



SIMILARITIES BETWEEN TURKISH AND UZBEK

Zebo Fazliddinova

Teaching Assistant Journalism and
Mass Communications University of Uzbekistan
zebo.apply@gmail.com

Abstract

The oldest alphabet of Turks as known Gokturk alphabet. We can see this alphabet on the monuments of Orhon, Yenisev and Talas which are presently in Mongolia. These monuments were erected in 8th century. After the waning of the Gokturk state, the Uighurs produced a new alphabet named Uighur. By the time Turks adopt Arabic, Krill and Latin alphabets depends on religious or political reason. Turkish and Uzbek are two languages that belong to the Turkic language family. Both languages share similar linguistic features due to their common historical and cultural background. In this article, we will explore the similarities between Turkish and Uzbek in terms of their phonetics, vocabulary, grammar, and syntax.

Keywords: *Turkish, Uzbek, similiaeities between Turkihs and Uzbek*

Letters and Sounds in Uzbek

Phonetics:

Turkish and Uzbek have similar vowel systems consisting of five vowels: a, e, i, o, u. Both languages have front vowels (i, e) and back vowels (u, o). However, Uzbek has an additional vowel sound ö which is not found in Turkish. Consonants are also similar in both languages with some slight differences such as the pronunciation of "j" in Uzbek which is closer to "zh" sound in English. There are 30 sounds in Uzbek: 6 vowels and 24 consonants. However, there are 29 letters in the alphabet. 6 letters represent vowels and 23 letters represent consonants. The letter **J** is used for the sounds /dʒ/ as in English *journal* and /ʒ/ as in English *treasure*.

Vowels:

A E I O U O'

Consonants:

B D F G H J K L M N P Q R S T V X Y Z G' Sh Ch Ng





As you can see, there are letters that are similar and different. Additionally, different sounds exist in both languages.

1. In Turkish there are vowels such as **ı** /ɯ/, **ö** /œ/, and **ü** /y/. In Uzbek these vowels do not exist. (*These sounds exist in some dialects).
2. Turkish **o** /o/ and **ö** /œ/ are written in Uzbek as **o'** and pronounced like /o/ or /ø/.
3. Pronunciation of Turkish **i** /i/ and Uzbek **i** /i/ or /i/ is different in many cases.
4. The sound **o** /ɑ/ or /ɔ/ does not exist in Turkish. The Turkish letter **o** /o/ is similar in spelling, however, they are different sounds.
5. In Turkish there is only one **h** /h/ whereas in Uzbek, there are two different sounds. They are **x** /χ/ and **h** /h/.
6. Turkish **c** /dʒ/ and **j** /ʒ/ are represented in Uzbek by one letter **j** /dʒ/ or /ʒ/.
7. The Turkish letter **ş** is represented in Uzbek by **sh**, and the Turkish letter **ç** is represented in Uzbek by **ch**.
8. The Uzbek letter **q** /q/ does not exist in Turkish.
9. Turkish **ğ** /ɣ/ and Uzbek **g'** /ɣ/ are pronounced differently in both languages.

Plural

In Uzbek, plural noun forms are formed by adding the suffix **-lar** to a noun as in Turkish.

Uzbek	Latin	Uzbek	Cyrillic	Turkish	English
kitob lar		китоб лар		kitap lar	books
kutubxon alar		кутубхона лар		kütüphane ler	libraries
elchib lar		элчи лар		elçi ler	ambassadors
muzey lar		музей лар		müze ler	museums
advokat lar		адвокат лар		avukat lar	advocates

The difference is that there is no vowel harmony in Uzbek; hence there is only **ONE** variant of the suffix as opposed to Turkish **-lar/-ler**. See more examples:



Base form	Translation	Plural	Translation
prezident	president	prezidentlar	presidents
jurnalist	journalist	jurnalistlar	journalists
kafe	cafe	kafelar	cafes
restoran	restaurant	restoranlar	restaurants
garaj	garage	garajlar	garages

Compare and Contrast

Do not confuse the plural suffix **-lar** in Uzbek and Turkish with the suffix **-lar** that denotes respect in Uzbek. (Turkish does not have such phenomenon.)

Uzbek	Turkish	English	
Dadamlar	keldilar.	Babam geldi.	My dad came.
Ular ketdilar.	O gitti.		She/he left.

You can understand the meaning through context.

Uzbek	Turkish	English
Ular ketdilar. (Can be single or plural depending on context.)	Onlar gittiler. (Can be only "They left.")	They left. She/he left. (Respect, only in Uzbek)

Vocabulary

Turkish and Uzbek have many words that are similar or identical in meaning due to their common Turkic origin. For example, the word "ev" which means house in Turkish is "uy" in Uzbek. Similarly, the word "dost" meaning friend is the same in both languages. However, due to historical and cultural influences from Arabic and Persian languages on Uzbek vocabulary there are many loanwords from those languages that are not found in Turkish.

Grammar

Both Turkish and Uzbek have agglutinative grammar where words are formed by adding suffixes to roots. This allows for flexibility and creativity when expressing ideas. For example, in Turkish you can add "-miş" suffix to a verb to indicate past experience or "-ebil-" suffix to indicate ability or possibility. Similarly, Uzbek has a



rich system of suffixes such as "-gan" indicating past tense or "-ish" indicating profession or occupation.

Syntax

The word order in both Turkish and Uzbek is subject-object-verb (SOV) which is different from English where the order is subject-verb-object (SVO). This means that verbs come at the end of the sentence in Turkish and Uzbek. However, there are some differences in the use of postpositions and particles that affect sentence structure.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Turkish and Uzbek share many similarities due to their common Turkic origin. These similarities can be seen in their phonetics, vocabulary, grammar, and syntax. However, there are also some differences due to historical and cultural influences from other languages. Overall, the similarities between Turkish and Uzbek make it easier for speakers of one language to learn the other language.

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