

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Stages of Development of The Uzbek Language

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Abstract

This article analyzes the formation and stages of development of the Uzbek language from a historical-linguistic perspective. It scientifically examines the developmental processes from the period of the Old Turkic language to the Old Uzbek literary language and the modern Uzbek literary language. The article also discusses the political, cultural, and social factors that influenced language development. Written in accordance with IMRAD requirements, the article systematically presents the research methods, results, and discussion.

KEY WORDS

Uzbek language, Turkic languages, Old Uzbek language, literary language, language development, linguistics.

INTRODUCTION

The Uzbek language belongs to the Turkic language family and has a long history of development. Language is considered an important means of reflecting a nation's culture, worldview, and history. The formation of the Uzbek language began in the period of ancient Turkic tribes and has continued up to the present stage of the modern literary language. Each historical stage contributed to the enrichment of the language's vocabulary, grammatical structure, and stylistic possibilities.

In today's era of globalization, studying the history of the development of the Uzbek language is significant not only from a scientific point of view but also from cultural and spiritual perspectives. Therefore, this article analyzes the main stages of development of the Uzbek language on the basis of scholarly sources.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The study of the formation and stages of development of the Uzbek language is considered one of the important research areas in Turkology and historical linguistics. Numerous studies have been conducted on this topic by local and foreign

scholars, in which the developmental processes of the Uzbek language from the ancient Turkic period to the level of the modern literary language have been analyzed from various perspectives.

The issues related to the historical development of Turkic languages were initially studied on a scientific basis by Russian Turkologists such as V.V. Radlov, A.N. Samoylovich, and S.E. Malov. Their studies examined the phonetic, lexical, and grammatical features of ancient Turkic written monuments and identified the general patterns of development of Turkic languages. In particular, the study of the language of the Orkhon-Yenisei inscriptions is regarded as an important scholarly source for understanding the influence of the Old Turkic language on the modern Uzbek language.

Among local linguists, the works of A.N. Kononov, G. Abdurahmonov, Sh. Shoabdurahmonov, A. Rustamov, and N. Mahmudov are considered important sources in studying the stages of formation of the Uzbek literary language. In particular, G. Abdurahmonov thoroughly investigated the grammatical and stylistic features of the Old Uzbek literary

language. By analyzing the linguistic features of Alisher Navoi's works, the scholar scientifically substantiated the norms of the Uzbek literary language of the 15th century.

In 20th-century linguistics, issues related to the development of the Uzbek language were studied more extensively. In particular, research was conducted on Soviet-era language policy, script reforms, and terminological changes. In this regard, the works of E.D. Polivanov and A.K. Borovkov are of great importance. They studied the phonetic system, dialects, and literary norms of the Uzbek language.

During the period of independence, the status of the Uzbek language as the state language, national language policy, and modern stages of development began to be studied on the basis of new scientific approaches. N. Mahmudov, B. Yo'ldoshev, and other contemporary linguists are conducting research on current trends in the development of the Uzbek language, its role in the process of globalization, and issues of language culture.

METHODOLOGY

This study employed historical-comparative, descriptive, and linguistic analysis methods. Scholarly literature, historical written sources, and the views of linguists related to the development of the Uzbek language were examined. In addition, scientific studies on the history of Turkic languages were analyzed from a comparative perspective.

In addition, through the descriptive method, the linguistic units, grammatical norms, and lexical layers characteristic of each stage of development of the Uzbek language were explained. This method played an important role in revealing the internal laws of language development.

The article also employed the method of linguistic analysis. Through this method, the influence of Arabic, Persian, and Russian on the Uzbek language, the role of borrowed words in language development, and the process of the introduction of new terms in the modern period were studied. The socio-political factors that contributed to the enrichment of the language were also analyzed from a scientific perspective.

During the research process, the method of studying and generalizing scholarly sources was also used. Scientific literature, monographs, articles, and dictionaries created by Uzbek linguists were examined, and their scholarly views were systematized. The collected data were analyzed, and general conclusions were drawn.

Furthermore, the article applied a systematic approach. With the help of this method, the stages of development of the Uzbek language were studied as an interconnected historical process. The political, cultural, and social factors that influenced language development were examined comprehensively.

The methodological basis of the study consists of historical and modern theories of linguistics, scholarly concepts related to the development of Turkic languages, and the scientific views of Uzbek linguists. On this basis, the article presents the stages of development of the Uzbek language in a scientific and logically consistent manner.

RESULTS

As a result of the study, it was determined that the development of the Uzbek language can be divided into the following main stages:

1. The period of the Old Turkic language

This period covers the 6th–10th centuries. During this stage, the common language of Turkic peoples was formed, and the Orkhon-Yenisei inscriptions are considered the most important written monuments of this period. The phonetic and grammatical system of the language was relatively simple. It was also found that polysemy was less common in the language of this period, while the grammatical system was comparatively simple. During the study, it was scientifically substantiated that the Old Turkic language served as the initial linguistic foundation of the Uzbek language.

2. The period of the Middle Turkic language

This period, covering the 11th–14th centuries, witnessed the development of the Turkic literary language. Yusuf Khas Khajib's *Qutadghu Bilig* and Mahmud Kashgari's *Divanu Lughat at-Turk* occupy an important place in the history of the language. During this period, the influence of Arabic and Persian began to intensify. Yusuf Khas Khajib's *Qutadghu Bilig* had a significant impact on the formation of literary language norms. It was observed that the increase in terms related to science, culture, and religion expanded the stylistic possibilities of the language during this period.

3. The period of the Old Uzbek literary language

The 14th–19th centuries are considered the period of the Old Uzbek literary language. This stage is closely connected with the works of Alisher Navoi. Through his works, Navoi proved

that the Turkic language was a rich and fully developed literary language. During this period, the vocabulary of the Uzbek language expanded significantly. The analysis showed that although Arabic and Persian had a strong influence on the Old Uzbek language, national linguistic elements retained their leading position. This contributed to the formation of Uzbek as an independent literary language.

4. The modern Uzbek literary language

Beginning in the 20th century, a new stage in the development of the Uzbek language started. Orthographic rules and grammatical norms of the language were established. During the years of independence, the granting of state language status to Uzbek became an important factor in its development. Today, the Uzbek language is widely used in science, education, and mass media.

During the years of independence, the status of Uzbek as the state language was strengthened. The transition to the Latin script was regarded as one of the important stages in the development of the language. At present, it has been observed that the vocabulary of the language is becoming increasingly enriched under the influence of the Internet and mass communication media.

DISCUSSION

The stages of development of the Uzbek language are closely connected with the historical development of the Uzbek people. Each period gave rise to new linguistic features. In particular, during the period of Alisher Navoi, the Uzbek literary language reached a high stage of development. While the influence of Russian on the language intensified during the Soviet period, national language policy developed after independence.

The study once again confirmed that the Old Turkic language was the initial foundation of the Uzbek language. The preservation of many linguistic units found in the Orkhon-Yenisei inscriptions in modern Uzbek demonstrates the historical continuity of the language. This fact scientifically supports the idea that Turkic languages share a common root. At the same time, it was determined that the gradual separation of Uzbek from other Turkic languages and its formation as an independent language were the result of a long historical process.

During the discussion, the role of the Middle Turkic period in the development of the Uzbek literary language was especially

emphasized. During this period, the development of science, culture, and religious thought enriched the vocabulary of the language. Although the borrowed lexical layer from Arabic and Persian expanded the scientific and literary possibilities of the language, in some cases it also led to the emergence of complex stylistic forms. Nevertheless, the main grammatical system of the Turkic language was preserved.

The period of Alisher Navoi was assessed as a turning point in the development of the Uzbek language. In his works, Navoi was able to demonstrate the aesthetic and literary potential of the Turkic language at a high level. In particular, his work *Muhokamat ul-lug'atayn* is significant because it scientifically and artistically substantiated that the Turkic language was not inferior to Persian. This played an important role in the formation of the Uzbek literary language as an independent and fully developed language.

During the Soviet period, the development of the Uzbek language appeared as a complex process. On the one hand, the grammatical norms of the language were systematized, literacy increased, and the scientific style developed. On the other hand, as a result of the strong influence of Russian, many foreign terms entered the language. Although this process expanded the vocabulary of the Uzbek language, it also caused some national linguistic elements to fall out of use.

During the period of independence, the granting of state language status to Uzbek significantly increased its social prestige. Within the framework of state policy, important reforms were carried out to develop the language, improve spelling rules, and transition to the Latin script. The results of the study show that this process is contributing to the growth of the prestige of the Uzbek language in the international arena.

In addition, globalization and the development of information technologies are having a significant impact on modern Uzbek. New terms and expressions are entering the language through the Internet, social networks, and mass communication media. Although this indicates that the language is adapting to modern needs, in some cases it leads to violations of literary language norms. Therefore, preserving language culture, strengthening national language norms, and regulating new terms on a scientific basis are among the most important tasks.

As a result of the discussion, it was determined that the development of the Uzbek language is a continuous and

complex historical process. Political systems, cultural relations, religious views, and the development of science have served as important factors in the development of the language. Therefore, the in-depth study of the Uzbek language is of great scientific importance not only for linguistics but also for history, cultural studies, and literary studies.

Today, the process of globalization is causing new terms to enter the Uzbek language. This enriches the lexical layer of the language while also creating certain problems. For this reason, preserving and developing language norms remains an urgent task.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Uzbek language is one of the rich and ancient languages that has passed through a long path of historical development. Each stage of its development has played an important role in shaping its present modern state. At present, the international prestige of the Uzbek language is increasing. Preserving it, studying it scientifically, and transmitting it to the younger generation are among the most important tasks.

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