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PAPER

A COMPARATIVE-PHILOLOGICAL STUDY OF HISTORICAL TERMS IN THE UZBEK LANGUAGE *(historical and grammatical approach)*

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Abstract

This article examines the historical terms of the Uzbek language from a comparative-philological perspective. The main focus is placed on the genesis, semantic development, and grammatical adaptation of legal, administrative, and religious terms formed within the Turkic language family. The history of the Uzbek language is analyzed on the basis of chronological stages, and the phonetic, morphological, and syntactic changes characteristic of each period are described with reference to historical sources. The results of the study serve to draw scholarly conclusions in the fields of historical linguistics and comparative philology.

Key words: comparative philology, historical terminology, Chagatai language, Old Turkic language, history of the Uzbek language, grammatical development.

Introduction

The Uzbek language belongs to the Turkic language family, and its formation and development are closely connected with centuries-long historical, social, and cultural processes. In particular, the layer of historical terminology in the language constitutes an important source reflecting the development of statehood, law, religion, and ideology in society. For this reason, the comparative-philological study of historical terms in the Uzbek language is of significant scholarly importance for determining the history of the language and its place within the broader Turkic linguistic space [1]. The analysis of historical terms through the method of comparative philology makes it possible to identify their origin, semantic change, and grammatical adaptation. For example, terms such as qozī (judge), hukm (judgment), mulk (property), sharʿ (Islamic law), and fiqh (jurisprudence), although borrowed from Arabic, acquired national characteristics in the Turkic linguistic environment and became an

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integral part of the Uzbek terminological system [2]. This demonstrates that the language developed on the basis of its internal laws in response to external influences.

The history of the Uzbek language is generally studied through the stages of Old Turkic, Chagatai, and modern Uzbek. Each stage brought about specific changes in the phonetic, morphological, and syntactic structure of the language [3]. This article provides a comprehensive analysis of issues related to historical terminology and grammatical development precisely on the basis of this periodization.

Literature Review

Studies devoted to the history of the Uzbek language and its historical terminology have been conducted in different periods. In the study of Old Turkic, Mahmud al-Kashgari's Dīwān Lughāt al-Turk is regarded as a fundamental source. The socio-political and legal terms presented in this work reveal the formation of the common Turkic lexical layer [4].

Terminology of the Chagatai period has been extensively analyzed in the works of A. Aliyev and Q. Sodiqov. Based on the works of Alisher Navoi, the authors describe the process by which state and administrative terms became part of the literary norm [2]. A. Nurmonov, within the framework of the history of Uzbek linguistics, developed the theoretical foundations of the comparative-historical method [5].

Issues of grammatical development have been studied by S. Ashiraboyev and I. Azimov on the basis of periodization, and they revealed the socio-historical causes of linguistic change [6]. In addition, in recent years, the use of electronic resources and digitized manuscripts has brought research on historical terminology to a new stage of development [7].

Discussion

The comparative-philological study of historical terminology in the Uzbek language remains a subject of debate within linguistics due to differing theoretical approaches. Some researchers consider Arabic-Persian influence to be the main factor in the Uzbek terminological system, arguing that Turkic roots play a secondary role. Other scholars, on the contrary, argue that historical terms in Uzbek are primarily based on the Old Turkic layer, while external influences served mainly to shape form and expand semantics (Nurmonov, 2008).

The results of the present study to some extent support the second approach. For example, although the term qozī entered the language from Arabic, its sphere of usage, morphological adaptation, and functional load were reshaped within the Turkic linguistic environment. This phenomenon is also observed in Kazakh and Uyghur, meaning that although the term has a common Islamic origin, it acquired national characteristics in each language (Aliyev & Sodiqov, 2006).

Different views also exist in discussions concerning state and administrative terminology. Some studies associate terms such as hukm, mulk, and hukmdor (ruler) exclusively with Arabic-Persian culture. However, an analysis of Chagatai-period sources, including the works of Navoi, shows that these terms were used in harmony with Turkic traditions of statehood and expressed local political thought (Aliyev & Sodiqov, 2006).

In discussions of grammatical change, the relationship between internal linguistic laws and external influences in language development is particularly relevant. Some scholars attribute phonetic and morphological changes primarily to interlingual influence, while others consider socio-historical factors to be dominant (Ashiraboyev & Azimov, 2010). In this study, it is demonstrated on the basis of scholarly evidence that both factors influenced language development in close interaction.

Thus, the analysis of scholarly debates shows that issues of historical terminology and grammatical structure in the Uzbek language cannot be explained through a one-sided approach. Comparative-philological research serves precisely to reveal this multidimensional nature.

Analysis

The results of the conducted comparative-philological analysis demonstrate that systematic regularities exist in the formation and development of historical terms in the Uzbek language. First of all, an analysis of the lexical layer of these terms reveals that the majority are based on common Turkic

roots. A number of terms attested in Old Turkic monuments have been transmitted continuously through Chagatai into modern Uzbek (Kashgari, 11th century).

Morphological analysis shows that historical terms were actively used after adapting to the internal grammatical system of the language. For example, the Arabic-origin terms fiqh and sharʿ participated in the formation of new derivatives in Uzbek (fiqhiy, sharʿiy), which indicates that these terms were fully assimilated (Nurmonov, 2008).

When phonetic analysis is conducted from a diachronic perspective, it becomes clear that the law of vowel harmony characteristic of the Old Turkic period gradually weakened in later stages. During the Chagatai period, new sounds and phonemes entered the language system as a result of Arabic-Persian influence. In modern Uzbek, the phonetic system has become stabilized and standardized (Ashiraboyev & Azimov, 2010).

Syntactic analysis shows a tendency toward a transition from simple sentences to more complex syntactic constructions over the course of historical development. This trend is associated with the development of written literature and the formation of scientific and official styles. Overall, the analyses demonstrate that the history of the Uzbek language is not the result of random changes, but rather a complex process shaped by internal systematic development and the influence of external factors.

Conclusion

On the basis of the results of this study, the following scholarly conclusions can be drawn. First, a comparative-philological study of historical terminology in the Uzbek language shows that its foundation consists of the Old Turkic layer. Terms that entered the language through Arabic-Persian sources adapted to the internal laws of the language and became an integral part of the national terminological system.

Second, the history of the Uzbek language was shaped through successive stages of development, each of which brought about specific changes in the phonetic, morphological, and syntactic systems of the language. These changes occurred in close connection with the socio-political environment, cultural contacts, and literary traditions (Nurmonov, 2008).

Third, the analysis of grammatical development demonstrates that processes of simplification and standardization dominate in modern Uzbek, thereby expanding the functional capacities of the language. In particular, the precise and stable use of terms in scientific and official styles represents an important indicator of linguistic development.

Finally, the results of this study show that the investigation of historical terms in the Uzbek language constitutes an important scholarly foundation not only for theoretical linguistics, but also for educational practice, lexicography, and the standardization of terminology. Conclusions derived from a comparative-philological approach provide a methodological basis for future research and contribute to a more precise determination of the place of the Uzbek language within the broader Turkic linguistic space.

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