

CLASSIFICATION OF THE STUDY OF UZBEK DIALECTS IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL “MAORIF VA O‘QITUVCHI”

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Abstract: The article analyzes linguistic articles published in the journal “*Maorif va o‘qituvchi*” in the 1920s and presents a classification of the study of Uzbek dialects and their features. Through this, it becomes evident that the study of dialects has been one of the most relevant issues in all periods.

Keywords: Uzbek linguistics, dialect, vernacular, orthography, education, teacher, source, literary language, alphabet, thickness and thinness, labial harmony.

When discussing the sources of Uzbek linguistics of the 1920s, along with manuals created during that period and materials from language and orthography conferences, articles on the Uzbek language published in newspapers and journals are also included among the sources. In this respect, the journal “*Maorif va o‘qituvchi*” holds particular importance. More than 80% of the articles published in it were devoted to the most pressing issues of the time—alphabet and orthography. In addition, many articles addressed language theory, the vowel and consonant system of Uzbek, the literary language and its history, the characteristics of Uzbek dialects, the base dialect of the literary language, and phonetic laws. Most of these articles invited debate and reached a genuinely scientific level.

The study of Uzbek dialects has always been considered one of the most topical issues. In the 1920s, the journal “*Maorif va o‘qituvchi*” regularly published articles addressing linguistic problems. Notably, in issues 10–11 and 12 of 1926, two articles were published under the title “*A Brief Guide for Collectors of Information on Uzbek Tribes (Clans) and Their Dialects.*” Beneath these articles appears the note “*Committee for the Study of Uzbeks.*” Based on their style, it can be assumed that they were prepared by Prof. Gozi Olim.

The first article provides methodological recommendations for identifying the ethnic characteristics of the dialect under study. It includes questions aimed at gathering information on population structure, respondent selection, anthropological features of residents, and the history of the settlement. The second article is entirely devoted to the study of dialects. This “guide” undoubtedly played a positive role for researchers who were beginning work in Uzbek dialectology at that time. The existence and necessity of programs for studying Uzbek dialects were emphasized in later periods as well.

Although the analyzed “guide” includes sections such as “*On Language,*” “*Labial Harmony (gubnaya harmoniya),*” and “*Thickness and Thinness,*” based on the nature of the questions, we grouped them as follows:

1. Questions and examples aimed at studying the phonetic features of Uzbek dialects.
2. Questions and examples clarifying the functioning of phonetic laws.
3. Questions and examples aimed at identifying morphological features.



4. Recommendations for studying the lexical characteristics of dialects.

It should be noted that the “guide” mainly uses Arabic terms, partially Uzbek terms, and occasionally Russian terms. The questions aimed at studying the phonetic features of Uzbek dialects focused on examining the following issues:

- Sound correspondences: ғ//в: тов, (тоғ); ғ//й: бойламоқ; й//ж: жий (ййғ); ч//й: туйма, (тугма); х//қ: қатин, (хотин); т//д: довуш, (товуш); п//б: бақир, (пақир); ш//с: шупур, (супур); с//ч: чочмоқ, (сочмоқ); assimilation: л>н: монгной (манглай).
- Spontaneous changes: қ>ғ: ғарға, (қарға).
- Spirantization: к>г: эгин; п>в: гав; ч>ш: ушта; б>в: бова; п>б: тобилған.
- Vowel correspondence: е//и: егри//ийри.
- Use of long vowels: ит// и:т, қыз//қы:з.

The questions also inquire about the presence of sounds expressed by the vowels ۱ (ə), ۴ (ə), ۱ (a), ۵ (o), ۶ (ə), ۷ (y), ۸ (y), ۹ (ъ), ۱۰ (ь), ۱۱ (e), which were referred to as *bosit* (simple) vowels, as well as by the letter combinations ۱۲ (ув), ۱۳ (үв), ۱۴ (ий), ۱۵ (ьй), which were referred to as *murakkab cho'zghi* (complex long vowels). It was also noted in which words the vowels i and u are pronounced very briefly.

Use of Consonants. Only the presence of the consonants ف (f) and ڭ (j) was queried.

Phonetic Laws. To determine labial harmony, only pronunciations such as қўлу//қўли, келдим//келдум, кулиб//кулуб were asked about. To identify thickness and thinness, questions were posed regarding whether these features are preserved or not in words with suffixes, and examples such as кәрмәк or кәрмоқ were provided.

Morphological Features. To identify morphological features, questions were asked about changes in nouns, adjectives, pronouns, and verbs. These included suffixes such as –нинг/динг/ди/ти (referred to as explanatory suffixes), –лар/нар (plural markers), –ға/a (maf'ulu alayh), –дан/нан/нон (maf'ulu anh). The phonetic conditions under which these suffixes occur and the phonetic changes that arise in words when they are added (мангга, саған, маған) were also noted.

Lexical Features. In studying lexical features, the task of compiling a dialect dictionary was assigned. At least 300–400 entries were required. For some reason, special attention was emphasized on recording the names of human and animal body parts.

Of course, we are far from claiming that this “guide” provided sufficient opportunity to fully record a particular dialect. At the same time, one should not forget that it was an initial experiment. From this perspective, its significance should be acknowledged.

It is known that even today, no program has been created that fully covers all features of dialects. Nevertheless, after this “guide,” several manuals and questionnaires for studying Uzbek dialects emerged, creating opportunities to describe particular features of Uzbek dialects more comprehensively.

References:



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