

Phonetic System Of The Uzbek Language And Pronunciation Norms

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Abstract: This paper analyzes the phonetic system of the Uzbek language, focusing on its distinctive features and pronunciation norms. Based on the IMRAD structure, the study investigates the stability of phonetic units, the influence of dialects, and recent tendencies in pronunciation. The findings indicate that despite external influences, the Uzbek phonetic system maintains its national identity, while modern communication and media have introduced new tendencies in articulation and accentuation.

Keywords: Phonetics, phoneme, pronunciation norm, stress, intonation, literary language, orthoepy.

Introduction: The phonetic system of a language is its primary natural component, and the sound system serves as the fundamental semantic differentiator within a national language. The phonetic system of the Uzbek language historically relies on the common phonological model of Turkic languages; however, it is distinguished by its independent phonemic structure and national pronunciation norms.

The study of the phonetic system is of great importance in the development of language culture, orthoepy, and speech etiquette. In the modern Uzbek pronunciation system, the influence of dialects, the Russian language, and mass media has significantly increased.

Therefore, the purpose of this article is to analyze the phonetic system of the Uzbek language on a scientific basis, identify the developmental stages of pronunciation norms, and highlight the phonetic changes observed in modern speech processes.

The relevance of this study is determined by the growing need to scientifically analyze global phonetic standards, pronunciation culture in the education process, and orthoepic errors in mass media.

METHODS

This research was conducted in accordance with the IMRAD model. The following scientific approaches were used:

- **Phonological analysis** — identifying the distinctive features of phonemes in Uzbek;
- **Comparative-historical method** — studying the relationship between the ancient Turkic and modern Uzbek sound systems;
- **Orthoepic analysis** — comparing pronunciation norms with their status in the literary language;
- **Experimental phonetic method** — determining acoustic parameters of speech sounds (intonation, stress, rhythm).

The following sources were utilized:

- Uzbek Language Phonetics (A. Madrahimov, 2023)
- Cyberleninka.ru
- ResearchGate
- Uzbek Orthoepic Dictionary (Tashkent, 2020)
- Arxiv.uz — Orthoepy and Pronunciation Norms

RESULTS

1. Phonetic system of the Uzbek language

The phonetic system of Uzbek is composed of 6 vowel phonemes and

23 consonant phonemes.

Vowels: a, e, i, o, u, o' — each distinguished according

to the features of lip rounding and openness.

Among consonants, there are oppositions of hardness–softness and voiced–voiceless distinctions, e.g., b–p, d–t, g–k, j–ch.

2. Stress and intonation system

In Uzbek, stress typically falls on the final syllable, e.g.: kitob, muallim, universitet.

However, due to Russian and English influence, stress shifts occur in certain words: telefon, kompyuter, internet.

Intonation conveys the speaker's emotional state; in imperative, interrogative, and exclamatory sentences, pitch variation determines semantic differentiation.

3. Pronunciation norms

Orthoepy refers to the correct and standardized pronunciation of words.

Examples:

- xalq [xalʏ]
- do'st [dʊst]
- kitob [kitab]
- tong [ton]

Norm violations are observed in:

- dialectal influence (e.g., kelayapti → kelayatti)
- Russian stress patterns (e.g., télefon instead of telefon)
- exaggerated lengthening (aaa...lbatta)

4. Modern tendencies

- English pronunciation models are entering the language through media (project, context, format, etc.).
- Youth speech shows increased abbreviations and orthoepic simplification (bo'ladi → boladi, narsa → narsa').
- Speech technologies (AI, Google Voice, ChatGPT) create new opportunities to standardize pronunciation norms.

DISCUSSION

The phonetic system of Uzbek is stable yet dynamic. It develops on the basis of historical roots and Turkic phonological structure. However, global linguistic influence, migration, education, and media are gradually reshaping phonetic norms.

According to Madrahimov (2023), "modern pronunciation culture must become a social mechanism that normalizes phonetic changes." In this regard, orthoepic dictionaries and standardized pronunciation in schools and media play a crucial role.

Additionally, dialectal variation demonstrates the

richness of the phonetic system; however, when it contradicts literary pronunciation norms, it reduces speech culture.

In modern linguistics, pronunciation norms are studied as not only linguistic but also socio-psychological phenomena.

CONCLUSION

1. The phonetic system of the Uzbek language is characterized by historical stability and national uniqueness.
2. Vowel and consonant phonemes play a distinctive semantic role in speech production.
3. Preserving pronunciation norms is essential for maintaining orthoepic culture.
4. Global languages, media, and technology contribute to new changes in pronunciation.
5. The application of acoustic and experimental methods provides clarity in establishing orthoepic norms.
6. The stable development of the phonetic system is a key factor in preserving the richness of the Uzbek literary language and national culture.

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