amu Darya.

Funeral materials and craniological data in the region indicate that there were not only cultural, but also close biological ties, including marital relations, between these two groups of the population, differing in their anthropological appearance. However, these groups did not have equal status in society. As a result of the research, it can be concluded that the representatives of the "Sakar-chaga" group clearly had a much higher social status than the people of the "Tumak group" [Yablonsky L.T. Saki of the Southern Aral Sea Region (based on the materials of the Sakar-chaga burial mounds). - M.: ИА РАН, 1996.]

The territory of Karakalpakstan, which is a crossroads of ancient civilizations and various cultures, occupies a central place in the study of the processes of formation of ethnic groups. However, there are a number of scientific problems in the study of regional paleoanthropology, the solution of which determines the relevance of the research. First of all, the issue of clearly defining the sphere of interaction and chronological boundaries of the northern (Europoid) and southern (Indo-Dravid) racial components, which formed the



physical appearance of the population of the lower reaches of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers, remains relevant.

Also, paleoanthropological materials collected during the Khorezm expedition in different years of the 20th century (Tumak-Kichidjik, Kukcha-3, Kalali-Kyr, and others) were studied for a long time in scattered form. There is a need to systematize this information into a single chronological system and conduct a comparative analysis of the conclusions of such prominent scholars as T.A. Trofimova, L.T. Yablonsky, and T.K. Khodzhayov in the context of the general ethnic history of the region.

Another serious problem of anthropological research in the region is the lack of specialized scientific laboratories for the analysis of paleoanthropological materials in Karakalpakstan itself. The lack of a modern laboratory base limits the possibility of genetic (DNA) and physicochemical analysis of discovered bone remains, forcing researchers to rely on laboratories of foreign or neighboring countries. This is one of the factors hindering the process of independent and technological development of the regional school of anthropology.

The results of the study showed that the anthropological basis of the population of Karakalpakstan was formed on the basis of a stable Europoid type, starting from the Neolithic Keltiminar culture. By the Bronze Age, the composition of the population was complicated by the mutual integration of northern desert Europids and southern Indo-Dravid types. In the samples of the ancient period, while the Europid characteristic of the Jetiasar culture is preserved, ensa-tepa deformations and mixing of early Mongoloid elements are observed in the monuments of Kalali-Kyr. At the same time, it was established that the lack of specialized scientific laboratories in the region is the main factor limiting the scale of modern anthropological research.

Conclusion

Paleoanthropological materials from the territory of Karakalpakstan are an invaluable source for studying the ethnic and physical history of the region's population. At the same time, the lack of modern specialized anthropological laboratories in the region limits the possibility of a complete analysis of many unique finds, leading to the loss of their quality and original state over time. Therefore, in order to preserve the existing scientific heritage and study its genetic and physicochemical properties, the creation of a modern laboratory in the region is an important and urgent task for the development of the regional school of anthropology.

These conclusions will allow for the systematization of regional anthropological research, a comparative analysis of existing scientific views, and a deeper study of the history of the formation of the population of Karakalpakstan.

References

1. Khodzhayov, T. K. (2014). *Physical Anthropology of Central Asia*.
2. Khodzhayov, T. K. (2021). Anthropology of Central Asia. *Russian Journal of Physical Anthropology*, (1), 19-105.
3. Trofimova, T. A. (1959). *Ancient Population of Khorezm according to Paleoanthropology*. Moscow: Publishing House of the USSR Academy of Sciences.
4. Vinogradov, A. V. (1974, 1975). *Research on the Neolithic period of the Sariqamish delta*.
5. Yablonsky, L. T. (1985). *Review of the Keltiminar culture materials from the Tumak-Kichidjik burial ground*.