

Arienne Dwyer
Professor of Linguistic Anthropology, University of Kansas

The Circulation of Medicine and Notions of Healing in Early 20th Century Chinese Turkestan via Network Analysis

Abstract

At the nexus of trade and migration routes between East, South and Central Asia and Siberia, the residents of Chinese Turkestan (Xinjiang) up to/in early 20th century had access to a variety of ideas about healing and medicines and amalgamated them freely. Comparing medical formulae within a text and different healing practices between different texts allows us to begin to understand the transmission of medical substances and ideas in premodern Central Eurasia.

Based on a project transcribing and translating 19th and early 20th c. Turki medical manuscripts, this paper reveals that Greco-Arab medical practices were circulation in Chinese Turkestan; these were combined with spirit-mediumship and animism, overlaid with Sufism, while aspects of South Asian and Chinese medicine are also present. I explore the use of network analysis to uncover patterns in the medical-formula data across manuscripts.

Enough, God granted Luqmān such a science of wisdom, such that people came to Luqmān to learn all the wisdom. Thus he came out of the cave. All the plants on earth began to speak. A thousand and one plants told Luqmān their benefits (زری) and harms (نفع). But a plant never spoke [to him]. His Holiness Luqmān said: "Oh my God, what kind of plant is this? Why it does not speak to me?"

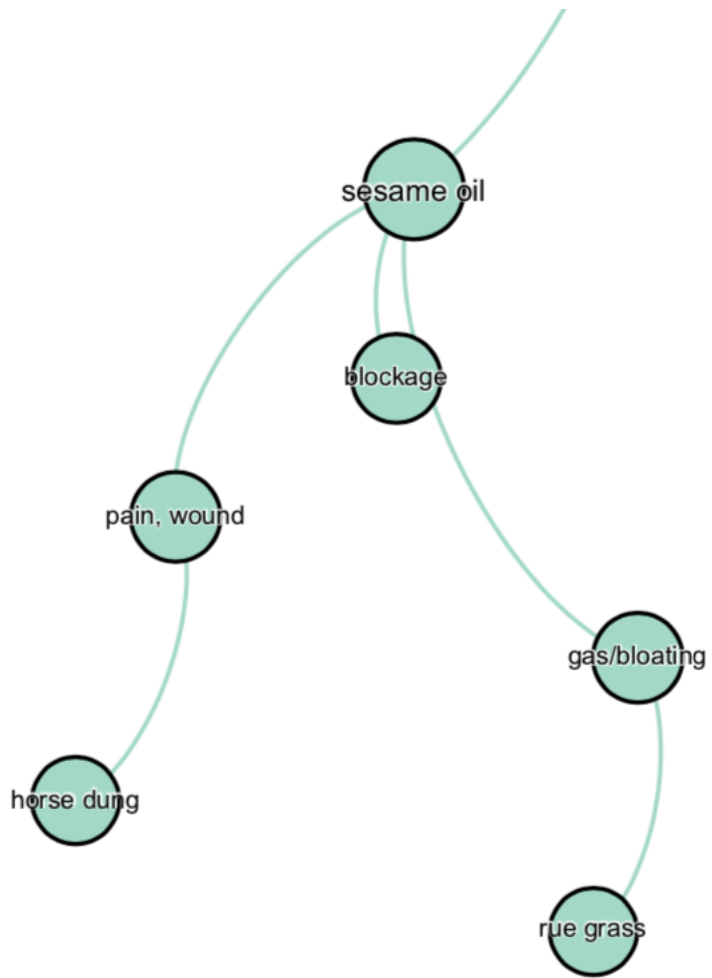
bs xday t'alyà ħzrt lqman ğh
nynk āldyğh andağ 'lm ħkmt ny
'ta qyldy km ādm lar barjñ 'lm
ħkmt awrkankay lqman nynk
aldyğh kldy nñwkkm awl ğardyn
čqty lar yr ywzydaky tmam kyah
lar tyl ğh kldy 45 mynk br kyah
ħzrt lqman ğh nñ zryny ayty mkr
br kyah hyj swzlamdy ħzrt
lqman aydylar ay bara xdaya bw
nh kyah hy kh mnka
swzmaydwr

بس خدای تعالیٰ حضرت لقمان غه نینک
آلدیغه انداغ علم حکمت نی عطا قیلدی کم
آدم لار بارجه علم حکمت اورکانکای لقمان
نینک الدیغه کلدی نجو ککم اول غاردین
چقتی لار یر یوزیداکى تمام کیه لار تیل غه
کلدی 45 مینک بر کیه حضرت لقمان غه
نفع زرینى
ایتی مکر بر
کیاه هیج
سوزلامدی
حضرت لقمان
ایدیلار ای بارا 27b
خدایا بو نه



کیاه هی که منکا سوزمایدور

45 Glosses: s1: مولا maulā (for. مولی maulā) 'lord, master; a judge, magistrate of a city; the supreme Lord, God; a slave, servant; a manumitted slave, freedman;--ħazrati' (Steingass 1892/1998: 1347) Lord God بار خدایا خداوندا



Network analysis image (c) Arienne Dwyer and Jeff Rydberg-Cox 2019.