



## Research Article

# Phonetic Characteristics and Morphological Features of the Uzbek Dialect in Eshkamesh, Afghanistan

Feada M. Samadbek

Alisher Navo'i Tashkent State University of Uzbek Language and Literature Researcher



## ARTICLE INFO

## ABSTRACT



### Keywords:

Afghanistan, Uzbek language, Eshkamesh district, dialect

### Article History:

Received: 12-01-2024

Accepted: 21-05-2024

Published: 26-05-2024

This study aimed to analyze the dialect employed by Uzbek Turks residing in the Eshkamesh district of Takhar province, located in the northeastern region of Afghanistan. The study investigated the phonetics of the Uzbek dialect spoken in the Eshkamesh district of Takhar province, with a particular emphasis on compilations from that area. Research on the dialects of the Turkish language focuses on several aspects such as vocabulary, phonetics, morphology, and the origins of both historical and contemporary dialects. It has the ability to provide perceptive solutions for certain issues pertaining to the subject matter. Consequently, this study holds great significance for the Turkish language. Furthermore, it is an undeniable reality that the dialects employed in this area are slowly vanishing as a result of technical advancements and the impact of established regional languages. Hence, it is crucial to promptly conduct thorough investigation and documentation of the Turkish dialects spoken in Afghanistan using scientific methodologies. The amalgamated sound recordings were transcribed utilizing a collection of symbols devised by the Turkish Language Institution, which accurately represents the phonetic characteristics of the sounds. Subsequently, we conducted an analysis of the phonetics and morphology of the written texts. The study employed the approach of simultaneous grammar.

### Cite this article:

Samadbek, F. M. (2024). Phonetic Characteristics and Morphological Features of the Uzbek Dialect in Eshkamesh, Afghanistan. *Sprin Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*, 3(5), 95–97. <https://doi.org/10.55559/sjahss.v3i5.330>

## Introduction

Consonants can be broadly classified as vibratory or non-vibratory. Similar to vowels, the waves of vibrating consonants are harmonic. Their harmonic and vibratory quality is associated with the voice cords' activation, or vibration. Tonal sounds, which are among the grammatical terminology, are another name for vibrant sounds, whether they are vowels or consonants (Amini, 2013). The vocal cords provide the sound of all vowels and tone consonants. Tonal consonants and vowels are produced when airflow from the lungs strikes the vocal cords and causes them to vibrate simultaneously. Put another way, as soon as the airflow between the vocal cords is finished, it becomes a tan airflow and causes the vocal cords to vibrate (Yarqin, 2010). The vocal cords vibrate the same number of times when forming all vowels and tone consonants, i.e., 100 times per second on average for men, 200 times per second for women, and 400 times per second for children (Coşkun, 1999).

### Uzbaek language

Uzbek is classified as a member of the Karluk language family, which is a subset of the broader Turkic language family. There are two distinct dialects of the language: the eastern dialect is referred to as Uyghur, while the western dialect is also known as Uyghur. The existence of the dialect continuum is attributed to the linguistic family (Khayri, 2013). Most speakers

of Turkic languages, except those who speak Siberian Turkic languages, should be able to comprehend this particular variant or dialect. Nevertheless, it exerts a significant influence on Persian. Owing to the strong affinity and effective mutual comprehension between Uzbek and numerous other unique Turkic languages, those proficient in Uzbek may easily understand speakers of a diverse range of other remotely related languages (Bashqaban, 2023). Uzbek is the predominant native language of Central Asia, but it is only spoken by a small number of ethnic minorities in Uzbekistan and neighboring countries. The language is spoken by Uzbek expatriates residing in foreign countries (Labib, 2006). RizanovaUz and Uzbekfilm are two prominent Uzbek media websites that have recently garnered significant popularity, particularly in Central Asia and other former Soviet republics. The primary language spoken in the Osh Region of Kyrgyzstan, encompassing the city of Osh is Uzbek. In addition, a significant portion of the Jalal-Abad Region, as well as the Eastern, Southern, and Southeast regions of Kyrgyzstan, possess a high level of proficiency in the Kyrgyz language. Consequently, the ethnic Kyrgyz residing in these regions have been significantly influenced by Uzbek culture, resulting in some of them becoming proficient in the Uzbek language (Atayi, 2015). This phenomenon has an impact on various countries in Central Asia, particularly the Turkistan region, the northern Daşoguz Welağat of Turkmenistan, and the Sughd region of Tajikistan. Typically, the number of individuals

### \*Corresponding Author:

Email: [fada.mfada@gmail.com](mailto:fada.mfada@gmail.com) (F. M. Samadbek)

<https://doi.org/10.55559/sjahss.v3i5.330>

© 2024 The Authors. Published by Sprin Publisher, India. This is an open access article published under the CC-BY license

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>

who speak Uzbek as a second language ranges between one to five million.

### Methodology

My primary method of investigating the dialects under investigation and ascertaining their unique traits is gathering data through fieldwork. The primary method I used to obtain information was elicitation, which involved having conversations and documenting them. The material for this article was gathered from literary, linguistic, and historical sources. The data has been analyzed using an orthographic-analytical approach in conjunction with library research.

### Significance

This research is essential since it provides documentation of the Uzbek dialects spoken in Afghanistan. The primary objectives of this study are to analyze linguistic diversity and address challenges related to language development and conservation. The objective of this study is to maintain the original form of dialectic without allowing external languages to exert any effect on it. The objective of this study is to analyze and assess the characteristics and prevalence of Turkmen dialects in Afghanistan, as well as their significance and role within the local social structure. Currently, there is a lack of comprehensive research on the Afghan Turkmen minority conducted by professionals from both within Afghanistan and abroad. Therefore, the act of gathering and organizing written works from diverse ethnic, geographic, and social backgrounds will serve as an initial step in exploring the various linguistic variations employed within this community.

### Classifications of consonants

The consonants of the dialect of Eshkamesh county can be classified as follows.

- A) Voiced and voiceless consonants
  1. Voiced consonants: /b/, /c/, /d/, /g/, /ǵ/, /ǧ/, /ǧ/, /ǧ/, /j/, /l/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /r/, /v/, /w/, /y/, /z/.
  2. Voiceless consonants: /ç/, /f/, /h/, /ħ/, /ħ/, /k/, /k/, /k/, /k/, /p/, /s/, /s/, /t/.
- B) Consonants according to their structure:
  1. Double-lip consonants: /b/, /p/, /m/, /w/.
  2. Dental-lip consonants: /f/, /v/.
  3. Dental consonants: /d/, /t/, /n/, /s/, /z/.
  4. Palatal-dental consonants: /ç/, /ç/, /j/, /s/.
  5. Anterior palatal consonants: /g/, /ǵ/, /k/, /k/, /l/, /r/, /y/.
  6. Middle palate consonants: /ǧ/, /k/.
  7. Posterior palate consonants: /ǧ/, /ǧ/, /ħ/, /ħ/, /k/, /ŋ/.
  8. Throat consonants: /h/.

The following consonant drop has been determined in the dialect of the Uzbeks living in the Eshkamesh district of Takhar province.

### Drop of /s/:

It occurs in three examples: küreşám (<küreş-se-m) “if i wrestle”, maǵıdga (<masǵid-ga) “to mosque”, qay-yerge (<qaysı-yerge) “to where”.

### Drop of /t/:

Usually in the quote words this event seen, in Turkish words as it can be seen the /t/ next to the (k, l, t, r, y) consonants is dropped. In borrowed words, it is seen that the /t/ consonant next to the consonants (s, ş, ħ, f) is dropped: kórináyaqan (<körün-e yat-қан) “appearing”, qos (<qost) “place name”,

álmiş (<altmış) “sixty”, aytım (<ayt-tı-m) “I told”, aysak (<ayt-sak) “if we say”.

### Drop of /d/:

In the following words an event is seen and not permanent: ziyátar (<ziyád-tar) “more”, şámamu\_táyin (<şah mahmud de-y-in) “Like Shah Mahmud”, nurudini (<nurid-din-ni) “Nuriddin’s”, mózúr (<mózdúr) “employee”, moysápílerini (<moysápíd-ler-i-ni) “the elders”, qocabavadin (<qocabahavaddin) “place name”.

### Drop of /ǵ/:

Ulu (<oǵulu) “her son”, toru (<toǵru) “corrent”.

### Drop of /ħ, h/:

In Arabic and Persian borrowed words ħ, h consonants are usually dropped. (Turan, 1999) This event is seen at the beginning, middle and end of the word: qandaar (<qandahar) “place name”, qarargaga (<qarargah-ga) “to headquarters”, ħanavala (<ħana-valah) “married”, aci (<hâci) “pilgrim”.

### Drop of /k, k/:

When the Dative suffix is used for a word that usually ends with /k/ or /k/ consonants, one of the twinned consonants is dropped. It is also seen that the /k/ consonant falls before the /t/ consonant or between two vowels in some borrowed words: qışlaqa (<qışlaq-qa) “to village”, qoturbi-laqa (<qoturbulaq-qa) “place name”, árılıqa (<aralıq-qa) “to middle”, askerlike (<askerlik-ke) “to military service”, ineke (<inek-ke) “to the cow” eşeke (<eşek-ke) “to the donkey”.

### Drop of /l/:

This event, which is one of the most chrysteristic features of the dialect of Eshkamesh district of Takhar province, is mostly seen in the /l/ consonants in the verb bases: qamadı

(<qal-ma-dı) “no more”, qaptı (<qal-ıp-tı) “left”, kı (<qıl) “do”, qıǵanı (<qıl-gan-ı-m) “i did”, qımayman (qılma-y-man) “i won’t”, añar (<âl-ı-ŋ-lar) “take it”, apkeñer (<al-ı-p kel-i-ŋ-ler) “bring it”, appardım (<al-ı-p bar-dı-m) “I transferred”, amasa (<al-maz-sa) “if he/she doesn’t take”.

### Drop of /n/:

When the load case suffix /-ni/ is added to the end of the word or suffix ending with /n/ consonant, the /n/ consonant of the load case suffix is dropped. This situation is almost certain. In addition, it is rarely seen that the /n/ consonant falls in and at the end of the word: ma-şunça (<muna-şu-n-ça) “this much”, bâr-eke (<bar eken) “there is”, qırmāni (<qırman-nı) “its blend”, soralmağanı (<sor-a al-ma-gan-nı) “that he/she didn’t ask”, tıramanı (<tirah-mah-nı) “the autumn”.

### Drop of /ŋ/:

This is detected in the word of maa (<maña <menge) “to me”.

### Drop of /r/:

In the dialect of Eshkamesh district of Takhar province, this event is abundantly seen both in Turkish affixes and words, and in Arabic and Persian borrowed words: qalasıla (<qal-ası-lar) “you will stay”, qoħsañ (<qork-sa-ŋ) “if you will be afraid”, qışla (<qeyş-ler) “relatives”, abdıraman (<abd-ur-rahman) “noun”, áǵa (<agar) “if”, bege (<bu yer-ge) “here”, gitegene (<gart-tekgene) “a little”, jege (<yer-ge) “to the ground”.

### Drop of /m/:

This is a sound phenomenon seen in words of havarça (<hamvar-ça) “flat ground”, top-unan (<top munan) “with the ball”, bilimen (<bil-me-y-men) “I don’t know”.

**Drop of /y/:**

қа~erge (<қа-yer-ge) "To where", амнеат (<ámniyet) "safety", айта~атир (<ayt-a yabtır) "says", бараaptı (<bar-a yaptı) "is coming", беşiz (<beş yüz) "five hundred", келеатır (<kel-e yap-tır) "coming", улеатка (<ulayat-ka) "to the province", yeleneатır (<yelen-e-yaptır) "pleading", áġá~innarġa (<aġa-iniler-ge) "to brothers", şörden (<şu-yer-den) "from here", şörge (<şu-yer-ge) "to there", üçüz (<üç yüz) "three hundred".

**Drop of /z/:**

This is an event seen in the word of izet (<izzet) "respect".

**Drop of /ع/ "ayın":**

The sounds of the (ع) "ayın" in words borrowed from Arabic and Persian fall in many words [: faal (<fa'al) "active", tazaru (<tazarru') "entreaty", şáfi (<şafi') "noun", saat (<sâ't) "clock", mavzunı (<mavzu'nı) "the subject".

The sound of (ع) "ayın" also seen that is preserved in some words: ma'lím (<ma'llim) "teacher", ma'límat (<ma'lumat) "information", mas'ut "noun".

**Results**

It's important to keep in mind that voiced consonants [b], [d], and [g] are not utilized at the end of words in Uzbek; instead, voiceless consonants [p], [t], and [k] are. For example, in Uzbek, the term "Ozod" means "free," whereas the word "Kitob-Kitop" means "book." One distinguishing feature of the English consonant distribution is that the posterior nasal consonant [ŋ] cannot start a word or syllable. (Yarqin, 2010) It is difficult to get rid of animosity toward words in Uzbek and English that terminate in a silent letter since some words are not distinguished from one another. There are word pairings in English, as SAD (sad, sorrowful) - [S1t], and CAB (crew) - [k1b], where the pronunciation of the final consonant determines the meaning of the word. Though they are rarely used in everyday speech, the suffixes "-er" and "-ness" added to the end of English nouns have phonological significance. The following pronunciation errors are common among Uzbek students when pronouncing English terms. 1) Elision is used, meaning that if the second word also begins with a vowel sound, the last vowel will be omitted: who is Basically, a vowel comes before or in between consonant groups: Incompetent [dumb] – [dumb], persevere [stay] – [astay;2] prosthetics and enettez, such as swimming [swim] – [suwim;3] The voiceless consonants [r'tem] and the English plosive consonants [b], [d], and [g] are surprising people in the neighborhood.

**Conclusions**

The phenomenon of language is dynamic and always evolving. Nevertheless, the orthography of a language is an immutable tool that cannot be modified for practical purposes. It is unnecessary to traverse the barrier in order to gain access to and modify scientific materials and carry out research. The availability of translators worldwide allows for the speedy translation of necessary scientific knowledge into our language. Throughout an extended period, our ancestors utilized the Arabic script as the foundation for the contemporary Uzbek orthography. Westerners translated and employed numerous important works from our forefathers into their own languages. In this particular case, our orthography presented no challenges for the translators. By seeking input from linguists and using the expertise of the academic, scientific, literary, artistic, and creative sectors in the country, the process of modernizing Uzbek orthography can be achieved with ease. (Yarqin, 2013) The procedure established a connection between the letters, organized the Arabicization, and greatly reduced the number of linear exceptions. However, there have been efforts to alter the Uzbek language and orthography, which are considered highly consistent and esteemed globally, by transitioning from Arabic-Uzbek spelling to Latin orthography. This act holds not only literary and linguistic importance, but also carries political ramifications. Both non-Uzbek speakers and visitors can easily notice this.

**Works Cited**

- Amini, M. K. (2013). A collection of poems the voice of exile, DOSTAN, Press Mazar-e- Sharif.
- Atayi, M. E. (2015). A short view at the history of Afghanistan. (J. R. Kamgar Trans): Kabul. Maywand Publishing House.
- Bashqaban, H., & Rasooly, A. F. (2023). A look at the orthographic challenges of Afghanistan's Uzbek language. Sprin Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, 2(11), 46–51. <https://doi.org/10.55559/sjahss.v2i11.184>
- Coşkun, V. (1999). "Türkiye Türkçesinde ünlüler ve ünsüzler.". TDAY Belleteri, S 42.
- Khayri, A. (2013). "Language Policies in Afghanistan.
- Labib, M. A. (2006). My feelings, my worries, collection of poems: Mazar-e-Sharif, Bakhtiyar civilaztion and pulishing Assiciation.
- Turan, A. (1999). The sound of hearts, vulume I, Pishawar, Assosiation, Makhdumqulı Firaqi publication.
- Yarqin, H. (2010). Kronology of Afganistan rhetoric prose. WordPress.
- Yarqin, M. H. (2013). History of Afghanistan Uzbeks: Kabul. Khorasan Publications.