

BOOK REVIEW

Recent Studies on Khitan

Bence GOMBKÖTŐ*

SZTE Klebelsberg Library and Archives, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary

© 2026 The Author



A special issue of the academic journal *Mongolian Studies*¹ (МОНГОЛ СУДАЛ), vol. 49 No. 622 (2025), has been published in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of Khitan language and script studies. The now-extinct Khitan language was spoken by the Khitan people, founders of the Liao Dynasty (916–1125), which ruled parts of what are now northern China, Mongolia, and Manchuria.

The decipherment of the Khitan large and small scripts, along with determining the linguistic affiliation of the Khitan language, has become one of the most fascinating scholarly questions of the past century. In 1922, a stone stele inscribed with an unknown script was discovered at the tomb of an emperor of the Liao Dynasty. Upon hearing of this discovery, the Belgian missionary Louis Kervyn hastened to the site to investigate it, and in 1923, he reported the find in *Le Bulletin Catholique de Pékin* ('La tombeau de l'empereur Tao-tsong (1101) – Une découverte intéressante,' *Bulletin Catholique de Pékin* 10: 237–243). Paul Pelliot considered this report so important that he republished it the same year, with a few remarks, in the journal *T'oung Pao* (22/4: 292–301).

* Corresponding author. Email: gobence@bibl.u-szeged.hu

¹ *Mongolian Studies* (*Mongol Sudlal*) is an interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed, and open-access journal published by the Department of Mongolian Language and Linguistics, National University of Mongolia. The journal primarily concentrates on linguistics, philology, literature, and art, with a special focus on Mongolian Studies (ISSN: 1997–1826, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22353/ms>). There are three journals whose English title is Mongolian Studies. The other journal with this title, *Mongolian Studies: Journal of the Mongolia Society*, has been published annually since 1974. It was preceded by *The Mongolia Society Newsletter* (1962–1964) and *The Mongolia Society Bulletin* (1965–1973), see <https://www.mongoliasociety.org/our-publications/project-one-8fgex>. The third *Mongolian Studies* journal was founded in 2002 by the FSBIS 'Kalmyk Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences' (formerly the Kalmyk Humanities Research Institute of the RAS), see https://mongoloved.kigiran.com/jour?locale=en_US.

The first academic paper devoted specifically to the research of the Khitan language and script was published in 1925 by Haneda Tōru 羽田亨 ('Kittan moji no shin shiryō', *Shirin* 10/1: 82–97). Accordingly, the year 2025 is recognized as the centennial anniversary marking the birth of Khitan studies. To commemorate this milestone, a special issue dedicated to Khitan research has been produced through collaboration between the School of Mongolian Studies at Inner Mongolia University, located in Hohhot (Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China) and the Department of Mongolian Language and Linguistics at the National University of Mongolia, jointly prepared by researchers from both institutions.

Research on the Khitan language and scripts has its own distinctive, specialized terminology. Khitan textual material is recorded in two distinct scripts: the Khitan Large² (or Linear) Script (KLS) and the Khitan Small³ (or Assembled) Script (KSS). The related linguistic terminology (which includes technical terms such as *glyph*, *alloglyph*, *heteroglyph*, *logoglyph*, etc.) is still in the process of becoming standardised. This is shown by the fact that in English it is still a matter of debate whether one should use *glyph*, *graph*, or *sign*, or perhaps *symbol*.⁴ It may also be noted that a current, modern Mongolian linguistic terminology is currently emerging.⁵

These articles⁶ reflect the current developments and directions in Khitan studies. The following is a brief review of each of the 17 newly written articles included in this special issue.⁷

WU YINGZHE⁸ 吴英喆 & BAO ZHENQING⁹ 包珍青: 'Cóng qidān wén cíhuì tàn qidānyǔ yǔxì guīshǔ 从契丹文词汇探契丹语语系归属 [Exploring the Linguistic Family Affiliation of the Khitan Language through Khitan Vocabulary]' (pp. 14–24).

In this article, the authors investigate the extinct language of the Khitan people by analyzing vocabulary preserved in Khitan inscriptions and texts. Their main goal is to use the deciphered Khitan scripts and vocabulary as a starting point to explore the controversial question of the Khitan language's linguistic affiliation. The authors briefly summarize the main viewpoints regarding the linguistic affiliation of the Khitan language. The paper also systematically classifies and analyzes the deciphered Khitan small-script vocabulary. The vocabulary examined includes the names of the twelve zodiac animals, the cardinal numbers from one to ten, several pronouns, adjectives, and verbs. The pronunciations and meanings of these Khitan words are now largely established, and many show notable similarities to Mongolian, suggesting a degree of linguistic connection between the two.

² The Khitan Large Script uses in most cases characters, logographs, signs expressing one word.

³ The Khitan Small Script is a siniform writing system, essentially functioning as a logosyllabic script.

⁴ Most commonly, the English terms *graph* or *glyph* are used for it.

⁵ Cf. Mongolian *Хятан их бичиг* 'Khitan Large Script'; *Хятан бага бичиг* 'Khitan Small Script'; үсэг 'character/graphemes'; үсгийн дүрс 'glyph'; үсгийн хувилбар 'alloglyph'; үгийн тэмдэгт 'logograph or logogram'; латин үсгээр буулгах romanisation' etc.

⁶ Although the table of contents is in Mongolian, the articles were published in several languages, including Chinese, English, Japanese, and Mongolian, and each article concludes with an abstract in English.

⁷ The articles are freely accessible at the following link: <https://journal.num.edu.mn/ms/issue/view/669>.

⁸ Wu Yingzhe: Professor, School of Mongolian Studies, Inner Mongolia University.

⁹ Bao Zhenqing: Doctoral candidate (Class of 2023) in Chinese Language and Literature, School of Mongolian Studies, Inner Mongolia University.

JIRUHE¹⁰ 吉如何: ‘Qidān wén cíyǔ shí dú (xù èr) 契丹文词语拾读 (续二) [Interpretation of Some Khitan Lexical Items (Continued Series II)]’ (pp. 25–35).

Jiruhe’s article traces the development of Khitan script research from its origins to recent advances, focusing on the interpretation of the Khitan Large Script root *uúr* and its correspondence to the Khitan Small Script *u-úr*. Building on earlier work, the paper reexamines the Large Script *uúr*, which appears in several epigraphic variants, and compares it with corresponding Small Script forms beginning with *u-úr*. The analysis of parallel Large and Small Script inscriptions reveals the contexts in which the two roots occur, as well as the patterns observable in their usage. Through a comparison of Khitan inscriptional materials with relevant records in the *Liao History* (*Liaoshi* 遼史). The author further investigates the phonetic values and meanings of several Khitan Large Script characters.

PENG DARUHAN¹¹ 彭达如汗 (Daruukhan): ‘Research on the Presentation of Personalities and Skills of Epitaph Owners in Khitan Small Script Epitaphs (I)’ (pp. 36–50).

Peng’s paper offers a detailed examination of how Khitan Small Script epitaphs portray the character and abilities of the deceased. Focusing primarily on the epitaph of Xiao Zhonggong 蕭仲恭 (1150 A.D.), the author analyzes narrative structure, stylistic patterns, and lexical choices to reveal how Khitan texts reflect both Chinese epigraphic conventions and distinctive Khitan linguistic features. In the following, the study highlights that while Khitan epitaphs adopt the tripartite structure of Chinese inscriptions (which include introduction, biography, and conclusion) they also express uniquely Khitan cultural values through vocabulary and phrasing. By comparing epitaphs written in Khitan small script with Chinese epitaphs, the author systematizes the various descriptive conventions concerning the personality and abilities of the epitaph owner written in Khitan Small Script.

SULONGGA¹² 苏龙嘎: ‘Allusion in Khitan Large Script “Misfortune is What Fortune Leans on; Fortune is What Misfortune Lurks Within”’ (pp. 51–63).

Sulongga’s article provides a detailed analysis of a well-known allusion in the Khitan Large Script found in the Epitaph of Xiao Chen’ge Biexu 蕭陳哥別胥. The passage derives from the saying ‘Misfortune is what fortune leans on; fortune is what misfortune lurks within,’ found in chapter 58 of the Daoist classic *Daode jing* 道德經. The author lists numerous examples from classical works, showing where these allusions appear in various epitaphs. This Khitan Large Script inscription consists of 27 lines and over a thousand characters. Sulongga also offers a linguistic analysis of line 21. The passage in this line contains a sequence of Khitan Large Script characters that can be more clearly understood after detailed comparison with their Khitan Small Script counterparts. The author further notes that Mongolian also abounds in proverbs expressing the ‘alternation of fortune and misfortune’ and the ‘mutual dependence of suffering and joy’.

¹⁰ Jiruhe (Jirüke in Mongolian) is an associate researcher at the School of Mongolian Studies, Inner Mongolia University. His primary research focuses on the Middle Mongolian language and the ancient scripts of northern ethnic groups.

¹¹ Peng Daruhan: Associate Professor, Inner Mongolia University.

¹² Sulongga: Minzu University, Inner Mongolia.

BAI YUANMING¹³ 白元明: 'A Study on Newly Identified Glyphs and Phonetic Values in Khitan Small Script' (pp. 64–72).

In this paper, the author presents three newly identified glyphs and two variant forms in the Khitan Small Script, along with proposed phonetic values for each. These glyphs are taken from three rubbings of an epitaph acquired in 2018, attributed to Yelü Yugulin taishi 耶律于骨邻太师. The inscription is now considered the earliest known example of Khitan Small Script, dating to the 20th year of the Chongxi 重熙 era (1032–1055) of Emperor Xingzong 興宗 of the Liao dynasty (1051 A.D.) The phonetic values are reconstructed through comparison with previously deciphered Khitan Small Script materials, Chinese loanwords, and cognates in Mongolian. The study refines the readings of numerals, official titles, loanwords, and personal names, offering updated phonetic interpretations.

B. CHANSAA¹⁴ ЧАНСАА: 'Kittan shōji boshimei shakubun ni okeru jakkan no godoku teisei to datsurōji no honyū 契丹小字墓誌銘釈文における若干の誤読訂正と脱漏字の補入 [Corrections of Misreadings and Restoration of Missed Characters in the Transcriptions of Khitan Small Script Epitaphs]' (pp. 73–91).

This study investigates recurring transcriptional errors and omissions in renderings in Khitan Small Script epitaphs. Since the script contains numerous visually similar graphs and the stone surfaces are often worn or damaged, misreadings are frequent, particularly those arising from graph confusion and incorrect segmentation. Using philological and textual-critical methods, the author identifies and corrects typographical and data-entry mistakes in the transcriptions published in *Further Research on the Khitan Small Script* (Qingge'ertai [Chinggeltei], Wu Yingzhe and Jiruhe 2017) as well as in four recently released digital editions of epitaphs, and also reconstructs characters that had previously been omitted. The article also supplies four restorations of previously missing or unreadable characters, drawing on parallel passages and recurring formulaic structures to reconstruct the most plausible original text.

TAMIRILAGA¹⁵ 塔米日拉嘎: 'A Study of the Form and Phonetic Reconstruction of Khitan Small Script Glyph No. 342' (pp. 92–106).

The article offers a comprehensive analysis of a lesser-known character from the Khitan Small Script corpus. The author outlines several low-frequency and hard-to-interpret Khitan Small Script glyphs, focusing on glyphs 342, 343, and 343.1 as catalogued in *Further Research on the Khitan Small Script* (Qingge'ertai [Chinggeltei], Wu Yingzhe and Jiruhe 2017). Although earlier studies proposed interpretations based on Chinese parallels and comparative linguistics, their graphic features have not been systematically compared. The study re-examines these Khitan Small Script glyphs and divides them into several categories by analyzing their graphic forms, their positions within words, and their interchangeable use in otherwise identical morphological environments.

¹³ Bai Yuanming: Center for Studies in Northern Borderland Ethnic Languages and Cultures Integration and Transmission, Inner Mongolia University.

¹⁴ Chansaa (Mongolian: B. Chansaa; Chinese: Qinsa 钦飒) is a PhD candidate in the College of Mongolian Studies at Inner Mongolia University (academic year 2024).

¹⁵ Tamirilaga: PhD student (Class of 2023) in Chinese Language and Literature, Inner Mongolia University.

SUNBULE 孙布勒¹⁶ (Sümber): ‘Guānyú qidānyǔ zhōng de yī zǔ xíngdòngcí fùjiā chéngfèn 关于契丹语中的一组形动词附加成分 [On a Series of Participle Affixes in the Khitan Language]’ (pp. 107–118).

Sümber’s article examines a set of Khitan stative-verb suffixes and demonstrates that they form a coherent system of gender and number agreement. Earlier studies, later developed further by Chinggeltei and others, identified several verbal suffixes but left many of their functions unclear. Building on this work, the present study focuses specifically on the stative-verb morphology reflected in the suffixes *-an*, *-ar*, and *-a-aju*. The study therefore clarifies an important aspect of the Khitan Small Script: stative verbs regularly inflect for feminine, masculine, and plural. This contributes to a more precise understanding of Khitan grammar and supports broader efforts to reconstruct the language’s morphological structure.

WUSIHALA¹⁷ 乌斯哈拉 & JIRUHE¹⁸ 吉如何: ‘A Study on Two Graphemes in Khitan Large Script’ (pp. 119–127).

The article by Wusihala and Jurihe presents a meticulous linguistic and paleographic investigation of the Khitan Large Script graphemes *mas* and *gim*. The authors examine these two graphemes in separate sections, offering valuable insights into their phonetic, morphological, and semantic functions. Building on earlier interpretations and research outcomes, the authors present their own conclusions.

SARULA¹⁹ 萨如拉: ‘Qidān wén suǒ jiàn yī zé hàn jí diǎngù de tàn xī 契丹文所见一则汉籍典故的探析 [A Study of a Chinese Classical Allusion Recorded in Khitan Script]’ (pp. 128–135).

The following article examines how Khitan Small Script texts incorporate allusions from Chinese classics as evidence of deep cultural exchange between the Khitan and the Han Chinese. Particularly, it focuses in on a Khitan passage that cites the *Book of Changes* (*Yijing* 易经): ‘A family that accumulates goodness will surely have an abundance of blessings; a family that accumulates evil will surely have an abundance of calamities.’ Sarula’s study then investigates the pronunciation, meaning, and etymology of several Khitan Small Script characters meaning ‘good’, examining each of these in separate sections. Additional analysis of terms denoting ‘accumulation’ and ‘having/possessing’ reveals alternations that help clarify their morphology and potential connections to Middle Mongolian.

QIU QINGLIAN²⁰ 邱庆莲: ‘Differentiation of Several Glyph Forms in Khitan Small Script and Related Studies’ (pp. 136–152).

The present article provides a rigorous and detailed analysis of the challenges involved in distinguishing visually similar glyphs in the Khitan Small Script. Research on these scripts has

¹⁶ Sunbule: 2025 doctoral candidate in Chinese Language and Literature, School of Mongolian Studies, Inner Mongolia University.

¹⁷ Wusihala (Usgal in Mongolian) is a PhD candidate at the School of Mongolian Studies, Inner Mongolia University (academic year 2025).

¹⁸ Jiruhe: Associate researcher at the School of Mongolian Studies, Inner Mongolia University.

¹⁹ Sarula: 2023 Master’s student majoring in Chinese Minority Languages and Literature, School of Mongolian Studies, Inner Mongolia University.

²⁰ Qiu Qinglian is a postgraduate student majoring in Chinese Ethnic Minority Language and Literature at the School of Mongolian Studies, Inner Mongolia University, admitted in 2024.

primarily focused on glyph forms, pronunciations, meanings, and etymologies. The author provides a detailed analysis of the forms of several similar-looking Khitan Small Script characters, specifically glyphs 55, 110, and 350. The author also presents the occurrences of the three Khitan Small Script characters in several tables. Furthermore, the paper discusses the grammatical categories of several Khitan words containing Khitan Small Script glyph 350, offering new insights into their grammatical behavior.

WAN GUA:²¹ ‘Өвөр Монголын Их Сургуульд 2016-2025 оны хугацаанд хийгдсэн хятан бага үсгийн судалгааны тойм [An Overview of Studies on the Khitan Small Script at Inner Mongolia University, from 2016 to 2025]’ (pp. 153–159).

The article by Gaowa provides a comprehensive overview of the master’s theses and doctoral dissertations on the Khitan Small Script produced at Inner Mongolia University between 2016 and 2025. The 2017 volume *Further Research on Khitan Small Script* compiled all interpretation results of the script completed up to 2016. This overview presents nearly a decade of new scholarship and summarizes the university’s achievements in Khitan Small Script research from 2016 to 2025.

The paper examines the following seven master’s theses: *Research on the Common Vocabulary of the Khitan and Mongolian Languages* [Hugejiletu (Högjilt) 2017], *A Study of Tribal Names Found in Khitan Script* (Qimuge [Chimeg] 2020), *A study of the Prefecture and County Names Found in the Khitan Language* (Caodanchangga [Sodonchanga] 2021), *Research on Kinship Terminology in the Khitan Small Script* (Yaru 2021), *A Study of Personal Names of Khitan Found in Khitan Script* (Narentuya [Narantuya] 2023), *A Study of Ligatured Final Letters in the Khitan Small Script Phonology* (Qinsa [Chansaa] 2024), and *A study of Verbal Affixes in the Khitan Language* (Sunbule [Sümber] 2025).

The paper also presents four doctoral dissertations, namely: *A Study of the Newly Discovered Khitan Small-Script Epitaph of Yelü Tian Taishi* (Jiruhe 2017), *A study of the newly discovered Khitan small-script stele of the Taishi Yelü Tiebu* (Zhao 2019), *The Khitan Small-Script Epitaph of Lord Xiao Dilie and the Epitaph of Lady Yelü Amuha* (Peng 2019), and *A decipherment of the newly discovered Khitan Small-Script stele of chancellor Yelü Yü Gülin* (Bai 2024). As the works listed above show, the past decade has yielded numerous significant studies and new findings in Khitan research, including the expansion of the lexicon through decipherment, the reconstruction of phonology, detailed analyses of morphology and grammatical structure, the development of historical onomastics and the introduction of new inscriptions together with the identification of previously unknown glyph forms.

QIAN DA MEN²² 前达门: ‘Bēikè suǒ fǎnyìng de Liáo dài jié rì 碑刻所反映的辽代节日 [The Festivals of the Liao Dynasty Reflected in the Steles]’ (pp. 160–167).

The present study examines Khitan festival culture. A distinctive feature of festivals during the Liao period is that they embodied both the nomadic–pastoral traditions of the Khitan people and the ritual system of the settled Han Chinese civilization. The Stone inscriptions preserve specific

²¹ Wan Gua (Wang Gaowa 王高娃): Student at the School of Mongolian Studies, Inner Mongolia University, China.

²² Qian Da Men (Chindamani in Mongolian): Master’s student at Inner Mongolia University, whose main research direction is Middle Mongolian and ancient scripts of northern ethnic groups.

events and scenes and offer a vivid picture of the participation of different social groups in festive activities. The aim of this study is to provide a systematic comparison of historical materials that have received little attention in previous scholarship and to supplement the limitations of the written record through a combined analysis of festival accounts preserved in historical work most notably the *Liao shi* and in Liao-dynasty inscriptions. Khitan festivals may be classified into several categories according to their cultural and political characteristics, including celebrations associated with the emperor's birthday as well as religious festivals. Each category is examined separately, followed by a detailed discussion of the individual festivals, their features, and their historical context.

ARUNA²³ 阿茹娜: 'Guānyú qìdān wén shù cí jí tiāngān 关于契丹文数词及天干 [About Khitan Numerals and Heavenly Stems]' (pp. 168–181).

This article examines the Khitan numerals 'one' to 'ten' and the so-called Heavenly Stems, offering a systematic account of their scholarly interpretation. The Khitan numeral system has been clarified through systematic comparison with corresponding dates and expressions in Chinese epitaphs. Research on individual numerals traces the history of their decipherment, identifies correspondences between the Large and Small Scripts, and proposes phonetic reconstructions. Several forms display notable similarities to Mongolic numerals, suggesting possible shared etymologies.

ZHAO YIRAN²⁴ 赵奕然: 'Qìdān wén bēikè suǒ jiàn "shī'èr shēngxiào" yánjiū 契丹文碑刻所见“十二生肖”研究 [The Twelve Zodiac Animals in Khitan Epigraphy]' (pp. 182–195).

In this paper, Zhao reviews current research on the Khitan Large and Small Scripts and their terms for the Twelve Zodiac Animals. The study focuses on comparing shared vocabulary between Khitan and Middle Mongolian with the aim of identifying phonetic correspondences and providing evidence for the classification of the Khitan language family. The author also presents the concept of the Twelve Zodiac Animals and summarizes their historical background and diffusion.

FU BOWEN²⁵ 付博文: 'Qīnggélǎitài jiàoshòu qìdānyǔ dòngcí fùjiā chéngfēn yánjiū 清格尔泰教授契丹语动词附加成分研究 [Study on Verb Affixes in the Khitan Language by Professor Chinggeltei]' (pp. 196–212).

This paper provides a comprehensive and analytical overview of one of the most influential bodies of research in Khitan linguistics. It reviews and evaluates Professor Chinggeltei's extensive scholarship on verbal affixes in the Khitan language, particularly those found in Khitan Small Script materials. The study highlights his major contributions, reexamines them in light of newly discovered inscriptions, and demonstrates their significance for the historical linguistics of Mongolic and the broader Altaic language family.

²³ Aruna: 2025 Master's student in Classical Chinese Philology at the School of Mongolian Studies, Inner Mongolia University.

²⁴ Zhao Yiran: Master's student in Classical Chinese Philology, Class of 2015, School of Mongolian Studies, Inner Mongolia University.

²⁵ Fu Bowen: 2025 Master's student majoring in Classical Chinese Philology at the School of Mongolian Studies, Inner Mongolia University.

PENG DARUHAN²⁶ 彭荻茹罕: 'Qidān xiǎozì "Yélǜ niángzǐ mùzhīmíng" yánjiū 契丹小字《耶律娘子墓志铭》研究 [Search on the Epitaph of Lady Yelü in Khitan Small Script]' (pp. 213–228).

The article offers a comprehensive study of one of the most recently discovered Khitan Small Script inscriptions. The author begins by presenting the epitaph of Xiao Dilie langjun 萧迪烈郎君 and his wife, Yelü Niangzi 耶律娘子, which forms the focus of the study. The author analyzes the epitaph by dividing it into six structural and thematic components. Using comparative evidence from other Khitan and Chinese epitaphs, as well as historical records from the Liao dynasty, the study reconstructs Lady Yelü's family background, marriage connections, and social status. The author further contributes to Khitan linguistics by proposing interpretations for several undeciphered or uncertain words in the Khitan Small Script, offering hypotheses supported by phonological and contextual analysis.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Over the past century, Khitan studies have undergone major development, progressing far beyond the early stage when even the basic identification of the language posed considerable challenges and researchers possessed only fragmentary data. The 1970s marked a turning point, as Chinese research groups achieved remarkable advances that yielded the first substantive results derived from the Khitan Small Script. Since then, the corpus has steadily expanded, and recent decades have seen a growing number of linguistically oriented studies.

Despite these advances, Hohhot remains the sole center where Khitan is taught across all academic levels (BA, MA, and PhD) and where research is conducted according to coherent, methodologically rigorous plans. An increasing number of young researchers are becoming involved in Khitan studies, which significantly increases the likelihood that the decipherment of the Khitan language will be achieved in the near future. Recent findings confirming Khitan's affiliation with the Mongolic languages further suggest that it will assume a more prominent position within Mongolic studies. The achievements to date have already furnished numerous valuable contributions to Mongolian linguistics and language history.

The articles in this volume offer an overview of the results achieved in Khitan research to date and outline the directions of future investigations. These provide essential support for understanding Khitan texts and further stimulate international scholarly interest. The leading researchers featured in the volume have published widely in Mongolian, Chinese, and English, and the increasing frequency of their contributions indicates that the central hub of Khitan studies is becoming progressively integrated into the global academic community. This development has made their findings more accessible to international audiences and has laid the groundwork for deeper collaborative research.

The studies presented here are warmly recommended to all researchers concerned with the Khitan language, history, culture, or society, including those who have until now had access only to Chinese textual evidence.

²⁶ Peng Daruhan (Daruukhan): Associate professor of the School of Mongolian Studies, Inner Mongolia University.

REFERENCES

- BAI Yuanming 白原铭 2024. *Xīnjìn fāxiàn qīdān xiǎozì ‘Yēlǜ Yúgǔlín tàishī mùzhīmíng’ shìdú* 新近发现契丹小字《耶律于骨邻太师墓志铭》释读 [A Decipherment of the Newly Discovered Khitan Small-Script Epitaph of Yelü Yugulin] (PhD diss., Inner Mongolia University).
- Caodanchangga 曹旦长嘎 (Sodonchanga) 2021. *Qīdānwén Suǒjiàn Zhōuxiàn Míngchēng Yánjiū* 契丹文所见州县名称研究 [A Study of Prefecture and County Names Found in Khitan Script] (MA thesis, Inner Mongolia University).
- HANEDA Tōru 羽田亨 1925. ‘Kittan moji no shin shiryō 契丹文字の新資料 [New Data on the Khitan Script].’ *Shirin* 史林10/1: 82–97.
- Hugejiletu 呼格吉乐图 (Högjilt) 2017. *Qīdānyǔ yǔ měnggǔyǔ gòngtóng cíhuì yánjiū* 契丹语与蒙古语共同词汇研究 [Research on the Common Vocabulary of the Khitan and Mongolian Languages] (MA thesis, Inner Mongolia University).
- Jiruhe 吉如何 2017. *Xīn fāxiàn qīdān xiǎozì ‘Yēlǜ Tiānní Tàishī mùzhīmíng’ yánjiū* 新发现契丹小字《耶律天你太师墓志铭》研究 [A Study of the Newly Discovered Khitan Small-Script Epitaph of Yelü Tian Taishi] (PhD diss., Inner Mongolia University).
- KERVYN, Louis 1923. ‘La tombe de l’empereur Tao-tsong (1101) – Une découverte intéressante.’ *Bulletin Catholique de Pékin* 10: 237–243.
- Narentuya 娜仁图雅 (Narantuya) 2023. *Qīdānwén suǒjiàn qīdān rén míng yánjiū* 契丹文所见契丹人名研究 [A Study of Personal Names of Khitan Found in Khitan Script] (MA thesis, Inner Mongolia University).
- PELLIOT, Paul 1923. ‘Le Tombeau de l’empereur Tao-tsong des Leao, et les premières inscriptions connues en écriture K’itan.’ *T’oung Pao* 22: 292–301.
- PENG Daruhan 彭韃茹罕 (Daruukhan) 2019. *Qīdān xiǎozì ‘Xiāo Díliè lángjūn mùzhì’ yǔ ‘Yēlǜ Āmùhā niángzǐ mùzhīmíng’* 契丹小字《萧迪烈郎君墓志》与《耶律阿姆哈娘子墓志铭》 [The Khitan Small-Script Epitaph of Lord Xiao Dilie and the Epitaph of Lady Yelü Amuha] (PhD diss., Inner Mongolia University).
- Qimuge 其木格 (Chimeg) 2020. *Qīdānwén suǒjiàn bùzú míngchēng yánjiū* 契丹文所见部族名称研究 [A Study of Tribal Names Found in Khitan Script] (MA thesis, Inner Mongolia University).
- Qinggeertai 清格尔泰 (Chinggeltei), Wu Yingzhe 吴英喆 & Jiruhe 吉如何 2017. *Qīdān xiǎozì zài yánjiū* 契丹小字再研究 [Further Research on the Khitan Small Script]. I–III vols. Hohhot: Nei Menggu Daxue Chubanshe.
- Qinsa 钦飒 (Chansaa) 2024. *Qīdān xiǎozì míngwén yùnzì yánjiū* 契丹小字铭文韵字研究 [A Study of Ligatured Final Letters in the Khitan Small Script Phonology] (MA thesis, Inner Mongolia University).
- Sunbule 孙布勒 (Sümbler) 2025. *Qīdānyǔ xíngdòngcí yánjiū* 契丹语形动词研究 [A Study of Verbal Affixes in the Khitan Language] (MA thesis, Inner Mongolia University).
- Yaru 雅茹 2021. *Qīdān xiǎozì qīnshǔ chēngwèi yánjiū* 契丹小字亲属称谓研究 [Research on Kinship Terminology in the Khitan Small Script] (MA thesis, Inner Mongolia University).
- ZHAO Hashengaowa 赵哈申高娃 (Hasgoo) 2019. *Xīn fāxiàn qīdān xiǎozì ‘Yēlǜ Tiēbù Tàishī mùzhībēi’ yánjiū* 新发现契丹小字《耶律贴不太师墓志碑》研究 [A Study of the Newly Discovered Khitan Small-Script Stele of Taishi Yelü Tiebu] (PhD diss., Inner Mongolia University).

Open Access. This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited, a link to the CC License is provided, and changes – if any – are indicated. (SID_1)