

A look at the orthographic challenges of Afghanistan's Uzbek language

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ABSTRACT

The Uzbek language belongs to the eastern branch of Turkic languages. Turkic languages are part of the Ural-Altaic language family. The history of orthography and ancient literature of the Uzbek language goes back to the "Orkhon Yinisey" stone in orthography ions. These petroglyphs were obtained from the beach of the Orkhon Seas in Mangolia, Yenisey (Anasay-Mother valley) in southern Siberia, Talas in Kyrgyzstan, and other areas such as Eastern Turkistan, Central Asia, Caucasus, Volga beach and parts of Europe area. These historical sites contain Turkish-Ronics writings. In the stone in orthography ions of "Orkhon Yinisey", some of which include eulogies and hymns describing Turkish kings, are carved on the tombstones of Turkish kings and princes. The orthography of the Uzbek language of Uzbekistan has always changed from the previous state. However, the Uzbek orthography in Afghanistan has never changed since the 12th century until now; they use the Arabic-Uzbek orthography. In this research, library resources are used.

Keywords: orthography, Uzbek language, Afghanistan, challenges of orthography

Introduction

The history of writing among the Turks traced back to before Christ was born and even before that. Before the beginning of their migration around the world, the ancient Turkics used another orthography and alphabet. Their orthography was similar to the hieroglyphic alphabet (old Egyptian orthography). However, the orthography that was used among them before the beginning of the great migration of the Turks has been called the "Orkhon alphabet" or Kuk-Turk alphabet by scientists (Mallayev. 2018. p, 55).

According to Nayibi (2003), "Because the Turkic people of the world have not had any borders to govern during thousands of years of civilization, then it can be said with certainty that there is no language on earth except that which has no trace of the Turkic language in it". On this point, the Europeans have conducted extensive research on this issue

and concluded that 40% of the Italian language, 20% of the English language, and 17% of the German language are composed of Turkish words. Let us say it this way: if there were not Turkish language, one-fifth of English and two-fifths of Italian would be removed" (Nayibi. 2002. p, 89).

Turkic's have played a prominent role in the formation of human civilization. They have also made a significant contribution in the field of inventing the orthography that forms the most basic civilization of humanity and the world. During their rule in different parts of the world from the 5th-10th century, the Turkic peoples had their alphabet, known as the Uyghur alphabet, after the Arabic orthography was used to write Turkic languages around the 10th century.

Importance of the research:

The importance of the research is to obtain information about the orthography and how it changes in different periods, as well as to know the orthography of the contemporary Uzbek language of Afghanistan and the use of this orthography in written literature.

Research objectives:

The Turkic language, especially the Uzbek language, has always faced orthography changes. And often these changes have had a political aspect. For example: the change of the Uzbek orthography of Uzbekistan from Latin to Cyrillic took place after the former Soviet domination of Central Asia. The purpose of this article is to obtain information about the change in Uzbek orthography in Afghanistan. Has the orthography of the Uzbek language changed in Afghanistan or not?

Research Methodology:

The data of this article has been collected from historical books, history of literature and linguistics and studied by library and orthographic-analytical method.

Ethnic Structure in Afghanistan

The national and ethnic structure of Afghanistan seems to be mixed to some extent, in this sense an accurate census has not been done until now. According to the summary census in 2013, the population of Afghanistan is estimated to be nearly 32 million people. Among them, 8 million people are Turks. In other words, Pashtuns live first, Tajiks second, and Turks third. The golden age and development of the Uzbek-Turkish literary language was during the Timurid and Babur periods. In this period, both architecture and literary works were completed to a high level. This period is also called the Eastern Renaissance.

Now, Uzbek is the national language of the country, after Pashto and Dari; Turkish-Uzbek-Turkmen languages are also taught in public and private universities. It also broadcasts in Uzbek language on public and private television and radio. Generally speaking, four ethnic groups are in Afghanistan today: Pashtuns, Tajiks, Uzbeks, and Hazaras. Hazaras are also Turks by descent. (Atayi, 2015, pp. 558-561).

Uzbeks and Turkmen form the largest population of Turkics in Afghanistan. Turkmen, Kazakh Qizilbash, and other Turkic populations also live in other regions. The population of Turkic is estimated at 9 million in Afghanistan. 7 million of them are Uzbeks, 1 million are Turkmen, and the rest are other Turkic tribes. As a result of the wars of the past 20 years, and the non-establishment of a precise census process, the above figures have been roughly estimated (Oghuz, 2001, P.44).

Shariq (2018) estimated the population of Afghan Turkic to be close to 7-8 million (Shariq, 2018, p. 201). Also, Hulai (2001) shows the population of the Turks of Afghanistan in general as follows, "Today, 1/3 of the population of Afghanistan is made up of Turks... With

historical facts and masses, the population of the Turks of Afghanistan is the main element Afghanistan is considered. They are not to be underestimated" (Holai, 2001, p. 68).

According to the writings of Yavuz Salim (2013), "Afghanistan's population is estimated at 29-34 million; Uzbeks are estimated at 6-7 million, Turkmens at 2-3 million; Kazakhs, Qaraqalpaks are around 1 million. That is, with all that, the population of Turks in Afghanistan is estimated to be between 8-10 million (Salim, 2013, p. 59).

Languages of Afghanistan

According to some research, there are nearly thirty languages in Afghanistan, each of which has its speakers in specific areas on a large and small scale. Surveys show that a number of these languages are facing a very unfortunate situation and unfortunately, due to neglect and problems in the country, they are facing the danger of destruction. Although in recent years there have been specific legal protections for the mother tongue in the country, in the field of practice, there are still serious complaints and concerns in this field.

The language, literature, culture, and history of Uzbeks in Afghanistan have experienced a miserable history. Amini (2008) "Uzbeks are forced to be taught in their non-native languages such as Dari and Pashto. Only a small number of them personally learned literacy in the mother tongue in old and traditional home schools. Also, they have been deprived by the oppressors in the press, newspapers, radio-television, and schools.

Noorzadah (2009) believes: "Without the intervention of the mother tongue in the teaching of the second language, the teaching will not be done properly and one of the reasons for mistakes in mispronunciation all over the world is the influence of the mother tongue on the learning of the second language." A mother is mixed with the identity of every human being. He stated, "Children who are taught in a non-native language, in addition to serious problems in learning from the first days, they are forced not to think about their native language, and in this way, their intellectual and mental connection with the world in which they grew up will be cut off."

Turkish orthography

The Uyghur alphabet was common in Central Asia between the 5th and 10th centuries. This orthography was taken from the Soghdian orthography and adapted to the Turkic Uyghur language.

After accepting the Mani religion, the Uyghurs abandoned the Gok-Turk alphabet, instead, they created a new alphabet based on the Soghdian alphabet, which was called the Uyghur alphabet. The Uyghur orthography, which was the official orthography from the 8th century onwards, has 18 letters (www.google.com). Likewise, in the 16th century, Zahiruddin- Muhammad Babur invented "Baburi orthography" and practically used it in his court. Zahir al-Din Muhammad Babur in his famous work (Babarnamēh) has mentioned three cases regarding the invention of Babri orthography.

The more precise date of the forced change of the orthography of the Turkic languages in Central Asia, according to Yarqin (2006), is 1926 AD. He says: "On February 26, 1926, a Scientific conference of Turk scientists was held in Baku. At this conference, it was approved that the Turkics of Central Asia should accept the Latin alphabet as their alphabet. In this way, the Turkics of Central Asia, including the Uzbeks, who had used the Arabic alphabet for 1200 years, were forced to abandon it and accepted the Latin orthography. This orthographic custom until 1940 was used. From March 8, 1940, the Cyrillic alphabet was replaced by it" (Yarqin, 2013).

The original language, literature, and culture of the Uzbeks of Afghanistan have experienced a bitter history due to the restrictions imposed by different governments during the last two centuries, and this ridiculous belief is one of its unfortunate consequences. It has

appeared among some scholars and politicians that the Uzbek language does not have an alphabet. All people of knowledge know that every language does not have its alphabet. According to the latest study by linguists, there are more than three thousand languages in the world. But all these languages do not have their alphabets. The fact is that the number of alphabets in the world is not more than 15. For example, the Arabic alphabet forms the common alphabet of the majority of Muslim nations.

First of all, it should be said that the alphabet of the Uzbek language of Afghanistan, like the popular languages of this country, especially Persian and Pashto, is based on the Arabic alphabet. But this alphabet fully expresses many of the phonetic characteristics of this language can't as this deficiency of the alphabet in other languages has also attracted the attention of linguists, to solve these problems, reforms have been made based on the common Arabic alphabet. An example of this in our country is today's alphabet of Pashto language in which, based on the Arabic orthography, special letters have been established, which can represent the phonetic features of that language in the vowels and consonants. (Yarqin, 2005)

During the years 2003-2004, in Afghanistan, during the holding of three international scientific seminars in Kabul, Balkh, and Takhar provinces with the participation of a group of domestic and foreign linguists, various issues and problems of the Afghan-Turkic language, including the problem of orthography and the lack of vowel signs in the existing alphabet, was examined. Finally, those who shared the letters "و" and "ى", added two other signs to the alphabet, which are gradually being transferred and used.

Although this work partially solves the problem of phonetic spelling of the Afghan Uzbek language, there are still some spelling and technical deficiencies, especially the lack of a single spelling method. (Yarqin, 2006).

The plan for the above topic (determining the signs of □ the above vowels) has already been prepared by Uzbek linguists and internal language was approved by the Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan. The Academy published the official approval number 655 dated 21/1/2003. It demanded the implementation of the mentioned resolution in all cultural departments inside and outside the country. Later, the Everson Typography Institute based on this note ordered computer manufacturing companies to include this alphabet system in the keyboard of computers. This was realized and dozens of different Uzbek book titles have been published in recent years with the cooperation of domestic and foreign cultural institutions and culture-loving people with the same changes in the alphabet.

Discussion

As mentioned earlier, the Uzbek language has Ural-Altaic roots, and the Arabic language originated from Hebrew and Semitic roots. As a result, these two languages have many differences from each other in terms of grammar, taxonomy, and phonetics. Changing the orthography creates advantages and also some failures. Every change has problems and advantages. But it must be decided what costs this issue will have for society. We will mention each of them below.

➤ Consonance of several letters

In Arabic, all letters have different pronunciations. But when these letters enter the Uzbek language, they are all pronounced the same. These consonant letters in Uzbek orthography are: "ث، س، ص" like as (S), "ذ، ز، ض، ظ" like as (Z) and "ت، ط" like as (T). These sounds in the original words of the Uzbek language do not distinguish the meaning.

In the same way, students and a young age always have problems with spelling. For this reason, words like (قسطنطنيه), and (انضباط) are always misleading. For example, due to the consonants of the letters, the word "Til (language)" can be written in different ways, such as "Til (oil)".

➤ **letters without signs**

In Arabic, most words are written with vowel marks. These Arabizations help us not to have problems in reading these words. For example: "العَرَبِيَّة". But, in Uzbek orthography, we don't punctuate our words. For example, the two-letter word "قيل (qil)-do" can be read in three forms "(Qal, Qil and Qol«قُل و قُل و قُل)". To avoid mistakes, the only solution is to repeat and memorize the pronunciation and spelling of thousands of words. This issue is very problematic, especially for illiterate, old, and young people, and it makes reading and writing somewhat difficult for people.

➤ **Speech and writing not being the same**

One of the other problems of the Uzbek-Arabic orthography is that our speech and writing are different from each other, and this duality is also problematic for the speakers.

➤ **Latin orthography also has many problems**

Latin orthography also has its problems. In some cases, letters are written; But it is not read; Like (gh) in «Enough». In this line, the letter X represents two sounds. Many more of these can be seen in the Latin orthography. Now, most of the languages of the Latin and Germanic families are written in the Latin orthography, but the pronunciations of all these languages are the same. For example, compare English and French. Both of these languages use Latin orthography for writing, but there are many differences between their spelling and pronunciation. script alone does not determine but, many cultural rules are decisive.

There are more than 3,000 languages in the world, while the number of alphabets is about 15 types. It has not been the case that in the history of each language, it invented a separate alphabet for writing. If this were the case, we should have 3000 different alphabets today, and each of the Turkic, Uzbek, Urdu, and Persian languages should have a separate alphabet, and there would be no need to use the Arabic alphabet today. Even English, which is the richest and strongest language in the world today, does not have an alphabet and uses the alphabet of Latin languages such as Italian, French, Spanish, and Orange. It is also possible that a language has used different alphabets at different points in time during its history. For example, when Islam came to non-Arab lands, other languages, including Persian and Turkish, used Arabic orthography for their writings.

The Turkish language had its written form before Islam. For example, the Orkhon in orthography ions. After the introduction of Islam to the Turkic lands, the Turkic language, like the Persian language, adopted the Arabic orthography. Even to teach Turkish to the Arabs, Mahmoud Kashghari wrote the first Turkish dictionary called "Diwan-e-Lughat Turk" in the 5th century. After the Islamic period, for about 1200 years, all Turkic writings were similar to Persian with Arabic orthography. But in the early 20th century, after the arrival of the Russians in Central Asia, the Turkic Chaghtayi orthography, which is known today as the Uzbek language, was changed to Cyrillic, and in Anatolia, with the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and the establishment of the Republic of Turkey, the Istanbul Turkic orthography was changed from Arabic to Latin. However, in Afghanistan, the Uzbek language has never changed from the Arabic alphabet to other alphabets such as Latin and Cyrillic.

Results

Language is a phenomenon in transition and is changing every day and every minute, but the orthography of any language acts like a tool for using that language and cannot be changed. It is not necessary to change the line to modernize and access scientific resources and carry out research work; Because there are translators all over the world who translate the desired scientific material into our language within a few hours.

The current Uzbek orthography, which is derived from the Arabic orthography, has been used by our ancestors for several centuries, and Westerners have translated and used many of the prominent books of our elders in their language. In this case, our orthography was not a problem for their translators.

By using the capacity of the country's academic, scientific, literary, cultural, and artistic environment and with the supervision of linguists, it is possible to easily update the Uzbek orthography. It unified the letters, organized the Arabicization, and greatly reduced the linear exceptions.

However, some have tried to change the Uzbek orthography and language, which is one of the most regular and valuable orthography and languages in the world, to use the Latin orthography instead of the Arabic-Uzbek orthography. This act is not only literary and linguistic but also a political act related to politics. This issue is not hidden even for foreigners and non-Uzbek speakers.

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