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THE SIMILARITIES OF GRAPHEMES IN KAZAKH AND TURKISH LANGUAGES

The aim of this article is to present the similarities of graphemes in Kazakh and Turkish languages. A grapheme is the smallest fundamental unit in the written language which could be equivalent to a phoneme that is the smallest contrastive sound unit (spoken language). Graphemes simply mean the letters or combination of symbols (letters) that represent a sound in a word. The Kazakh language is one of the Kypchak subgroup of Turkish languages and the Turkish language is part of the Altai family of languages. The similarities of graphemes in Kazakh and Turkish languages are considered in this article.

Key words: writing, sound, vowel, grapheme.

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Қазақ және түрік тілдеріндегі графемалар ұқсастығы

Мақаланың мақсаты қазақ және түрік тілдеріндегі графемалардың ұқсастығын салыстырмалы тұрғыдан қарастыру болып табылады. Графема дегеніміз жазбаша тілдегі кішігірім фундаменталды бірлік, ол фонемаға балама болуы мүмкін, ал ол ең кішкентай салыстырмалы дыбыс бірлігі (ауызекі тіл) болып табылады. Графемалар жай сөзді білдіреді немесе сөздегі дыбысты білдіретін символдардың (әріптердің) қосындысы болып табылады. Қазақ тілі – түркі тілдеріне жататын қыпшақ топтарының бірі, ал түрік тілі алтай тілдерінің бір бөлігі болып табылады. Осы мақалада қазақ және түрік тілдеріндегі графемалардың ұқсастығы қарастырылған.

Түйін сөздер: жазу, дыбыс, дауысты, графема.

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Сходства графем в казахском и турецком языках

Целью данной статьи является представление сходства графем в казахском и турецком языках. Графема – это самая маленькая фундаментальная единица в письменном языке, которая может быть эквивалентна фонеме, которая является самой маленькой контрастной звуковой единицей (разговорный язык). Графемы просто означают буквы или комбинации символов (букв), которые представляют звук в слове. Казахский язык является одной из кыпчакской подгруппы турецких языков, а турецкий язык является частью алтайской семьи языков. В данной статье рассматривается сходство графем в казахском и турецком языках.

Ключевые слова: письменность, звук, гласный, графема.

Introduction

Language is a unique means of communication. The role of language is enormous in the development of culture, science and education. The language is a complex and perfect system of signs, precisely adapted to convey human thoughts and feelings. Language is the most important means of human communication.

In linguistics, a grapheme is the smallest unit of a writing system of any given language (Coulmas, 1996:174). An individual grapheme may or may not carry meaning by itself, and may or may not correspond to a single phoneme of the spoken language. Graphemes include alphabetic letters, typographic ligatures, Chinese characters, numerical digits, punctuation marks, and other individual symbols. A grapheme can also be construed as a graphical sign that independently represents a portion of linguistic material (Altmann, Fengxiang, 2008).

The Turkish alphabet (Turkish: *Türk alfabesi*) is a Latin-script alphabet used for writing the Turkish language, consisting of 29 letters, seven of which (ç, ş, ğ, i, î, ö, ü) have been modified from their Latin originals for the phonetic requirements of the language.

The history of Kazakh language graphics has deep roots. The writings of the Central Asian people and the origin of the Kazakh language itself arose in the early Middle Ages. Kazakh was first written only in the 1860s, using Arabic script. If we look at the history of Kazakh language we can see the different periods of formation. The history of Kazakh language has passed several stages. In 1912, Akhmet Baitursynov reformed the Kazakh alphabet based on Arabic script. The Kazakh language was written in Latin script among 1929-1940. A new alphabet based on Russian graphics, consisting of 42 letters with the phonetic features of the Kazakh language, was proposed in 1940.

What kind of similarities we can find in these two languages? Both of them are agglutinative languages, most of sounds and words are similar to each other. The similarities of languages are mostly seen in phraseological units which denote education, friendship, poetry and quantifiers. This means that social, religious and cultural ties between languages were very close and has a lot in common. Therefore, both of the languages had one root at the beginning.

The result and analysis

The oldest written records of languages closely related to Kazakh people were written in the Old Tur-

anic alphabet. In Kazakhstan, Arabic graphics were used for 900 years from the 10th to the 20th century. Kazakh language belongs to the Kipchak branch of the Turkic languages. In 1912, Kazakh scholar Akhmet Baitursynov reformed the Kazakh alphabet based on Arabic graphics, making it possible for the use by millions of Kazakhs living abroad. Akhmet Baitursynov proposed an original project of reforming the Arabic alphabet. He excluded all Arabic letters which are not used in Kazakh and added letters specific to the language. Kazakh language was written in the Arabic script until 1929 and between 1929-1940, Kazakh language was written in Latin script. Cyrillic alphabet, consisting of 42 letters with the phonetic features of the Kazakh language, was proposed in 1940. Kazakh briefly used the Latin script before switching to Cyrillic in 1940. Prior to 1929, the Arabic script had been used. Kazakh is an agglutinative language, and it employs vowel harmony. The basic peculiarity of the alphabet is a description of significance and peculiarity of each graphic sign.

A. Baitursynuly reformed Kazakh alphabet on the basis of Arabic script. The alphabet is a paradise of signs dedicated to basic sounds. A. Baitursynuly wrote in his textbook «Til-kural» (1914): «The language is a human's feature, having as weapon. If the people do not speak in his language and lose their language, they would have difficult time. Our century is a century of writing. It is a century of writing, the condition of written language is higher than spoken language. It is not impossible to speak with someone who lives far away; the person in one edge of the world speaks with the person at the second edge of the world through the use of writing. Therefore, if there is a need how to speak, the need of writing is more than speaking» (Baitursynov, 1992:173).

The founder of the first Kazakh alphabet Akhmet Baitursynuly wrote «Alphabet is a paradise of signs dedicated to the basic sounds of language. Resources of these signs for language and its sounds are sufficient enough, it coincides with the sounds or with its help it will be easy to read, write and learn, if it is suitable to use in the means of art, alphabet would be better». A. Baitursynuly is a reformer who presented new sample and national alphabet in the history of Kazakh science.

A. Baitursynuly wrote: «We know that there is a way of learning tote zhazu using usul jadid, but this way is spread less among Kazakh people, our aim is to spread this way among Kazakh people. That is to say, that jadidshildik is tote zhazu (Anyz adam, 2011).

A. Baitursynuly is a reformer who presented new sample and national alphabet in the history of Kazakh science. Oqu kuraly (1912) is one of the first alphabet written by A. Baitursynuly in Kazakh language. This alphabet was rewritten from the point of new methodologies of teaching and republished several times until 1925 (Baitursynov, 1912). A. Baitursynuly is a scientist linguist. He reformed Kazakh alphabet on the basis of Arabic script.

The scientific –practical basis of sound system of Kazakh language researched in the content of vocalic harmony was formed in 1912 according to the works of A. Baitursynuly. It is definite that the vocalic alphabet and vocalic orthography had been made in 1912 by A. Baitursynuly in the history of linguistics (Zhusipuly, 1998:68).

It is noticed that the language lives in two condition in the textbooks «Til-kural» published in 1914 and 1925 written by A. Baitursynuly. A. Baitursynuly dedicated the terms to linguistic dichotomy and trichotomy (language-speech-conversation) (Dzhusupov, Ibraimov. 2015:184). When the linguistic dichotomy and trichotomy are not formed fully in the history of linguistics, A. Baitursynuly conducted research works in this scientific direction in Kazakh linguistics and general Turkic linguistics for the first time. So, the formation of notions of language, speech, conversation at present Kazakh linguistics takes its source from the works of A. Baitursynuly.

This alphabet is a great cultural achievement in formation of national writing. He considered advantages and disadvantages of writing system of other nations and stopped at Arabic script while creating tote zhazu. The reason of choosing Arabic letters while creating a new orthography, because Arabic letters have advantages of enrichment in linguistic sounds. Considering from writing point, the direction of hand movement is the same as clockwise direction and writing moves from right to left. While writing Arabic letters from right to left, the hand moves to the side of forearm and it is eased by being moved.

Before switching to the Latin alphabet in early 1920s, the Kazakh language was transcribed in Arabic script. In 1940, however, along with other Turkic-speaking constituent republics of the Soviet Union, the country was ordered to adopt a version of Cyrillic, which due to incorporating Kazakh-specific hissing syllables and distinct vowels contains 42 letters. They are: а, ә, б, в, г, ғ, д, е, ё, ж, з, и, й, к, қ, л, м, н, ң, о, ө, п, р, с, т, у, ұ, ү, ф, х, һ, ц, ч, ш, щ, ь, ы, ь, і, э, ю, я. Vowels: а, ә, е, и, о, ө, у, ұ, ү, ы, і, э.

President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev approved by his decree an alphabet of the Kazakh language, based on the Latin script. On February 19, 2018, amendments were made to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan «On the translation of the Kazakh alphabet from the Cyrillic alphabet to the Latin script». As the Head of State noted in his programmatic article «A glance at the future: modernization of public consciousness», public consciousness requires not only the elaboration of the principles of modernization, but also concrete projects that could allow to meet the challenges of the time without losing the great power of tradition (An alphabet of the Kazakh language in the Latin alphabet).

The Kazakh language will change from Cyrillic to Latin script as part of modernization and development effort.

Table 1 – The new alphabet of the Kazakh language, based on Latin script

#	Letter	Cyrillic version	#	Letter	Cyrillic version
1	A a	[a]	17	Ń ń	[н]
2	Á á	[ə]	18	O o	[o]
3	B b	[b]	19	Ó ó	[ө]
4	D d	[d]	20	P p	[п]
5	E e	[e]	21	Q q	[қ]
6	F f	[ф]	22	R r	[р]
7	G g	[r]	23	S s	[с]
8	Ĝ ĝ	[ғ]	24	T t	[т]
9	H h	[x], [h]	25	U u	[y]
10	I i	[i]	26	Ú ú	[y]
11	Ī ī	[и], [ï]	27	V v	[в]
12	J j	[ж]	28	Y y	[ы]
13	K k	[к]	29	Ý ý	[y]
14	L l	[л]	30	Z z	[з]
15	M m	[м]	31	Sh sh	[ш]
16	N n	[н]	32	Ch ch	[ч]

The Turkish alphabet (Turkish: *Türk alfabesi*) is a Latin-script alphabet used for writing the Turkish language, consisting of 29 letters, seven of which (Ç, Ş, Ğ, İ, İ̇, Ö, Ü) have been modified from their Latin originals for the phonetic requirements of the language. Of these 29 letters, eight are vowels (A, E, I, İ̇, O, Ö, U, Ü); the other 21 are consonants. The Turkish alphabet consists of 29 letters (q, x, w omitted and ç, ş, ğ, ı, ö, ü added); the complete list is: a, b, c, ç, d, e, f, g, ğ, h, ı, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, ö, p, r, s, ş, t, u, ü, v, y and z.

Table 2 – Graphemes of Turkish language

Turkish alphabet	Examples of Turkish words	Turkish alphabet	Examples of Turkish words
A a	ad	M m	madde
B b	baba	N n	nem
C c	cam	O o	oda
Ç ç	çam	Ö ö	öğle
D d	dam	P p	plan
E e	el	R r	renk
F f	feda	S s	saat
G g	gece	Ş ş	şaka
Ğ ğ	dağ	T t	taç
H h	hedef	U u	uçak
I ı	ısı	Ü ü	ülke
İ i	iç	V v	vatan
J j	jet uçağı	Y y	yol
K k	kafa	Z z	zaman
L l	laf		

The Turkish and Kazakh letters described above are illustrated in this table:

Table 3

Turkish language	Kazakh language/Kazakh language based on Latin script	Meaning
lazım	лазым – lazım	necessary
başparmak	басбармақ –basbarmaq	thumb
göz	көз –kóz	eye
adam	адам –adam	man
gel	кел –kel	(to) come
can	жан –jan	soul
dost	дос –dos	friend

We can see from the table given below the graphemes of Kazakh and Turkish languages which are similar to each other.

Table 4 – Similarities of graphemes in Kazakh and Turkish languages

№	Graphemes of Kazakh language	Graphemes of Turkish language
1	ш (sh) шай	ş (aş)
2	ж (j) жамбы	c (can)
3	ч (ch)	ç (çam)
4	ө (ó)	ö (öğle)
5	ү (ú) сүт	ü (süt)

Dostlar Beni Hatırlasın by Aşık Veysel (1894–1973), a highly regarded poet in the Turkish folk literature tradition (Ashyk Beisel,1970).

Table 5

Turkish language	Kazakh language	Kazakh language based on Latin script	English language
Ben giderim adım kalır Dostlar beni hatırlasın. Düğün olur bayram gelir Dostlar beni hatırlasın	Мен кетермін, атым қалар, Достарым мені есіне алсын. Той да болар, мейрам да келер Достарым мені есіне алсын.	Men ketermin, atym qalar, Dostarym meni esine alsyn. Toı da bolar, meıram da keler Dostarym meni esine alsyn.	I depart, my name remains May friends remember me There are weddings, there are feasts May friends remember me
Can kafeste durmaz uçar Dünya bir han, konan göçer Ay dolanır yıllar geçer Dostlar beni hatırlasın	Жан қапаста тұрмас, ұшар Қонақпыз біз дүниеге, қонған көшер Ай айналып, жылдар өтер Достарым мені есіне алсын.	Jan qapasta turmas, ushar Qonaqpyz biz dúniege, qonğan kósher Aı aınalyp, jylдар óter Dostarym meni esine alsyn.	The soul won't stay caged, it flies away The world is an inn, residents depart The moon wanders, years pass by May friends remember me

We would like to compare the sounds of Kazakh and Turkish languages in above given song called «*Dostlar Beni Hatırlasın*».

№	Turkish language	Kazakh language
1	Ben	Мен
2	Ad	Ат, есім
3	Dost	Дос
4	Ay	Ай
5	Can	Жан
6	Dünya	Дүние
7	Beni	Мені
8	Kafes	Қапас
9	Kalır	Қалар
10	Göçer	Көшер

Turkish has two groups of sentences: verbal and nominal sentences. In the case of a verbal sentence, the predicate is a finite verb, while the predicate in nominal sentence will have either no overt verb or a verb in the form of the copula «*ol*» or «*у*» (variants of «*be*»). Examples of both are given below (Goksel, Kersleik, 2005).

Table 6 – Sentence type in Turkish, Kazakh and English languages

Sentence type	Turkish		Kazakh		English
	Subject	Predicate	Subject	Predicate	
Verbal	Esra	okula gitti	Эсра	оқуға кетті	Esra went to school.
Nominal (no verb)	Aliye	öğretmen	Әлия	мұғалім	Aliye is a teacher.
(copula)	Mehmet	üniversitede-y-mış	Мехмет	университетте екен	Apparently Mehmet is at the university.

We can see the similarities of Turkish and Kazakh sounds in above given examples of the table. Turkish: *gitti; öğretmen; üniversitede-y-mış*. Kazakh: *ketti; muğalim; üniversitette eken*. In Turkish language the sounds of words are soft, in Kazakh language the sounds of words are hard. Example: *gitti –ketti*. In the example *üniversitede-y-mış* – the letter «y» is given as in the form of copula, it is in Kazakh language is given as *üniversitette eken*. Instead of the letter «y» is given «eken» in Kazakh language.

Conclusion

In general we would like to say in our article most of sounds in Turkish and Kazakh languages are similar to each other. The similarities of graphemes in both languages are given in our article. The

feature of Turkish is a vowel harmony. This means that all the vowels in a word have to be of the same general type (vowels produced at the front of the mouth or vowels produced at the back of the mouth). The Turkish alphabet consists of 29 letters. It lacks the *q, w* and *x* of English, but includes letters with a diacritic, such as *ç*. There are 8 vowels and 21 consonants. Turkish is a member of the Turkic language group and belongs to the larger Altaic family. Kazakh is a Turkic language belonging to the Kipchak branch. Kazakh is an agglutinative language and it employs vowel harmony. We can see two similarities here. Both of the languages are related to Altaic language family and feature of both languages is vowel harmony. So, we have given examples of graphemes and most of similarities of Turkish and Kazakh languages in our article.

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