An introduction of the principle of economy to the Kazakh grammar and pragmatics spoken in China

Abstract. The purpose of this paper is to investigate the existence of economic principles in the grammar and pragmatics of the Kazakh language in China. As the principle of economy originated in finance, later in linguistics, the principle of the linguistic economy appeared. People naturally omit some words or sounds in the process of communication, which does not affect the result of their interaction, but saves them some energy and time, and these phenomena belong to the principle of linguistic economy. This article focuses on the phenomenon of omission in the Kazakh grammar and discourse, which is manifested in everyday speech. Thus, the results found in this study indicate that the economic principle of the Kazakh grammar can be shown by the omission of predicate personal suffixes, plural suffixes and case suffixes. On the embodiment of economic principles in the Kazakh pragmatics in the integration of elliptical sentences and syntactic structures. This study has a significant impact on the study of the pragmatics, informatics, intelligibility and the integration of the Kazakh language. This study is useful for the study of pragmatics of the Kazakh language, for the study of informatization, for the study of intelligence and for teaching the Kazakh language, and it can provide some guidance for the learners of the Kazakh language.

Keywords: the Kazakh language in China, economy principle in language, grammar, pragmatics.

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Introduction. The principle of economy of language, which simply means using the minimum amount of linguistic material to express the maximum amount of information, is a basic principle followed by language in the evolutionary process. Specifically, it is the principle of reducing the quantity as much as possible while keeping the effect the same, expanding the effect as much as possible with a given quantity, or reducing the quantity while expanding the effect [1, 37]. In general, those that can meet these requirements can be called the principle of economy of language.

The development of economic principles has caused controversy in academic circles. Some scholars think it has to do with human inertia, while others think it has to do with the evolution of language itself. Therefore, the economic principle of language is worth studying, and its appearance is related to the language itself. Hence, this paper mainly starts with the essence of phenomena, and summarizes the economic embodiment of language in Kazakh.

Methodology. This paper aims to analyze the Principle of Economy in the Kazakh grammar and pragmatics in China. To achieve this goal, the paper will employ a descriptive and analytical approach, drawing on data collected from literature materials and oral materials, including previous studies on Kazakh grammar and pragmatics in China. The data used in this paper will primarily consist of examples of sentence structures and discourse patterns in Kazakh used in China, which will be analyzed for evidence of
the Principle of Economy. The paper will also draw on the principles of linguistic typology and language universals to provide a theoretical framework for the analysis.

**Literature review.** William Dwight Whitney (1979) was an outstanding representative of the first generation of American linguists and is recognized as “the pioneer and inaugurator of American linguistics” [2, 163]. In a series of treatises, Whitney proposed the concepts of simple tendency, economic tendency, and economic principle, and discussed them from multiple perspectives, forming a more mature idea of simple tendency and initially constructing a theory of the economic principle of language. The French linguist Andre Martinet, on the basis of his predecessors, specialized in the study of economic principles in the evolution of speech, and in exploring the causes of speech change, he put forward a hypothesis that people always consciously or unconsciously make arrangements for the consumption of power in speech activities in line with economic requirements in the context of ensuring the use of language to accomplish specific communicative functions, which is usually considered as a narrow sense of “Economic Principle of Language” [3, 163]. In 1949, the American scholar George Kingsley Zipf (2012) proposed “the principle of least effort” and suggested that the “principle of labor-saving” means that people spend the least amount of effort and get the greatest benefit [4, 588]. Later, the economic principle of language was studied extensively in generative grammar, for example, Chomsky paid special attention to the economic principle and proposed the “Minimalist Program,” and believes that economic principles are one of the core elements of the universal grammar of the “Minimalist Program” [5, 239].

In China, the study of the economic principle of language is mainly concentrated in Chinese, but there are few studies on the economic principle in Chinese Kazakh language, and only Zeng Xiaoyi’s essay *The Economic Principle of Language Embodied in Kazakh Vocabulary* introduces the economic principle embodied in the Kazakh vocabulary [6, 136-138]. The existence of the principle of economy in the grammar and pragmatics of the Kazakh language has not been studied yet.

This research paper projects the principle of linguistic economy proposed by Andre Martinet in general linguistics onto modern Kazakh and uses the methods of daily spoken language collection and documentary data analysis to analyze and study the principle of economy in the grammar and pragmatics of the Kazakh language used in China in depth. It is found that the economy in Kazakh grammar spoken in China is reflected in the ellipsis of the predicate personal suffix, plural suffix, and case suffix. The economy in pragmatics is reflected in the ellipsis of the main and secondary components of the sentence and the integration of the syntactic structure.

**Discussion.** The phenomenon of economic principles in the Kazakh grammar spoken in China and the embodiment of economic principles in the Kazakh pragmatics.

The phenomenon of economic principles in Kazakh grammar used in China.

In language, the greatest contribution of grammatical elements is to connect independent lexical elements into a complete structure [7, 62]. In specific speech activities, some grammatical elements will be omitted or reduced without changing the sentence meaning, which will not affect people’s communication. In order to clarify this phenomenon, the following content divides the ellipsis in grammar into the expressions in the predicate personal suffix, the plural suffix and the case suffix.

1. The expression in the predicate personal suffix:

   (1) Grammatical economy in spoken Kazakh appears in the use of predicate suffixes. The first-person predicative suffix after the adjective verb is -m in the spoken form. For example:
   
   - ① Pekinge бар-ран-мон (I’ve been Beijing)
   - ② Pekinge бар-ра-м (I’ve been Beijing)

   By comparing Example ① with Example ②, we can find that Example ② lacks the element -m of the suffix of the adjective verb, component -мә of the predicate personal suffix, but the expression meaning of the whole structure has not changed, that is, I have been Beijing.

   This economy economy also occurs in the negative form of the adjective verb + first-person predicative endings structure, where the meaning of the original structure does not change. For example:
   
   - ③ Мен оңа джәбер-мей-мин (I won’t let him go.)
   - ④ Мен оңа джәбер-мей-м (I won’t let him go...)

   Adjective verb negation + first-person predicate suffix structure is used in poetry to balance syllables, but it does not affect the meaning of the original structure. [8, 36]For example:

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The economical use of possessive case suffix can be manifested in two cases. The first is that possessive case suffix can be used sparingly in terms and special nouns. The second is that when juxtaposition, which is connected by connecting auxiliary words, the possessive case suffix is only attached to the last element. For example:

1. As a special term or terms: “džuno džastars” (China Youth), “ile gëzet” (Daily Ile), “memleket organa” (the state organs).

2. When it is used as an attribute: “partja men memleket bas/sılar” (Party and state leaders)

2. The economical use of accusative suffix

When a general noun is the object, which is not subject to any of the principles of identity, indeterminacy, or disposition, the accusative suffix is omitted and the position is marked as zero form, which does not affect the expression of the complete meaning of the sentence [10, 317]. For example:

1. senbi kyni ḳno- kör-di-m (I watched movie on Saturday).

Object suffixes are also omitted in fixed or semi-fixed phrases. Such as:

1. mal baq; ḍol basta; toj ḍasa (raise livestock; lead the way; get married).

In juxtaposed objects joined by connecting auxiliary words -men/-beni/-pen, the accusative suffixes are only appended to the latter object.

For example:

1. esik pen tereze-ni sürt-ip hoj-də-m. (I cleaned the doors and windows.)

3. The economical use of allative case suffix

Allative case suffixes are generally not easy to be omitted, and are only used in poetic language. For example:

1. maškehr- bar-də-m, ne kör-di-m ? (I went to Moscow and what did I see?)

In poetic language, when the juxtaposition element is used as an adverbial of place, the last element is attached to the accusative suffix. It is also an expression of economic principle. For example:

1. dža-ajän qazaq-tan mol dastarqan-an, alataw, altay menen ateraw-ka (Let me show you Kazakh hospitality, toward Alataw, Altay and Ateraw).

4. The economical use of locative case suffix

The provincial use of locative case suffix is rare in Kazakh. It is usually omitted in the central language after modifiers such as oṣa, biqel, keler, etc. It is also used in proverbs and sayings where locative case suffixes are omitted. For example:

1. oṣa dəqaz- abraj qatta qarbalas bol-də (Ibray was very busy this summer.)
4. dropping kijer qos kij-ip, darfqa qajaq bajosan (How can the poor get rich when things are short?)

5. The economical use of elative suffix

Save the use of elative suffix has not been found in Kazakh for the moment, but the economy is evident in another structure with the same function, which is adjective verb + soň, which reduces to the structure of “verb base form + allative case suffix” for example:

髃 kyn kor-set-pe-jen bol-sat soň, ol aqlarlap ket-ti (She divorced because of the abuse she received.)

Where the suffix of a juxtaposed element is appended to the elative suffix, the elative suffix is appended only to the last element. For example:

 облар тажкент, булсар, астраян-нан ажолда. (They lost the cities like Tashkent, Bulgar and Astana)

6. The economical use of auxiliary suffix.

Auxiliary suffix is also used in the same way as other case suffix words, that is, auxiliary suffix is attached only to the last element after it is attached. For example:

bul önir biz-di qar, жавон, qatto daval-a-men qarsal-di (The region greeted us with snow, rain and strong winds.)

**The embodiment of economic principles in Kazakh pragmatics**

The economic principle of Kazakh pragmatics is embodied in the integration of elliptical sentences and syntactic structures. When it comes to elliptical sentences, one must pay attention to their structure. This kind of sentence has complete meaning and communicative function, but its syntactic structure is incomplete. To be specific, the sentence lacks a certain element, such as subject, predicate, or other elements. According to the omitted elements, elliptical sentences can be divided into the sentence with the main element omitted and the sentence with the minor element omitted.

1. The omission of an essential ingredient

Generally speaking, subject and predicate are the main components of a sentence. Sentences in which the subject is omitted are often non-subject-subject indefinite person sentences. Although the subject can be inferred from the personal ending of the predicate, it is impossible to specify who or what the subject is. The predicate of such a sentence has the following types of structures:

- **(1) Verb optative form + auxiliary verb (bol, kel, etc.) structure.** For example:

(ol) soňanda jana-n ait-qpsa kel-di. [At last, (he) wants to say the truth.]

(2) Sub verbum + auxiliary verb structure.

For example:

ol) ait-ap bol-ma-j-da. [(He] didn’t finish his words.]

(3) Gerund + verb construction like kerek/tijis. For example:

….. barw-a kerek.

[Ask]ar need to go there.]

The omission of predicates is common in conversation and speech. For example: (1) The omission of predicates in conversation does not affect the effect of communication.

--- qujän bala-m.

(Come on, my boy)

--- jama-m kelgen[e. [ (I)

will try (the best).]

(2) Proverbs or aphorisms are concise and comprehensive. From the perspective of syntactic structure, we can find the absence of predicate verbs. Although the elements in the sentence are omitted, it will not affect the expression of the meaning of the whole sentence, and the appearance of ellipsis is to balance the rhythm of the whole proverb or aphorism. For example, er qadora — el esinde (saqtalar), means the courage of a warrior is remembered forever.

2. The omission of minor elements

Generally speaking, object, attributive, adverbial and complement can act as secondary elements in a sentence. In Kazakh language, there exists the case of object, attributive is omitted, and the case of adverbial is still controversial. Therefore, this paper mainly discusses the omission of object and attribute.

(1) The object plays an important role in a sentence. It makes the message more complete. We omit object in language use in order to realize the economy of language use, but this process is restricted by context. There are mainly four kinds of object ellipsis, which are the omission in dialogue, the omission in which the object appears in the first half of the clause, the omission in which the object appears in the following, and the central omission in a biased construction.

(1) The omission in dialogue.

Objects can be omitted in conversation. The omitted object is usually already present in the previous text, so there is no inconvenience or inconsistency in reading. For example:

a. --- Asandi kordim bazardan.

( I saw Asan on the street)

--- erte kelsen bolmaya yige ( ).

( Why didn’t you call him home with you?)
The second sentence in this example omits the object in parentheses. The omitted object is *onu,* (means put her/take her, etc.)

2. The omission in which the object appears in the first half of the clause.

In parallel clauses, the object before the verb of the clause can often be omitted because the object referred to by the object has already appeared in the preceding context. For example:

b. *onu dostara kop,* al mende () joq.
(He has a lot of friends and I don’t)

c. *sen kjim juw,* men () qurqatajan.
(You do the laundry and I’ll dry it)

The parentheses in these two sentences omit objects that have already appeared in the previous part.

3. The omission in which the object appears in the following.

If the object refers to something that is going to appear in the following passage, then the object can also be omitted in the preceding clause because it is hidden in the following passage. For example:

d. *biz () kjim alap berip,* Armandə oqwka attandarqa.
(We bought him clothes and sent him on his way to school)

The object that is omitted in the above example is special, because of the formal inconsistency with the object appearing in the second half of the sentence. The allative case form of the personal pronoun in the third person is omitted in parentheses as the indirect object of the first half of the subordinate clause.


When a noun-biased phrase serves as an object in a sentence, it is sometimes omitted in order to preserve the attributive word, but we can infer the central word from the context. [11, 219] For example:

e. *qorqandaw aq araqa korip,* Qalman “etinejin aqtan bir-eki tamaqja awzoma”-dedi.
(Seeing the liquor in the backpack, Kahleman said, “Please, white liquid... Just give me a drop or two”)

The situation in the example e is similar to the omission in which the object appears in the first half of the clause, but it should be noted that the biased phrase in the latter clause is not completely omitted, leaving the attributive and giving the meaning to the noun. We can make sure that the central word in the second clause is “wine”.

2. The omission of attributives.

Attributives in Kazakh can also be omitted in which the object appears in the first half of the clause. For example:

f. *bas dgoramzdan qazmete qanja qarbalas,*
() waqata qanja qambat bolsa da, bizdir xalanzda surawda umaqtan emes.
(No matter how busy the director’s work is, his time is precious, but he did not forget to greet us)

g. *ol yijin qabranasdon da,* () fanlajaran da azi qalada.
(He built the walls and beams of his house by himself)

The middle clause of *fanlajaran* has omitted its own attributive because of the attributive of the preceding sentence. The attributive “director’s” should appear in the parenthesis. In example g, the attributive “house” is omitted.

3. Syntactic structure integration

Integration is one aspect of pragmatics that can reflect the economic principle of pragmatics. Integration refers to the integration of two or more structures into one structure according to certain syntactic rules. In Kazakh, this term is called “systarw”, which means inside a structure. Integration can make the structure of subordinate clauses simpler and more economical [12, 27]. It can make complex subordinate clauses simpler into the same predicate and attributive clauses. For example:

h. *Qaster mektepke bet alda,* Jarkin fermasa bet alda.
(Caster went to the school and Zharken to the factory)

i. *Qaster mektepke, Jarkin fermasa bet alda.*
(Caster went to the school and Zharken to the factory)

By comparing the example h with the example i, we can find that the structure of the example i is more simple, easier to say and easier to speak.

In the integration of attributive clauses, we should pay attention to the modifiers before the main word. Modifiers should not be omitted and should be materialized. For example:

j. *kebin kjgen adam oledi,* kebenek kjgen adam keledi.
(The dead are gone, the living ones are going)

k. *kebin kjgen oledi,* kebenek kjgen keledi.
(The dead are gone, the living ones are going)

We can see the true economy in pragmatics. It is indeed a linguistic phenomenon, reflecting people’s tendency to be concise in communication,
but it does not go beyond the scope of the context. Context and the language environment at that time provide very important information value for our understanding. [13, 88] It will give certain presuppositions or choices in advance, so that we will not have misunderstandings or no solutions in communication and can exchange information smoothly.

Results. Through the case analysis of the Kazakh language spoken in China, the following results can be seen by summarizing the performance of economic principles in the Kazakh language and grammar spoken in China:

The economic principle of the Kazakh grammar can be shown by the omission of predicate personal, plural and case suffixes.

On the embodiment of economic principles in Kazakh pragmatics in the integration of elliptical sentences and syntactic structures. Elliptical sentences are divided into sentences in which major elements are omitted and sentences in which minor elements are omitted. The main element of ellipsis in Kazakh mainly exists in subject and predicate; In Kazakh, minor ellipsis exists in object and attributive. One of the economic principles present in syntax is integration. Integration refers to the integration of two or more structures into one structure according to certain syntactic rules. Integration can make the structure of subordinate clauses simpler and more economical.

Conclusion. The economy of language does not mean that the fewer words or sentences used in communication and expression, the better. The economy principle can be truly reflected only by reducing sentences or words on the premise of ensuring the complete expression of meaning in communication. The economy of language exists in every language and is reflected in some form, from the language phenomenon of Kazakh and it is no exception.

The embodiment of economic principles in the Kazakh language reflects certain laws of language development. Its use raises the question of why economic principles arise only in these components or structures. These economic phenomena, some belonging to phonetics, some to grammar, and some to syntax, together form an economic system. Therefore, it is not just a phenomenon, it is a category of language, it can go from phonics to speech. It occurs at every level of the language.

This paper makes a preliminary statistical and categorical study of the phenomenon of economic principles in the Kazakh language spoken in China. The study of it can not only reveal the inherent composition rules of Kazakh, but also provide certain research ideas and enlightenment for the historical evolution of language. Because some phenomena of the economic principles of language have shown traces of the development of some grammatical elements, such as predicate person. Therefore, the economic principles of language cannot be said to be related to human inertia but should be closely related to the development of language itself. This is the core conclusion of this paper, if there are any shortcomings, we welcome your criticism and discussion.

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Қытайдағы қазақ ғрамматикасы мен прагматикасына унемдеу қағидатын еңгізу

Андақы. Бұл мақаланың мақсаты Қытай Қазақ тілінің ғрамматикасы мен прагматикасына унемдеу принцептерін бар-жоғын қрест алуын әдеттедеу. Унемдеу принцептері экономика саласында өң алуын пайда болған категория, кейіннен лингвистикалық лингвистикалық унемдеу принцептері пайда болды. Адамдар өлкені ақпаратты бар құрылыққа қамтамасыз етіп, прагматикасын арқылы, біріншілер қорғауын салуын қамтамасыз етеді. Еліністік сойлемдер мен синтаксикалық құрылыымдар біріктіру арқылы қазақ тілі прагматикасына экономикалық қағидаттарды дә жүзеге асыруға болады. Бұл қрестеудің натижесінде қазақ тілі ғрамматикасының унемдеу принцептерін предикаттык жалғаулардың, қатығқ жалғаулары және сөздік жалғауларынә экономдалуыңың ісіне қарай екі нұсқа қолданылды. Еліністік сойлемдер мен синтаксикалық құрылыымдар біріктіру арқылы қазақ тілі прагматикасына экономикалық қағидаттарды да жүзеге асыруға болады. Бұл қрестеудің натижесі қазақ тілінің прагматикасын қрестеуде, акпаратты сифа-тұрауын, интеллектті дұрыс жүзеге асыруға және қазақ тілінің өкілі жағдайын, қытай қазақ тілінің үйренушілерге әкелей екі нұсқа қолданылды. Сонымен қатар бұл қрестеудің натижелері осы салалық жағдайының жетілдірілугіне қарай өз қосады.

Түйін сөз: қытай қазақ тілі, тілдепі унемдеу принцепі, ғрамматика, прагматика.
Введение принципа экономии в казахскую грамматику и прагматику в Китае

Аннотация. Целью данной работы является исследование существования экономических принципов в грамматике и прагматике китайско-казахского языка. Поскольку принцип экономии зародился в финансах, позднее в языкознании появился принцип языковой экономии. Люди естественным образом пропускают некоторые слова или звуки в процессе общения, что не влияет на результат их взаимодействия, но экономит им некоторую энергию и время, и эти явления относятся к принципу языковой экономии. В данной статье основное внимание уделяется феномену опущения в казахской грамматике и дискурсе, который проявляется в повседневной речи. Таким образом, результаты, полученные в ходе данного исследования, свидетельствуют о том, что экономический принцип казахской грамматики можно показать путем опущения склонений личных суффиксов, суффиксов множественного числа и падежных суффиксов. Данное исследование оказывает значительное влияние на изучение прагматики, информатики, разборчивости и интеграции казахского языка, полезно для изучения прагматики казахского языка, изучения информатизации и интеллекта, преподавания казахского языка и может дать некоторые рекомендации для изучающих казахский язык. Наконец, мы можем сказать, что результаты этой статьи подтверждают и усиливают предыдущие исследования феномена казахского умолчания.

Ключевые слова: казахский язык в Китае, принцип экономии в языке, грамматика, прагматика.