

Classification Problems of the Azerbaijani Dialects

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Abstract

The article investigates the classification of Azerbaijani dialects. It shows that the study of the Azerbaijani dialects began in the 19th century. However, this work has become more widespread since the beginning of the 20th century. The prominent commentator of the classification, founded by F. Kocharli, B. Chobanzadeh, gave an outstanding speech by M. Shiraliyev. For the first time, he has grouped dialects and accents of the Azerbaijani with phonetic, morphological, lexical, and syntactic features, according to historical and geographical principles. The Shiraliyev's classification has been widely used in Azerbaijani linguistics for many years. Further development of the field of dialectology and extensive dialectological researches made it necessary to revise M. Shiraliyev's classification. After the 1980s, this issue became more relevant, and linguists like G. Dorfer, E. Azizov, B. Rasuloglu, L. Johanson, J. Heyet, and M. Mammadli conducted classification of the living Azerbaijani dialects in the North and the South have made valuable comments. Studies show that Azerbaijani dialects can be grouped into three main groups by their common characteristics: the North-east dialect; western dialect; southern dialect. These groups also include the voices of Azerbaijanis living outside of the Republic of Azerbaijan - Iran, Iraq, and Georgia. In addition, there are transitional and mixed accents in which some features of the two dialects show themselves.

Key Words: Dialects of Azerbaijani, Classification, Northeast dialect, Western dialect, Southern dialect

Azerbaycan Dili Ağızlarının Tasnifi Meseleleri

Öz

Makalede Azerbaycan dili ağızlarının tasnifi konusu incelenmiştir. Azerbaycan'da ağız arařtırmalarına 19. Yüzyılda başlanmıştır. Fakat bu arařtırmalar tam anlamıyla 20. Yüzyılın başlarından genişlemiş, bu arařtırmalarda bölge ağızların tasnifi konusunda da bir takım çalışmalar yapılmıştır. F. Köçerli, B. Çobanzade ile temeli atılan sınıflandırmayı tam anlamıyla ilk defa ünlü ağız arařtırmacılarından M.Şiraliyev yapmıştır. Şiraliyev Azerbaycan dilinin bir-birinden fonetik, morfolojik, sözcük bilimi ve sözdizimsel özellikleri ile ayrılan ağızlarını ilk olarak tarihî, coğrafi özelliklerine göre sınıflandırmıştır. M.Şiraliyev'in bu tasnifi uzun zaman Azerbaycan'da yapılan ağız arařtırmalarında kullanılmıştır. Sonraki yıllarda ağız arařtırmalarının genişlemesi ve yürütülen geniş diyalektolojik arařtırmalar Şiraliyev'in tasnifinin de geliştirilmesini bir zaruret haline getirmiştir. 1980'li yıllardan sonra bu konu yeniden gündeme geldi ve G. Doerfer, E. Azizov, B. Rasuloglu, L. Yohanson, C. Heyet, M. Memmedli gibi dilciler Kuzey ve Güney Azerbaycan'da yaşayan Azerbaycanlıların ağızlarını tasnif etmiş, bu konuda önemli görüşler ortaya koymuşlardır. Arařtırmalar sonucunda şunu söyleyebiliriz ki, Azerbaycan dili ağızlarını ortak özelliklerine göre üç başlık altında toplayabiliriz: Kuzeydoğu ağızları; Batı ağızları; Güney ağızları. Bu gruplar aynı zamanda Azerbaycan dilinin Azerbaycan Cumhuriyeti'nden başka İran'da, Irak'ta, Gürcistan'da konuşulan ağızlarını da kapsamaktadır. Bölgede geçiş ağızları ve karışık tipli ağızlar da mevcuttur. Bu ağızlar iki ağız grubuna has özellikleri taşımaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Azerbaycan dilinin ağızları, Tasnif, Kuzeydoğu ağızları, Batı ağızları, Güney ağızları


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Introduction

One of the most vibrant parts of the language is the accents. There are many ancient phonetic forms, words and language units that live in the history of the language. The lifestyle, occupations and traditions of the people are clearly reflected in the lexical units of accents. Nowadays, the influence of literary language is relatively small, preserved in remote areas, away from the alive and modernized lives of the megalopolis, where the ancient view of the language can be preserved.

The Azerbaijani belongs to the family of Turkic languages. "The Turkic languages are considered as branches of a tree. These branches are so powerful that each of them are independent language. Therefore, the question of whether they are the same dialect or the same language is still debatable (Heyet I book, 2011, p. 28). After the Turkic languages were separated, each one developed independently, and at the same time, there was a significant change in their vocabulary. But the common past of these languages is preserved in their dialects and accents. Along with very clear traces and evidence of the existence of Turkish accents, we have few facts about the essence, breadth and relationship of these accents. We can learn about it from ancient dictionaries, written monuments, and folklore. But the best source for this is modern accents. "For the first time, I.N.Berezin, who spoke in general about the classification practices of Turkish syllables. He incorporated the Azerbaijani language into the western group of Turkish accents in the territory prepared by him in 1848" (Arat, 1951, p. 74).

The dialects of the Azerbaijani language began to be studied in the late 19th century. Mirza Kazim bey provides some information about the Guba and Derbent accents in his "Grammar of the Turkic-Tatar languages" published in 1839 in Kazan.

In 1903 and 1904, German scientist Carl Foy in his article of "Azerbaijanische Studien mit einer Charakteristik des Südtürkischen" conducted research on the accents southern regions of Azerbaijan and also the Tabriz accents (Shiraliyev, 2008, p. 15).

The studies conducted during this period were not systematic in nature and were somewhat fragile.

Because the dialectology of Azerbaijan was not yet fully formed as a field of linguistics, and therefore the dialects were systematically based on certain common features and similarities, rather than in group studies. However, the classification of dialects of each language is one of the most important issues facing the dialectology. However, in order to systematize them as a whole, it is necessary to investigate all language groups first. In the linguistics of Azerbaijan this work has just begun.

Classification of the Dialects

A well-known Azerbaijani scholar Firidun bey Kocharli writes in his fundamental work "Azerbaijani Literature" about the classification of the dialects and accents of Azerbaijani in 1908 he developed his first version, and in 1911 his final version: "Azerbaijan Turks consist of Sheki, Shirvan, Salyan, Baku, Ganja, Gazakh, Karabakh, Iravan and Nakhchivan, located in the east and south of the Transcaucasia and the people who lived in the north-east of Iran. The people of every county here speak in a different dialect and in a strange accent. Each neighborhood and settlement has its own unique terms and words. The population of Karabakh and Gazakh is different, the people of Sheki are different, Shirvan, Salyan, Baku and Guba people are talking about another, while the people of Iravan, Nakhchivan, Tabriz, Khoy and Maku regions speak in non-accent" (Kocharli, 2005, p. 51).

In 1927, B. Chobanzadeh did not give a separate classification in the work of the "Turkic-Tatar dialectology", but also substantiated the previously given classifications, emphasizing the importance of paying more attention to historical features in the classification of dialects.

The study of the dialects and accents of the Azerbaijani, beginning with M. Kazim bey and K. Foy, continued by N. I. Ashmarin and B. Chobanzade, began to revive in 1945 in connection with the establishment of the Academy of Sciences of the Azerbaijan SSR.

During this period the dialects and accents of the Azerbaijani are beginning to be widely studied. Mammadaga Shiraliyev was at the head of these studies. He is the founder of the Azerbaijani dialectology, the founder of the school of dialectology and the author of numerous works in this field. M.Shiraliyev first classified the dialects and accents of the Azerbaijani in 1941 and grouped them in four groups based on historical and geographical principles: The Eastern group included dialects of Guba, Baku, Shamakhi, Mugan and Lankaran. This group had a number of phonetic, lexical, and grammatical features that

distinguished it from other dialects and accents of the Azerbaijani language, which also show more disturbance in words, substitute for the sound g in the middle with y (*düyün* (wedding) *düyün*, *düyümə* (button) *düyümə*, *iyənə* (needle) *ignə*, *əyri* (curved) *əgri*, and the bilingual pronunciation of four-dimensional artists (*aldı* (took) *aldı*, *yandı* (burned) *yandı*, *bildi* (knew) *bildi*). Western group - this group includes the dialects of Gazakh, Karabakh, Ganja. These accents are characterized by a number of characteristic phonetic events, such as substituting b for v (*abır* (honor) *avır*, *qurban* (sacrifice) *qurban*, *zərba* (hefty) *zərva* and c for j (*bacı* (sister) *bacı*, *qoca* (aged) *qoja*, *ocaq* (hearth) *ojax* the use of n (nasal nodes) (*mənə* (to me) *manə*, *sənə* (to you) *sanə*, *sonra* (after) *sonra*) that are used in the accents of many regions of Azerbaijan, and some of the features that are present in the form of the western region differentiates their accents from other ones.

The Northern group covers the accents of Sheki, Zagatala and Gakh regions of Azerbaijan. There are a number of sound substitutes, four types of painters, two types of writing, not subject to harmonious law (instead of *getmək* (to go) *getmax*, *deyəcəkdi* (he would say) *diyicəxdı*), in the literary language of Azerbaijan, such as pronounce *o*, *bu*, *elə*, *belə* as well as the use of *həblə*, *habu*, *bonnar* terms. The use of an ancient form as *gələ durur* (it stands) *baxa durur* (looks at) distinguishes it from other accent groups.

Southern group - this group includes the dialects of Nakhchivan, Ordubad, Tabriz and Iravan regions. In these dialects the voice ə is more widely pronounced. It is more pronounced in these dialects and is able to substitute a, e for different parts of the word (*qayış>qəyiş* (strap) *qayçı>qəçi* (scissors), *neft>nəfit* (oil), *deyil>dəyil* (not). A number of characteristic features also appear in the time painters.

This classification of M.Shiraliyev was the first experience in the study of Azerbaijani dialects and accents, grouped according to each other according to their phonetic, lexical and grammatical features. Therefore, this classification has been criticized by some researchers, indicating that this section does not fully cover the pronunciation of the Azerbaijani language. In fact, there were also some shortcomings in this area. However, this classification of M. Shiraliyev covers only the Azerbaijani accents, studied until the 1960s, and does not include the history of the Azerbaijani lands. Therefore, the Derbent accents, the Iraqi Turkmen murals, the accents in the Western Azerbaijan area, and many other accents in South Azerbaijan were not reflected here. Because the Azerbaijani is used not only within the borders of present-day Azerbaijan, but also in a wider area, which suggests that its dialects and accents cover a wider geography. M. Ergin defines the scope of our language as follows: "Azeri area covers Eastern Anatolia, North Caucasus and Caucasus Azerbaijan, Iran Azerbaijan, Kerkuk and Iraq-Syria Turks in terms of language geography" (Ergin, 1971, p. 8).

Some critics do not accept M.Shiraliyev's classification of the Azerbaijani into dialects and accents, suggesting that there are no dialects in Azerbaijani. However, in the historical development of languages, M. Mammadli writes that the borders of dialects correspond to the territory of feudal states. Therefore, this provision for the Azerbaijani is fundamentally wrong because the Azerbaijani people, who had a period of feudalism, had an ancient literary language and had an ancient city culture (Mammadli, 2019, p. 35). In general, despite some disadvantages, M.Shiraliyev's classification was the first in Azerbaijani dialectology to play a major role in the systematic study of dialects and accents.

His scientific novelty was also an experience for the Turkic peoples living in the former USSR. This practice was also used in the grouping of dialects and accents of these peoples, and on its basis the classification of their dialects and accents was also given.

In 1972, S. Chagatai wrote the Azerbaijani as a Caucasian accent and Iran-Tabriz accents, dividing the language into two groups, in addition to today's Azerbaijani literary language, the folk language was divided into many words and dialects. These antibodies, which have a variety of phonetic features similar to those of Anatolian dialects, are grouped into eastern, western, southern, northern and central (Chagatai, 1972, p. 5).

Well-known turkologist G.Doerfer wrote about dialects of the Azerbaijani in 14 groups in the article entitled "Azeri Turkish" in 1989. He writes: We can distinguish the following Azerbaijani dialects (Doerfer, 1989, p. 246):

1. Eastern group: Derbent, Guba, Shamakhi, Baku, Salyan, Lankaran dialects.
2. Western group: Kazakh, Borchali river basin.

3. Northern group: Dialects of Zagatala, Nukha and Gutgashen.
4. Southern group: Iravan, Nakhchivan and Ordubad dialects.
5. Central group: Ganja and Shusha dialects.
6. Dialects of Northern Iraq.
7. North-West Iranian dialects: Tabriz, Urmia, and Qazvin dialects.
8. South-East Caspian dialects: Galugah dialect.
9. Eastern Anatolian dialect.
10. The Qashqai dialect.
11. The same dialect.
12. Sonqur dialect.
13. Dialects south of the Sand.
14. Kabul Afshar dialect.

As one can see from the classification, G. Doerfer sought to cover the dialects of all the regions where the Azerbaijani was spoken, and made a broad classification. After a long interval in Azerbaijani linguistics, Elbrus Azizov again touched upon this issue in his book "The Historical Dialectology of the Azerbaijani Language" published in 1999.

When giving a new classification of dialects and accents of the Azerbaijani he writes: The local principle is based on the classification of Azerbaijani rather than the tribal signs. According to the local feudal lords that emerged from the 9th-10th centuries, factors for the local language diversity began to appear.

Signs of local dialect originated in these areas, and the main dialects are within the physical and geographical factor, in the three main regions - the left bank of the Araz river and the southern (southern dialect) of the Araz river (the southern dialect), between the Kura and the Araz rivers; in the north (north-eastern dialect) was formed gradually until the 18th century (Azizov, 1999, p. 283).

The research shows that Azizov, like his predecessors, grouped Azerbaijani dialects and accents on the basis of local principles for their specific phonetic, grammatical, and lexical features, and systematically showed the different features of each of these groups: The southern dialect ə is more operative, it often disrupts the harmonies of fine vowels, the use of vocal combinations such as av, ov, öv, the use of nasal vowels, the replacement of b with p; employment of the region's population is characterized by the presence of specific lexical units related to lifestyles. "These include the Tabriz, Ardabil, Urmia, Lankaran, Nakhchivan sects" (Azizov, 1999, p. 289).

The Western dialect differs from other words in the protection of the harmony of the vowels, the sound of the voice, the replacement of b with f, the shift of c to j, the present-day formulas in the form of -er, -or, -ör, and other lexical units. "This includes Karabakh, Gazakh-Borchali and Ayrım accent groups" (Azizov, 1999, p. 289).

In the North-eastern dialect, it is more likely to replace the sound a with the vowels e and o, to disrupt the harmony of the thick surfaces, to develop a velar voice, and to replace the sound with the most frequent noise. "This includes the Derbent, Guba, Shamakhi, Baku and Salyan groups" (Azizov, 1999, p. 89).

Apart from these groups, E. Azizov notes that there are transitional dialects and accents of the Azerbaijani, which were not reflected in the previous classifications, and that they were formed in the Sheki-Zagatala region, on the left bank of the Kura and Araz rivers and in the Mugan region. Transitional accents are located between the areas of different dialects and combine features of both groups. "These accents do not form a special vocabulary in the language, they are mixed in terms of language characteristics" (Azizov, 1999, p. 290).

Let's note that M. Shiraliyev also mentioned transitions in the initial version of his classification, but later removed and summarized his dialects in 4 groups. Some researchers also consider the Kars population to be a transient figure. Turkish scholars say Azeri Turks live in some villages in Kars. Their

accents are also the Kars Azeri people. This accent is a accent living on the other side of the border in Iravan and Nakhchivan, and on the other it lives in Maku. However, this dialects does not reflect the Kars Azeri accents in any way. Because it was greatly influenced by the whistle around accents (Oljay, Erjilasun, & Aslan, 1998, p. 13).

Indeed, the Kars accents have a transitional nature between the two related languages – Turkish and Azerbaijani language - where the elements of both languages are manifested in the speech of the local population.

This classification by E. Azizov was a completely new look at the dialects and accents of the Azerbaijani and could be considered a classification of modern dialects that were studied for a long time after the first classifications.

After studying Turkish dialects in South Azerbaijan for many years, B. Rasuloglu shows that there are nine dialects of Azerbaijani language: 1. Tabriz dialect; 2. The dialects of Garadagh; 3. The Speaking dialect; 4. Uyghur dialect; 5. Dialect of interest; 6. Ardabil dialect; 7. Chain dialect; 8. Hamadan dialect; 9. Khalaj dialect (Rasuloglu, 2002, p. 382). It is interesting to note that before and after the researchers who studied the Southern dialects of the Azerbaijani, neither Heyet, G. Doerfer nor L. Yohanson included the Khalaj language in the dialects of the Azerbaijani. Although some sources say that the language of the Khalaj living near Tehran in Iran is threatened by the destruction of their languages, the researchers of the population disagree with this view and think that this language is much more ancient than the Turkish language.

The general conclusion that G. Doerfer and his followers are more engaged in this issue is that the Khalaj language is not a dialect of the Azerbaijani (Tezcan, 1972, p. 256). “The Khalaj language, the first bough of the common Turkish after the Chuvash and Bulgarian languages is one of the independent arm of the Turkic languages” (Bozkurt, 1992, p. 415).

A well-known turkologist Lars Yohanson in his article “The Azerbaijani Language” published in 2006 refers to the dialect classification of the Azerbaijani, which states that the Azerbaijani covers several dialects. There are three major dialect groups here: the Northern dialect, the Southern dialect, and the Eastern Anatolian dialect (Johanson, 2009, p. 112). The northern dialect is spoken in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the southern dialect is spoken in the north-west of Iran, and the Eastern Anatolian dialect is spoken in the eastern part of Anatolia. The researcher divided each of these groups into subgroups, and collected all of them in the northern group except Tabriz, which we first met in M. Shiraliyev's classification. The southern group encompasses Azerbaijani accents on the territory of Iran - Tabriz, Urmia, Poultry, Khoy, Maragha, Marand, Oryantapa, Turkmenchay, Ardabil, Sarab, Miyana, Galugah, Karapapag, Khorasan. The third group includes Azerbaijani accents in Eastern Anatolia.

Professor J. Heyet writes about Azerbaijani that this language is the native language of Azerbaijani (northern and southern) and Turkic-speaking peoples of Iran (besides Turkmen). Iraqi and Kerkuk Turkish also belong to Azerbaijani. There are two dialect groups in the north and south in Azerbaijan. The northern group of Northern Azerbaijan is divided into eastern, western, northern and southern dialects. The southern group consists of dialects and accents of Tebriz, Maragha, Marand, Ahar, Khoy, Maku, Birkabad, Bajravan, Ardabil, Khalkhal, Urmia, Salmas, Zanjan, Sayinggala, Savujbulaq (Heyet II book, 2011, p. 24-26).

Although dialectology studies in Azerbaijan often do not address the issue of vocabulary classification and the study of syllables and syllables on the basis of M. Shiraliyev's classification, the Azerbaijani dialectology published by M. Mammadli in 2019 is a masterpiece by the Azerbaijani. M. Mammadli rightly believes that Shiraliyev's classification was limited in the last century, when dialectological studies were initiated in Azerbaijan, and his scope is limited and does not cover all the studied words and accents. That is why the author, again referring to this topic and citing E. Azizov's classification, summarized the dialects of the Azerbaijani in three groups: Northeast dialect (spoken north of the Kura river); Western dialect (spoken in the area between the Kura and Araz rivers); southern dialect (spoken on the left bank of Araz and south of Mughan) (Mammadli, 2019, p. 37). The researcher also notes that in the northwestern part of Azerbaijan there are mixed types of accents in the mountainous areas, north of the Kura river, in the southwest of Karabakh and in the Mugan region. In the Azerbaijani, there are intermediate or transitional accents that carry the signs of the various dialects on the border, and the Agdash, Goychay and Jabrayil accents are characterized as transitional accents. As for mixed types,

Mammadli considers Sheki, Oguz, Gakh, Zagatala and Balakan mixed types (2019, p. 40). These accents, along with the local signs of the Northeast dialect, also have the characteristics of southern and western dialects that are not directly related to the area.

Results

The aforementioned dialects of the Azerbaijani are intertwined with literary, lexical, grammatical facts that are not used in the literary language, and that each of the accents is unique. These facts are directly related to the history of the people, their traditions, the way of life. Because our nation is the nation with ancient history, rich material and spiritual culture, traditions. The language of such people, of course, is very old. Dialectology plays an important role in preserving the ancient features of this language and passing it on to future generations. Because dialects are more conservative against changes in language over time, and the oldest language events are preserved in the language of the people, in local discourse, even if they are out of literary language. From this point of view many interesting and ancient language facts related to the wealth of the people, the way of life, the occupation, the attitudes and traditions of the world surrounding it, and its customs and traditions.

Naturally, the oral language of one nation has different local features, manifesting itself in different shapes in different locations. This causes the emergence of various dialects and accents. Their correct classification and grouping make it possible to achieve more accurate results in dialectological studies. The dialects and accents of the Azerbaijani are a valuable treasure in finding solutions to many scientific and controversial issues, both in terms of history and linguistics.

Ethical Declaration

In the writing process of the study titled “*Classification Problems of the Azerbaijani Dialects*”, there were followed the scientific, ethical and the citation rules; was not made any falsification on the collected data and this study was not sent to any other academic media for evaluation. Since the document analysis is examined in this study, there is no requirement for an ethics committee decision.

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TÜRKÇE GENİŞ ÖZET

Azerbaycan dili Türk dillerinden biri olmakla onun ağızları bu dillerin eksi söz yapısını muhafaza etmektedir. Türk dillerinin ortak bir tarihi olduğu bellidir. Bu diller sonradan birbirinden ayrılarak her biri kendi gelişimini yaşasa da onların ortak geçmişi ağızlarda yaşamaktadır. Bu yüzden ağız araştırmalarının Türk dillerinin tarihinin öğrenilmesi açısından da çok büyük önemi vardır. Azerbaycan’da ağız araştırmaları XIX. Yüzyıldan itibaren yapılmaya başlamıştır. İlk önce Azerbaycan’ın Guba ve Derbent ağızları ve Güneyde yaşayan Azerbaycanlıların ağızları araştırılmaya başladı. Fakat bu araştırmalar dağınık şekilde, tek-tek ağızların öğrenilmesine yönelmişti. Zamanla incelemeler genişledikçe araştırmacılar yakın bölgelerde yaşayan insanların konuşmalarının benzer özelliklerini fark ettiler ve ağızların sistemli şekilde, benzer özelliklerine göre birleştirilerek gruplar halinde araştırılmasının çok daha iyi sonuçlar vereceği kanısına vardılar. Azerbaycan’da ağız araştırmalarının en geniş şekilde yapıldığı zaman Sovyetler döneminde, yani 1940’lı yıllardan sonra oldu. Dolayısıyla ağızların tasnifi konusu da bu zaman gündeme geldi. Özellikle 1945 yılında Azerbaycan Milli Bilimler Akademisi’nin oluşturulmasından sonra bu alanda çalışmalar daha da hızlandı. 1941 yılında Azerbaycan’ın ağız araştırmaları alanında en ünlü dilbilimcisi Profesör Memmedağa Şiraliyev ilk olarak ağızların tasnifini yaparak Azerbaycan dili ağızlarını tarihî-coğrafi

özelliklerine göre Kuzey, Güney, Doğu ve Batı olmakla dört ağız grubunda topladı. Profesör Şiraliyev'in bu tasnifi uzun bir zaman Azerbaycan diyalektolojisinde kullanıldı ve yapılan ağız arařtırmaları bu tasnif üzerinden yürütüldü. Bu tasnif ağızların öğrenilmesinde yeni bir dönem açmakla birlikte onun bazı eksiklikleri de vardı. Öncelikle M. Şiraliyev bu sınıflandırmayı yaptığı dönemde Azerbaycan dilinin tüm ağızları üzerinde incelemeler yapılmamıřtı ve bu yüzden de buraya Derbent, Irak'taki Azerbaycan ağızları, Batı Azerbaycan ağızları ve Güney Azerbaycan'daki bazı ağızlar dâhil edilmemiřtir. Fakat bu tasnif kendi alanında bir ilk olması ve ağız arařtırmaların yön vermesi açısından çok deęerli bir çalıřma idi. Günümüzde de yapılan arařtırmalarda bu tasnif kullanılmaktadır.

1989 yılında ünlü Türkolog Gerhard Doerfer Azeri Türkçesi adlı makalesinde yeniden Azerbaycan dili ağızlarının tasnifi konusuna deęinerek on dört gruptan oluřan yeni sınıflandırma yaptı. Bu sınıflandırma Şiraliyev'in tasnifine nazaran daha geniş kapsamlı idi ve arařtırmacı buraya Azerbaycan dilinin tüm ağızlarını dâhil etmiřti. Bu tasnifte ağızlar Doğu grubu (Derbent, Guba, Şamahtı, Bakı, Salyan, Lenkeran ağızları), Batı grubu (Gazah, Ayrım, Borçalı ağızları), Kuzey grubu (Zagatala, Nuha ve Gutgařen ağızları), Güney grubu (İrevan, Nahçıvan, Ordubad ağızları), Merkezî grub (Gence ve Şuşa ağızları), Kuzey Irak grubu, Kuzey Batı İran grubu (Tebriz, Urmiya Gezin ağızları), Güney Doğu Hazar grubu (Galugah ağızları), Doğu Anadolu grubu, Kařkay grubu, Aynallu grubu, Songur grubu, Gumun güneyindeki ağızlar grubu, Kabil Afşar grubu şeklinde sınıflandırılmıřtır. G. Doerfer kendi arařtırmasında Azerbaycan dilinin ağızlarının konuřulduęu tüm bölgeleri kapsamaya çalıřmıř ve bu konuda başarılı bir inceleme ortaya koymuřtur. Çünkü bu devirde artık bu bölgelerin tümündeki ağızlar incelemiřti ve bu da G. Doerfer'in arařtırmasında deęerli ve oldukça detaylı bir tasnif olarak sunulmuřtur.

Azerbaycan dilin ağızları üzerinde 1980'li yıllardan sonra daha geniş arařtırmalar yapılmaya bařlamıřtı. Bu zaman artık hem Azerbaycan sınırları içerisinde bulunan, hem de dięer ağızlar incelenerek diyalektoloji açısından önemli ve deęerli eserler yazıldı. Bu eserler sayesinde ağızların tasnifi meselesi yeniden gündeme geldi ve konuyu günümüz kořulları açısından inceleme artık bir ihtiyaç halini aldı. 1999 yılında Profesör Elbrus Azizov Azerbaycan dilinin tarihi diyalektolojisi eserinde yeniden tasnif konusuna deęinerek ağızların yeni sınıflandırılmasını yapmıřtır. Bu arařtırmada o da M. Şiraliyev'in arařtırmalarında olduęu gibi ağızları tarihî-coęrafi açıdan toplayarak çok fazla detaylara girmeden genel olarak üç grup halinde tasnif etmiřtir. Güney grubu (Nahçıvan'da içinde olmakla Araz nehrinin sol kıyısı ve Muęandan güneyde olan ağızlar), Batı grubu veya Orta grup (Kür ve Araz nehirleri arasındaki bölgelerde olan ağızlar), Kuzey Doğu grubu (Kür nehrinin kuzeyindeki bölgelerde olan ağızlar). E. Azizov kendi tasnifinde ilk defa bu grupların içinde bulunan ağızların her birinin birbirinden ve yazı dilinden farklı özelliklerini detaylı bir şekilde sunarak Azerbaycan dili ağızlarının hem tarihî hem de günümüzdeki durumu hakkında geniş arařtırmalar yapmıřtır. Aynı zamanda daha önceki arařtırmalarda deęinilmemiř bir konuyu da tespit ederek Azerbaycan dilinde geçiř tipli ağızların da olduęu tezini ileri sürmüřtür. E. Azizov'a göre bu ağızlar farklı ağız gruplarının arasındaki bölgelerde konumlanır ve her iki gruba ait özellikleri tařımaktadır. Buraya Şeki-Zagatala, Kür ve Araz nehirleri kıyısında, Muęan bölgesinde olan bazı ağızlar dâhildir. E. Azizov'un bu eseri ağız arařtırmalarında yeni bir dönemin bařlanmasına vesile oldu. Bundan sonra ağızlar daha geniş ve kapsamlı bir biçimde, aynı zamanda dięer Türk dillerinin ağızları ile karřılařtırmalı şekilde incelenmeye bařlandı.

2006 yılında Türkoloji alanındaki arařtırmaları ile tanınan Lars Yohanson Azerbaycan Dili adlı bilimsel makalesinde yeniden ağızların sınıflandırılması konusuna deęinerek burada üç ağız grubu olduęunu göstermiřtir. Kuzey grubu, Güney grubu ve Doğu Anadolu grubu. Makalede bu grupların her birinin içinde bulunan ağızlar ve onlar hakkında kapsamlı bilgi de sunulmuřtur.

2019 yılında Profesör Muharrem Memmedli Azerbaycan diyalektolojisi eserinde bir daha ağızların tasnifi konusunu ele alarak daha çok E. Azizov'un sınıflandırmasına istinaden ağızları Kuzey Doğu grubu, Batı grubu ve Güney grubu olmakla üç grupta toplamıřtır. M. Memmedli'nin tasnifinde de karıřık ve geçiř tipli ağızlar olduęu vurgulanmaktadır. Ağızların tasnifi konusunda yapılan arařtırmalar bu alanda sistemli incelemelerin yürütülmesi açısından çok önemlidir. Çünkü ağızların yazı dilinden ve birbirinden farklı özelliklerini belirlemek bu şekilde daha kolay oluyor. Azerbaycan'da yapılan ağız arařtırmaları günümüzde de Türk dilleri ile karřılařtırılmalı şekilde devam etmektedir.