

The 1920s Problem of Periodizing Uzbek Linguistics' Historical Narrative

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Abstract: The article examines the language concerns that were discussed in the 1920s in the periodical "Maarif va okitguchi". It was discussed whether or not to periodize the development of Uzbek linguistics. Studies have been done on this topic in scientific literature.

Keywords: linguistics, language history, periodization, philosophical, literary, development, world science, language philosophy, source, "Maarif va okitguchi" magazine.

The history of Uzbek linguistics has been marked by several phases of growth. It was expressed in literary, philosophical, and occasionally works expressly devoted to the subject. Our present sophisticated linguistics is built upon the linguistics of the past, which evolved as a branch of global science.

It is noteworthy that throughout the 1920s of the previous century, linguistics became a crucial topic that directly affected people's ability to read and write. The question of writing a textbook was taken into consideration at the time's policy level. [1, 2]

Specifically, as we have shown, Uzbek linguistics has gone through many complicated historical periods, therefore identifying the phases of its evolution is still a pressing problem for our discipline. "History of Uzbek Linguistics" by A. Nurmonov is still the earliest and best work in this topic. This is the first work where the Uzbek language knowledge is dated. Although A. Nurmonov does not go into great detail on periodization principles, the book's content makes this evident. According to A. Nurmonov, "the period of formation and development of Uzbek linguistics" is the most promising time frame. Indeed, there was a lot of discussion during this time. Rather than examining a single source, A. Nurmonov covered the Uzbek linguistics of this era by concentrating on all the topics related to the philosophy of language, the period's policies on language and spelling, as well as the theoretical issues of theology, the direction of his scientific research was directed to the goal he chose. [3]

Researchers have looked at the most significant issues surrounding the vast body of study on the history of Uzbek linguistics.

Q.A. Kadirov focused on the nature of the studies conducted during this time and categorized them into three groups based on his specialization in 1920s linguistics:

1. Studies that focus on the broad analysis of literary works from a certain era.
2. Research focused on examining the background of a certain linguist.
3. Works devoted to a basic overview and investigation of Uzbek language. In [4]

Our research aligns with the initial study in the series presented by Q.A. Kadirov; however, the source is tangible.

As was previously noted, the periodical "Maorif va oqitguchi" is credited with conducting the first scientific investigation of the Uzbek language difficulties while addressing the pre-independence era.

The assertion that Uzbek linguistics emerged and was tested in the 1920s of the previous century is accurate. 1. The intellectuals in Central Asia began to feel more conscious of their national identity at this time, as noted by Nurmanov [3], and this led to an effort to develop a national literature and language. A lot of people talked about these topics, particularly in the modern media. According to historical sources: "... it should be noted that at the beginning of the 20th century, creative freedom prevailed in the field of culture and art, in general, in all fields, although to a certain extent" .[5] As previously noted, in this context, newspapers like Tarqqi, Samarkand, Sadoi Turkistan, Sadoi Ferghana, Sharq Haqiqat, Inqilob, Yangi Yol, Er Yuzi, and Alanga were published in the 1920s. Literature and creative journals like "Bilim Ochogi" and "Maorif va Okitguchi" drew public attention and allowed for open discussion on topics like writing, scientific concerns with the Uzbek language, and language policy at the time. The journal "Education and Teacher" in particular started to publish a lot of articles on scientific and practical aspects of the Uzbek language. One may argue that this periodical addressed the key questions of Uzbek linguistics in the 1920s.

The 1920s posed a unique challenge for scholars of Uzbek linguistics as they grappled with the task of periodizing the historical narrative of the language. During this time, Uzbekistan was undergoing a period of intense political and cultural transformation under Soviet rule, which had significant implications for the study of the Uzbek language.

One key issue that researchers faced was the question of how to divide the history of Uzbek linguistics into distinct periods. Prior to the 1920s, Uzbek scholars had largely followed a traditional periodization that divided the language's history into pre-Islamic, Islamic, and modern periods. However, the political and social upheaval of the Soviet era called into question the validity of this traditional approach.

Some scholars argued that the Soviet period represented a radical break with the past and therefore required a new periodization scheme. They suggested dividing Uzbek linguistic history into pre-Soviet, Soviet, and post-Soviet periods, arguing that the Soviet era had fundamentally transformed the language through the imposition of Cyrillic script and the promotion of Russian as the dominant lingua franca.

Others pushed back against this idea, arguing that the Soviet period should not be seen as a completely distinct phase but rather as a continuation and development of earlier linguistic trends. They emphasized the influence of the Arabic and Persian languages on Uzbek and rejected the idea of a sharp divide between pre- and post-Soviet language development.

Ultimately, the debate over periodizing Uzbek linguistics in the 1920s reflected broader questions about the nature of linguistic identity and continuity in the face of political change. Scholars grappled with the tension between preserving traditional language forms and scripts and embracing the new linguistic norms imposed by the Soviet government.

The 1920s problem of periodizing Uzbek linguistics' historical narrative highlights the complex interplay of politics, culture, and identity in the study of language. As scholars continue to explore these issues, they will undoubtedly uncover new insights into the history and evolution of the Uzbek language.

Examining the development of Uzbek linguistics in the 1920s was connected to the situation of linguistics at that time. We believe that around this time, the early traditions of Russian linguistics and the traditions of Arabic linguistics were combined. Also demonstrating this are the linguistics pieces in Maarif va Okitguchi magazine.

As a result, the magazine is without a doubt one of the key resources for researching 1920s linguistics. Notable is Q.A. Kadirov's investigation into the origins of linguistics at this era.

Furthermore, Q.A. Kadirov keeps considering the origins of Uzbek linguistics in the 1920s. He starts by presenting the writings of two groups of people: 1) intellectuals from the region, 2) Russian scientists, and 3) newspaper and magazine articles concerning the Uzbek language.[4] Since the periodical press has an edge over other publications in communicating thoughts and opinions, we have chosen to highlight the significance of the press during this time, since this perspective is reasonable. Maarif va oqitguchi magazine is not an exception, of course.

It is well recognized that scientific journals continue to be the primary trustworthy print medium for reporting on current scientific findings. The most cutting-edge and important articles of the period were published in Maarif va oqitguchi magazine, which was not granted such a status at the time despite their scientific worth. Their research first helps to visualize the linguistics of that era and then assists in identifying certain topics in Uzbek linguistics that need clarification in light of historical demands.

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