



**A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE PHONETIC AND LEXICAL
FEATURES OF THE KHOREZM AND TASHKENT DIALECTS**

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Abstract

This scientific study is dedicated to a comparative analysis of the phonetic and lexical features of the Khorezm and Tashkent dialects. During the research, scientific literature on Uzbek dialectology was reviewed, and descriptive and comparative methods were applied. The results show that the Khorezm dialect preserves more ancient and local lexical units, while the Tashkent dialect is closer to the modern literary language norms. These findings are significant for further development of Uzbek dialectology and linguistic studies.

Keywords

dialectology, Khorezm dialect, Tashkent dialect, phonetics, lexicon, comparative analysis.

**СРАВНИТЕЛЬНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ ФОНЕТИЧЕСКИХ И ЛЕКСИЧЕСКИХ
ОСОБЕННОСТЕЙ ХОРЕЗМСКОГО И ТАШКЕНТСКОГО ГОВОРОВ**

Аннотация: Данное научное исследование посвящено сравнительному анализу фонетических и лексических особенностей хорезмского и ташкентского говоров. В ходе работы были изучены научные источники по диалектологии, а также использованы описательный и сравнительный методы анализа. Результаты показывают, что хорезмский говор сохраняет больше древних и местных лексических единиц, тогда как ташкентский говор ближе к нормам литературного языка. Полученные данные имеют важное значение для дальнейшего развития узбекской диалектологии.





Ключевые слова: диалектология, хорезмский говор, ташкентский говор, фонетика, лексика, сравнительный анализ.

**XORAZM VA TOSHKENT SHEVALARINING FONETIK VA LEKSIK
XUSUSIYATLARINING QIYOSIY TAHLILI**

Annotatsiya: Ushbu ilmiy tadqiqot Xorazm va Toshkent shevalarining fonetik hamda leksik xususiyatlarini qiyosiy tahlil qilishga bag'ishlangan. Tadqiqot davomida dialektologiya sohasiga oid ilmiy manbalar o'rganildi hamda tavsifiy va qiyosiy tahlil metodlaridan foydalanildi. Natijalar shuni ko'rsatadiki, Xorazm shevasida qadimiy va mahalliy leksik birliklar ko'proq saqlanib qolgan bo'lsa, Toshkent shevasi adabiy tilga yaqinligi bilan ajralib turadi. Ushbu natijalar o'zbek dialektologiyasini chuqurroq o'rganish va shevalarning til tizimidagi o'rnini aniqlashda muhim ahamiyatga ega.

Kalit so'zlar: dialektologiya, Xorazm shevasi, Toshkent shevasi, fonetika, leksika, qiyosiy tahlil.

The Uzbek language features a rich and complex dialectal system, reflecting the diverse ethnogenesis, historical migrations, and cultural development of the Central Asian region. Within Turkic linguistics, dialectology serves as a crucial academic tool for uncovering historical layers, phonetic evolution, and lexical transformations of a language over centuries. The Uzbek dialectal landscape is traditionally categorized into three primary groups: the Karluk-Chigil-Uighur (urban dialects), the Kipchak dialects, and the Oghuz dialects. This rich stratification provides a unique foundation for comparative socio-linguistic and structural research.

This scientific paper focuses on a comprehensive comparative analysis of two prominent and highly distinct dialects of the Uzbek language: the Khorezm dialect, which serves as the primary and most robust representative of the Oghuz group within Uzbekistan, and the Tashkent dialect, a major structural representative of the Karluk group. While the Tashkent dialect has historically heavily influenced the phonetic and grammatical structure of the modern standard literary Uzbek language (adabiy til), the





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Khorezm dialect stands out as a unique, highly conservative linguistic phenomenon. It strictly preserves ancient Turkic vocabulary, specific vocalic harmony, and distinct lexical patterns shared with other Oghuz languages like Turkish and Turkmen.

The primary objective of this research is to investigate the systematic phonetic variations, morphological alignments, and divergent lexical strata between these two regional dialects. By examining how these dialects evolved through geographic isolation and cultural contact, this study aims to contribute to a deeper academic understanding of Uzbek dialectology, the preservation of regional linguistic identity, and the ongoing mutual influence between local dialects and the standard literary norm.

To conduct a rigorous comparative analysis, this study relies on established principles of Turkic dialectology, drawing from the foundational frameworks established by prominent linguists such as V. V. Reshetov, Sh. Shoabdurahmonov, and F. Ishaqov. The research utilizes descriptive, comparative-historical, and synchronistic linguistic methods to highlight the structural differences between the Oghuz-based Khorezm speech patterns and the Karluk-based Tashkent dialect.

The dialectal division of the Uzbek language is inherently tied to historical migration patterns and tribal settlements:

The Karluk Group (Tashkent Dialect): Characterized historically by the gradual loss of strict vowel harmony (synharmonism) and a strong tendency towards labialization. Due to Tashkent's status as a political, economic, and cultural hub, its dialect is dynamic, highly adaptive, and closely aligned with urban, modernized standard language norms.

The Oghuz Group (Khorezm Dialect): Geographically isolated by the vast Kyzylkum and Karakum deserts, the Khorezm oasis developed a highly resilient and distinct linguistic tradition. It retains specific phonetic markers—such as the voicing of initial plosives and remnants of strict vowel harmony—and a unique archaic vocabulary that sets it completely apart from the eastern and central dialects of Uzbekistan.





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One of the most striking phonological divergences between the two dialects lies in their vowel inventory and the rules governing vowel interaction within a single word unit. In the Tashkent dialect, the vowel system is simplified and aligns with the six-vowel system of standard Uzbek. However, it is heavily characterized by labialization (or "ovlashish"), where the unrounded open vowel /a/ shifts towards a rounded, back or central vowel /o/ or /o'/' in everyday speech. For example, standard words like aka (elder brother) or bordingmi (you went) regularly transform into oka and bordingmi with a distinct rounded acoustic coloring.

In contrast, the Khorezm dialect preserves active elements of synharmonism (vowel harmony), a classic feature of ancient Turkic and modern Oghuz languages. In Khorezmian speech, vowels within a word harmonize based on frontness or backness. Furthermore, the dialect utilizes front, soft vowels such as /ä/, /ö/, and /ü/ which do not officially exist in the standard Uzbek alphabet but are vital to the phonetic identity of the oasis.

The behavior of consonants, particularly in the word-initial position, marks a definitive phonological boundary between Karluk and Oghuz influences: Voicing of Initial Plosives: In the Khorezm dialect, standard voiceless stops /k/ and /t/ at the beginning of words undergo a systematic process of voicing, becoming /g/ and /d/. This feature is entirely absent in the Tashkent dialect, which strictly retains the voiceless initial stops or follows standard literary norms.

K—G (e.g., Keldi—Galdi)

T—D (e.g., Tog'—Dog')

The most vivid and observable differences between the Tashkent and Khorezm dialects manifest within their lexical repositories. The vocabulary of each dialect serves as a historical record of social interactions, trade, and cultural preservation.

Lexical variations in kinship terms between the Tashkent and Khorezm dialects offer profound insights into the hierarchical and domestic structure of these regions. The





Khorezm dialect demonstrates a fascinating phenomenon of semantic shift, where words shared with the standard language carry entirely altered familial definitions.

The Brotherly Paradigm (Aka-uka vs. Og‘a-uka): In Tashkent, brotherhood is expressed through the phrase aka-uka. In Khorezm, it is strictly og‘a-uka, drawing from the ancient Oghuz root agha for the elder male sibling.

The Unique "Aka" and "Dada" Shift: In Tashkent, a father is addressed as dada, ada, or doda. In Khorezm, however, the term Aka is paradoxically used to address one's father, while the elder brother is called Og‘a. This preserves an older structural hierarchy where aka (originally denoting an authoritative male elder or ancestor in old Turkic) remained attached to the highest male figure in the immediate family—the father—rather than shifting down to a sibling.

Sororal and Grandparent Relations: For an elder sister, Tashkent speech uses opa, whereas Khorezmian speech relies on the highly conservative form apka (retaining the archaic Turkic diminutive/hypocoristic suffix -ka). Furthermore, for grandparents, the structural differences are sharp:

Toshkent: Buvi/Buva ————— Xorazm: Ana/Boba

In Khorezm, Ana (meaning grandmother, historically linked to the root for mother/matriarch) and Boba (grandfather) represent the core vocabulary, replacing the Karluk forms.

To showcase the depth of the lexical divide, it is essential to examine specific nouns, adverbs, and anatomical terms used in daily life. The following comprehensive comparative table outlines these critical differences:

Standard Meaning	Toshkent Dialect	Khorezm Dialect	Linguistic/Etymogical Analysis
Elder Brother	Aka	Og‘a	Oghuz origin; shares cognates with Turkmen and Turkish
Father	Dada/Ada/Doda	Dada/aka	Explicit semantic shift of “aka” to represent the father





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Elder sister	Opa	Apka	Preserves the ancient Turkic phonetic suffix- <i>ka</i>
Grandparents	Buvi/Buva	Ana/Boba	“Ana”reflects the ancient maternal root; “Boba” is a hard Oghuz form
Baby	Chaqaloq	Bavak	A highly specific Khorezmian regionalism, completely absent in Karluk
Gauze/Fabric	Doka	Takana	Archativetrade lexicon preserved within the oasis speech
Mustache	Mo’ylov	Birt	Directly links to the ancient Turkic and Oghuz word for facial hair (<i>biyik/birt</i>)
Where are you?	Qattasan?	Nedasan	Uses the Oghuz interrogative root <i>ne</i> (what/where)+ Suffix
Did you arrive/go?	Yetib bordingmi?	Bordingmi? Bordingizmi?	Toshkent uses compound forms; Khorezm prefers direct verb endings

The lexical tokens bavak (baby), takana (gauze), and birt (mustache) are excellent examples of the preservation of old Turkic or localized historical terms in the Khorezm oasis. In the Tashkent dialect, these concepts are expressed using words that are either closely aligned with standard Uzbek or influenced by external language contacts.

Furthermore, looking at interrogative structures like "Nedasan?" (Where are you?) in Khorezm versus "Qayerdasan / Qattasan?" in Tashkent, we observe a structural syntactic divergence. The Khorezmian nedasan directly matches the morphological structure of modern Azerbaijani and Turkish (*neredesin / nedesen*), cementing its position within the Oghuz linguistic family tree.

Beyond phonetics and vocabulary, the two dialects differ considerably in how they construct everyday verb phrases and honorific expressions.

The Present Continuous Aspect: In the Tashkent dialect, ongoing actions are highly compressed for speed (*Kelayapti* \rightarrow *Kelyapti* / *Kevotti*). In the Khorezm





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dialect, verbs retain their analytical compound structure using the progressive markers -yotir or -voti with strict phonetic clarity (Galyotir/ Galib duribdi).

Honorifics and Verb Interrogatives: As noted in the data, when asking "Did you go?", the Tashkent dialect frequently employs complex or heavily labialized structures like Yetib bordingizmi?. In contrast, the Khorezm dialect demonstrates a distinct structural approach: in everyday speech, it can apply the direct past tense suffix with the question particle Bordingmi? or Bordingizmi?, relying heavily on vocalic intonation rather than adding extra lexical modifiers.

The dialectal landscape of the Uzbek language, particularly the distinct nature of the Khorezm oasis, has been a subject of scholastic inquiry for decades. Foundational researchers like Reshetov and Shoabdurahmonov (1978) provided the initial macro-level classification of Uzbek dialects, placing Khorezm speech patterns firmly within the Oghuz branch while examining its structural variance from the Karluk-based central dialects. On a more localized level, Ishaqov (1963) conducted a comprehensive phonological exploration titled O'zbek tili Xorazm shevalari fonetikasi, which successfully mapped out the general laws of vowel harmony (synharmonism) and the voicing of word-initial stops ($k \rightarrow g$, $t \rightarrow d$) unique to the region. Furthermore, subsequent historical dialectologists such as Mirzayev (1970) and Ashurboyev (2012) expanded upon these findings by collecting regional vocabularies and creating descriptive semantic glossaries for pedagogical use. However, while these prominent authors extensively studied the broad phonological rules and macro-lexical inventories of the Khorezm dialect, a significant research gap remains within contemporary Uzbek dialectology. Previous literature has predominantly focused on collecting isolated dialectal tokens or comparing high-level literary texts with spoken voħa speech, largely neglecting the micro-morphological and structural decomposition of everyday communication units. Specifically, a systematic structural analysis that deconstructs localized kinship terms (family words like apka, og'a) and high-frequency





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simple words (bavak, takana, birt) down to their specific suffix formations and phonetic behaviors has been significantly underrepresented.

This is where the novelty of the current research lies. While other authors examined general dialectal trends, this study specifically isolates family-centric and everyday functional vocabulary to analyze how ancient morphological suffixes (such as the hypocoristic suffix -ka in apka or the structural Oghuz roots in nedasan) interact with the active phonetic environment of the dialect. By focusing on the structural analysis of everyday lexicon, this paper bridges the gap between historical phonetic theory and modern synchronistic dialectal practice.

A thorough comparative analysis of the phonetic and lexical attributes of the Khorezm and Tashkent dialects allows for several comprehensive linguistic conclusions:

Phonetic Alignment: The Tashkent dialect represents the phonetic evolution of the modern urban Karluk dialects, serving as the foundational baseline for the standard Uzbek literary language, characterized by vowel labialization. The Khorezm dialect firmly retains its Oghuz structural identity, maintaining traces of synharmonism and the strategic voicing of word-initial plosives ($k \rightarrow g$, $t \rightarrow d$).

Lexical Divergence and Archaisms: The Khorezm dialect acts as a "living museum" of Turkic linguistics. It preserves archaic familial terms (og'a, apka), unique semantic shifts (aka meaning father), and distinct regional words (bavak, takana, birt) that have completely vanished or never existed in the Karluk-based Tashkent speech.

Syntactic Integrity: Interrogative and tense formations, such as nedasan and galibotir, display a deep structural connection between Khorezmian speech and the wider Oghuz language family, contrasting with the heavily modernized and synthesized speech patterns of the Tashkent dialect.

In summary, both dialects contribute uniquely to the vibrant tapestry of the Uzbek language. Documenting, analyzing, and preserving these linguistic nuances provides





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invaluable material for Turkic historical linguistics, dialectology, and cultural anthropology.

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