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## THE NUMBER OF VOWELS IN THE UZBEK AND TURKMAN DIALECTS OF THE KHORAZM DIALECT ZONE\*

**Abstract:** The languages of Uzbekistan and Turkmen, which are historically part of the Oghuz group of Turkic languages in the Khorezm dialectal zone, share some similarities and some differences (isoglosses). Phonetics, which includes the vowel system, clearly demonstrates these similarities and distinctions. The phonological system of the Old Turkic language is known to contain 8 vowel phonemes. The preservation of similar traits in the vocalism of these languages differs due to historical evolution, influence from sister and non-sister languages (metization and hybridization), and other factors. Tajik and Uzbek dialects have been in close and constant contact, resulting in the intermingling of Tajik and Uzbek features in these dialects. Uzbek and Turkmen dialects belonging to the Oghuz group, which historically lived in the same area, have their own characteristics, which differ from other dialects of the Uzbek and Turkmen languages, and which are unique to the Uzbek and Turkmen dialects of this area. For example, under the influence of the Uzbek literary language, the back row, semi-labial, low-wide vowel *ā* began to be actively used in the Uzbek dialects of the dialectal zone. For example, like *ālīj*, *āmmavīj*. Accordingly, this vowel began to appear sporadically in the Turkmen dialects of the zone. The article provides information about the common signs of vowel sounds in the Uzbek and Turkmen languages of the zone according to the sign of quality.

**Keywords:** Uzbek language, Turkmen language, Khorezm dialectal zone, Oghuz dialect, Kipchak dialect, phonetics, vowels

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**ХОРЕЗМ ДИАЛЕКТИЛІК АЙМАҒЫНЫҢ ӨЗБЕК ЖӘНЕ  
ТҮРІКМЕН ДИАЛЕКТИЛЕРİNДЕГІ ДАУЫСТЫ  
ДЫБЫСТАР САНЫ**

**Аңдатпа:** Тарихи тұрғыдан Хорезм диалектілік аймағындағы түркі тілдерінің оғыз тобына жататын өзбек және түрікмен тілдерінде ортақ және әртүрлі аспектілер (изоглосс) бар. Мұндай ортақтық пен ерекшеліктер фонетикада, оның ішінде дауысты дыбыс жүйесінде айқын байқалады. Көне түркі тілінің фонологиялық жүйесінде 8 дауысты фонема бар екені белгілі. Туысқан және туысқан емес тілдердің тарихи дамуы, ықпалы (метизация және будандастыру) нәтижесінде бұл тілдердің вокализміндегі ортақ белгілердің сақталуы бірдей емес. Зерттеуімізде өзбек тілінің қалалық және қалалық типтегі диалектілерінің тәжік тілімен тығыз және тұрақты байланысының нәтижесінде бұл диалектілерде тәжік элементтерінің болуы, сонымен қатар тәжік тілінде өзбек элементтерінің болуы дәлелденді. Тарихқа көз жүгіртсек, бір аймақта өмір сүрген оғыздар тобына жататын өзбек және түрікмен диалектілерінің осы аймақтағы өзбек және түрікмен диалектілеріне ғана тән өзбек және түрікмен тілдерінің басқа диалектілерінен ерекшеленетін өзіндік ерекшеліктері бар. Мысалы, өзбек әдеби тілінің ықпалымен диалектілік аймақтың өзбек диалектілерінде артқы қатарлы, жартылай еріндік, аласа кең дауысты **ā** белсенді қолданыла бастады. Мысалы, *ālīj, ātmavīj* сияқты. Тиісінше, бұл дауысты дыбыс аймақтың түрікмен диалектілерінде оқтын-оқтын көріне бастады. Мақалада сапа белгісіне қарай аймақтың өзбек және түрікмен тілдеріндегі дауысты дыбыстардың ортақ белгілері туралы мәліметтер берілген.

**Кілт сөздер:** өзбек тілі, түрікмен тілі, хорезм диалектілік аймағы, оғыз диалекті, қыпшақ диалекті, фонетика, дауысты дыбыстар

**Introduction.** Despite having its roots in Uzbek linguistics, the idea of splitting dialects into dialectal zones was not developed until much later. The Uzbek language massif was separated into 11 dialectal zones and a-zonal regions by the research of A. Jorayev (Джуряев, 1991, 65). Prior to being divided into these zones, descriptive and areal methodologies were used to study the language and geography of Uzbek dialects. V.V. Reshetov,

Sh. Shoabdurahmonov (1962), A. Shermatov (1981), Y. Ibrohimov (2000), K. Muhammadjonov (1988), N. Murodov (2006), I. Darveshov (2019), Z. Ibrohimova (2009), and N. Rahmonovlar (2019) were there when these cases were decided. According to Djurayev (1991, 66), the fulfillment of the urban dialect's focal point receives the majority of emphasis in the dialectal zone. Based on the findings of the area-wide research, the dialect of the city is identified as the dialectal zone, where it predominates and continuously influences the dialects around it. The city's historically formed dialect, its distinct position as the hub of political, economic, and cultural activities, the participation of representatives of various dialects and languages of this zone, as well as their literary language, all contribute to the dominance of the city dialect. When residents of this city listen to speeches in their own dialect, it is evident that they pronounce some words in that dialect themselves. Thus the center of the Khorezm dialectal zone is the languages of the cities of Urganch and Khiva. The fundamental dialect provides the basis for communication between speakers of the Turkmen, Kazakh, Karakalpak, and Oghuz dialects as well as other languages in the dialectal zone.

**Methods.** The work examined the number of vowels in the Turkmen and Uzbek languages in the Khorezm dialectal zone (per A. Jorayev's zoning). Work will be implemented in the Khorezm dialectal zone (Urgench, Koshkopir, Shavot, Bogot, Yangiarik, Tuprokkala districts) in March-June 2022, and in the South Karakalpakstan districts (Tortkol, Ellikkala, Beruniy, Amudarya) in February 2023. During work, local Uzbek and Turkmen dialect spokespeople were interviewed, questionnaires were completed, and dialectological materials were gathered. As a result, changes resulting from the interaction of nearby languages and dialects in the following period were identified by comparing the vowel system of the now extant dialects with studies on the phonetics of Uzbek and Turkmen dialects in this region. The paper made good use of dialectometry, contactological analysis, descriptive, comparative, comparative-historical, and linguistic geography approaches.

**Results.** F. Abdulayev (1961) investigated the phonetics of the Uzbek dialects of the Khorezm dialectal zone (though not under the same term), and S. Arazguliyeu (1961) studied the phonetics of the Turkmen dialects during the 1960s of the previous century. Vowel phonemes in Khorezm Oguz dialects are i/i (i/ь), ĩ (ы), ı (ь), u (y), ü (γ), e (ə), o, ö (ə), a, ä (ə), according to scientist F. Abdullayev while in Kipchak dialects, there are 9 i/i (i/ь), ı (ь), u (y), ü (γ), e (e), o, ö (ə), a, ä (ə). (Абдуллаев 1961, 37). The phoneme ĩ (ы), as in Tatar, Kazakh, Uyghur, Karakalpak, and Nogai languages, has been decreased in Uzbek and has become a short pronounced ı (ь) sound,

according to Russian Turkologists B.A. Serebrennikov and N.Z. Gadjiyeva highlights (Серебренников, Гаджиева, 1986, 21). F. Abdullayev (Абдуллаев, 1961, 37) The phoneme **ĩ** (**Ы**) has historically been preserved in the Oghuz dialects, in contrast to the Kipchak dialects of Khorezm. It can be used in both root and word-formation and declension affixes (*γilaj, γirγ, xijal, γir, ajaγi, jatγi, a:diηiz, aliη*). It has standard short and long types that serve to distinguish meaning, as in Turkmen (*γiz, γi:z, γir, γi:r, iγ, i:γ / i:γ, ċiγ / ċix, ċi:γ / ċi:x*), as well as in root words in Oghuz dialects. Even if the meaning is the same, he attempts to demonstrate this by citing the long pronunciation (*γi:n, jaγi:n, mi:x / miγx, si:x*). Our expedition in the dialectal zone confirmed the existence of the phoneme **ĩ** (**Ы**), as noted by the scientist in the Khorezm Oghuz dialects.

The dialect of Tortkol Turkmens was divided into two groups by S. Arazgulyev, a scientist who studied the dialect of Karakalpak Turkmens (Аразкулыев, 1961, 21). The first group has 18 in terms of length-shortness in Turkmen dialects influenced by the Karakalpak language, and the second group is the impact of Uzbek language in Turkmen dialects which there are fifteen vowels in the note. The scientist observes that vowels are phonemes that can be either long or short, and that in Turkmen dialects belonging to the second group, there is no long version of the vowels **e** (**э**), **u** (**у**), **ü** (**ү**). Thus, based on the quality of the vowels, it is known that both groups of dialects have nine vowels (**i, ĩ, e, ä, a, ü, u, ö, o**). The phoneme **ĩ** (**Ы**) in Kipchak languages has been replaced by full **ı** (**Ь**). In monosyllabic and polysyllabic words, the phoneme **ĩ** (**Ы**) is reduced to short **ı** (**Ь**) before voiceless consonants. Additionally, the first syllable is open, the second syllable starts with a voiceless consonant observed when it comes between two voiceless consonants in an unstressed syllable (Nartyýew, 2010, 105). Turkmen dialects are known to have shortened and weakly spoken vowel phonemes (Амансарыев, 1970, 70). There are four distinct types of vowels in Turkmen dialectology, based on their length and shortness (Амансарыев, 1970, 67). There are four types of vowels: long, semi-long, regular, pronounced, and short (reduced, illogical). Let's address vowel pronunciation in isolation.

Scientist S. Arazgulyev, however, skips over discussing the Tortkol Turkmen dialect's short-reduced vowels. The Turkmen dialect of the area was arranged by the scientist in a broad, mostly descriptive manner, with consideration to phonetics, morphology, and lexicon. It appears that he had no intention of delving deeper into these topics. But the Turkmen dialect of the area was first classified by scientist A. Shikhiyev, who grouped the Bukhara Turkmen dialect, into three vowel categories: long, short, and reduced (Шихиев, 1996, 15). Turkic languages can be divided into three

categories based on how long or short a vowel is pronounced: long vowels, short (normative), and very short (Shcherbak, 1970, 47). Reduced vowels were found in the dialect of the Turkmen people living in the Khorezm dialectal zone, according to the findings of an expedition conducted there. It was discovered that, the reduction of narrow vowels (**i**, **ï**, **ü**, **u**) was **determined** in areal: *alarıs* (Tazabagh), *qıryıç* / *γıryıç* (Bezirgan), *βır* / *bır* (Kaltaminar), *bına:jı* (Atayurt), *orunı* (Kaltaminar), *körünér* / *görünér* (Tazabagh), as well as partially middle wide o and lower wide a vowels are lip-lab v and voiceless. Following consonants, it sounds weak: *qularqa* // *γularqa* (Amir Timur) *šo:rwó* (Kaltaminar), *juwaš* (Atayurt) *alača* (Sarimay), etc. In the Turkmen language and dialects, the vowel **ı** (**ь**) is not recognized as a separate phoneme, unlike the Uzbek language and dialects. Instead, its presence in spoken language is regarded as a phonetic phenomena. However, the extent of reduced vowel usage is growing because Turkmen dialects in the dialectal zone are heavily influenced by Uzbek dialects. It is possible to notice that some terms, such as *gäldı* / *gäldı* / *geldı* / *geldı*, are occasionally pronounced in two different ways: in the usual short and short-reduction cases (Shikhabad, Tazabagh). In locations with intermediate dialects, these cases are primarily common.

Regarding the vowel **ı** (**ı**), according to F.Abdullayev, it is more stable and precise at the beginning of words (absolute case) than the vowel **ı** in Central Uzbek dialects: *it*, *ilık*, *ilım*, *innä* (*needle*), *ijä* (*brother*). In the Tashkent dialect, this sound is steady and clear, unlike **ı** (**ь**) in words like *bır*, *bıräv*, *dıl*, *dıläk*, although it gets significantly weaker in the middle and at the conclusion of the word (Абдуллаев, 1961, 130). Contrary to the Tashkent and central dialects, the primary reason the scientist used the transcription symbol for the short-reduced variant of the vowel **ь** in Khorezm dialects was to differentiate the sign **ı** (**н**) in those dialects from the indifferent vowel, which is thought to be the outcome of the convergence of **ы** and **ı** was.

**Discussion.** It is noteworthy that for the next sixty years, the Uzbek literary language had a significant influence on the Oghuz dialects of Khorezm, leading to the vowel **ı** (**ь**) becoming an independent phoneme. Additionally, social events such interprovincial marriages also contributed to its development. Additionally, although if the scientist does not list the vowel **ı** (**ь**) as a distinct phoneme, we can see that it is frequently used in the terms included in the Khorezm dialect dictionary. We have a number of examples to support our claims.

1. The arrival position of vowel **í** is set. In some cases, such as *biz* > *bíz*, *siz* > *síz*, *bir* > *bír*, *bilän* > *bílän* / *vílän*, *nışätib*, the vowel **i** between lip and tongue consonants changes to **í**.

2. **í** is also seen in affixes, which broadens its range of applications. The **í** position is used to enunciate practically all affixes.

Regarding length-shortness, it is fair to categorise the vowel composition of the Uzbek dialects of the Khorezm dialectal zone into three groups, similar to the Turkmen dialects of Bukhara: short-reduced vowels, regular short vowels, and long vowels. The stage of reduction is noted in vowels other than the sounds **í**, **ı** in the dialectal zone of Uzbekistan. As an illustration, consider the upper, narrow, lipped vowel **ü**, **u**, which is sometimes pronounced reduced: *nä:čün*, *čüšümmädim*, *duradi*, *ɣulaɣ*, *suvar* the vowel **ü** is mostly found in the word's initial syllable, according to F. Abdullayev, and it is also employed in subsequent syllables alongside the consonants **v** and **m** (Абдуллаев, 1960, 39). It is clear that the vowel **ü** is pronounced in its shortened form in the syllables that follow. According to the scientist, the vowel **u** is sounded almost identically like **ı** in some instances, such as *vuna* (*u ja:na*), *qulaq* / *ɣulaɣ*, *ulaq* / *ulaɣ*, *put*, *uč* (Абдуллаев, 1960, 39). One might expect that when **u** is sounded closer to **ı**, this sound location will weaken, as the examples demonstrate. This position, however, is in the phonetic process; it is not active until the vowels **í**, **ı**. As a result, it cannot become a distinct phoneme.

High narrow non-labial vowels contrast phonologically with long vowels with standard short vowels and standard short vowels with extremely short or reduced vowels, according to general-specific properties. A.M. Shcherbak also notes that these vowels contradict one another (Щербак, 1970, 47).

<b>i:</b>	↔	<b>i</b>	↔	<b>í</b>
↓		↓		↓
<b>ï:</b>	↔	<b>ï</b>	↔	<b>ı</b>

As a result, there are 3 different types of vowels in the Khorezm dialectal zone that are distinguished by their length-shortness: normal short, long, and short-reduced (**í**, **ı**).

According to F. Abdullayev (1961), the semi-labialized vowel **ā** (ɔ) in Uzbek literary language and central dialects is a variation of the universal back vowel **a** in Khorezm dialects. This vowel has become more common in Khorezm dialects due to a variety of socioeconomic factors, particularly in

young people's speech. Words like *ālij*, *āmmavij*, *mīljān*, *nāgirān* which are frequently employed in literary language, demonstrate this. However, this vowel is not strong enough to be considered a separate phoneme. Furthermore, as the semi-labialized *ā* vowel is becoming more widely used in Uzbek dialects of the Khorezm dialectal zone, we can observe that this condition also occurs in Turkmen dialects of the dialectal zone, including *ālij*, *ālamšumil*, *Özbekistān*. The influence on Khorezm dialects, and therefore on Turkmen dialects, is lessening due to the Uzbek literary language. This means that this vowel sound only seldom appears in Turkmen dialects, mostly in active and possessive words when there is interreference in the speech situation.

According to F. Abdullayev (1961), Khorezm dialects occasionally use the sound *ɛ* between *ā* and *e*. However, our most recent observations indicate that this sound has entirely transitioned to *ā*.

**Conclusion.** Language (dialect) is a social phenomena that changes over time in relationship to society. The coexistence of speakers of one language (dialect) with speakers of another dialect in the same setting as a community, as well as the similarities in their respective cultures and lifestyles, all contribute to the formation of mutual characteristics in the languages and dialects. Language elements (isoglosses) from the first are absorbed into the second, or the other way around. Due to the influence of the Urgench and Khiva dialects on the surrounding Kipchak dialects as well as the Turkmen dialects, the Uzbek literary language had a significant impact on the Uzbek dialects of the Khorezm dialectal zone in the later period. This was due to the base dialect serving as the focal point between the Uzbek and Turkmen languages. Regarding the quantity of vowel phonemes (dialects), the following deductions might be made:

– the data reported by F. Abdullayev (1961) remains valid, although the short vowel *ı* in Khorezm Oghuz languages has evolved into a separate phoneme over time for a variety of sociocultural reasons. This can be attributed, first and foremost, to the influence of the nearby Kipchak dialects and the Uzbek literary language, which was developed on the basis of the Qarluq dialect;

– the vowel *ā* has a wider range of applications due to the considerable impact of Uzbek literature, however this does not reflect the phonemic level;

– consequently, the quality indication indicates that the number of vowels in Khorezm dialects might reach up to 11. There are nine vowels in Turkmen languages;

– while the usage of reduced vowels is growing in Turkmen dialects, they do not express the status of a phoneme, short-reduced vowels **ɪ**, **ʊ** in the dialectal zone of Uzbekistan have the status of a separate phoneme. The Urgench and Khiva dialects, along with the nearby Kipchak dialects affected by the Uzbek literary language, are responsible for this outcome;

– additionally, the **ā** vowel in the central-city dialects and the Uzbek literary language started to emerge in the Turkmen dialects of the dialectal zone.

	Front row		Front-middle row		Middle-back row		Back row	
	Unlabialize d	Labial	unlabialized	labial	unlabialized	labial	Unlabialized	labial
Narrow vowels	<b>i</b> , <b>í</b>	<b>ü</b>			<b>ĩ</b>			<b>u</b>
Semi-short vowels	<b>e</b>	<b>ö</b>					<b>ɪ</b>	<b>o</b>
Broad vowels	<b>ä</b>						<b>a</b>	<b>(ā)</b>

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**Öz:** Harezmiy diyalekt bölgesinde turki dillerin Oğuz grubuna mensup Özbek ve Türkmen dillerinde ortak ve farklı özellikler (izoglossalar) mevcuttur. Bunun gibi ortak ve farklı hususlar fonetikada, bu cümleden olmak üzere ünlüler sisteminde açıkça görülmektedir. Bilindiği üzere, eski Türk dilinin fonolojik sisteminde 8 ünlü ses mevcuttur. Tarihi gelişim, kardeş ve kardeş olmayan dillerin (metisasyon ve gibrizasyon) etkisi neticesinde bu dillerin vokalizminde ortak özelliklerin korunması aynı değildir. Özbek dilinin şehir ve şehir konumundaki ağızlarının Tacik diliyle yakın ve sürekli ilişkisi sonucunda, bu ağızlarda Tacik unsurlarının mevcut olduğu, bunun yanı sıra Tacik dilinde Özbekçe unsurların mevcudluğu araştırmalar sonucunda müşahade edilmiş bulunmaktadır. Tarihten bir arealde yaşayan Oğuz grubuna mensup Özbek ve Türkmen ağızlarında kendine öz özelliklerle birlikte Özbek ve Türkmen dillerinin diğer ağızlarından farklı, ancak bu arealdeki Özbek ve Türkmen ağızlarına mahsus özelliklere de meydana gelmiştir. Örneğin, Özbek edebi dili etkisinde bölge hududunun ağızlarında kalın (arka sıra), yarı duduklanan, aşağı-geniş ā ünlüsü faal kullanılmaya başlamıştır.

Mesela: *ālij*, *āmmavij* gibi. Buna göre, bu ünlü bölgenin Türkmen ağızlarında da sporadik (arasıra) rastlamaktadır. Makalede bölgedeki Özbek ve Türkmen dillerindeki ünlü sesbirimlerinin genel özellikleri hakkında bilgi verilecektir.

**Anahtar kelimeler:** Özbek dili, Türkmen dili, Harezmi dialekt bölgesi, Oğuz lehçesi, Kıpçak lehçesi, fonetika, ünlüler

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**Аннотация:** Языки Узбекистана и туркменского языка, исторически входящие в огузскую группу тюркских языков Хорезмской диалектной зоны, имеют некоторые сходства и некоторые различия (изоглоссы). Фонетика, включающая систему гласных, наглядно демонстрирует эти сходства и различия. Известно, что фонологическая система древнетюркского языка содержит 8 гласных фонем. Сохранение сходных черт в вокализме этих языков различается в зависимости от исторической эволюции, влияния сестринских и несестринских языков (метизация и гибридизация) и других факторов. Таджикский и узбекский диалекты находились в тесном и постоянном контакте, что привело к смешению таджикских и узбекских черт в этих диалектах. Узбекский и туркменский диалекты, относящиеся к группе огузов, исторически обитавших на одной территории, имеют свои особенности, отличающиеся от других диалектов узбекского и туркменского языков и присущие только узбекским и туркменским диалектам этой территории. Например, под влиянием узбекского литературного языка в узбекских говорах диалектной зоны стал активно употребляться задний ряд, полугубный, малоширокий гласный *ā*. Например, как *ālij*, *āmmavij*. Соответственно, эта гласная стала sporadически появляться в туркменских диалектах зоны. В статье приведены сведения об общих признаках гласных звуков в узбекском и туркменском языках зоны по признаку качества.

**Ключевые слова:** узбекский язык, туркменский язык, Хорезмская диалектная зона, огузский диалект, кыпчакский диалект, фонетика, гласные

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