

# Exploring Eco-Friendly Uzbek: Linguistic Evolution and Sustainability

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**Abstract:** Scientists have scientifically established that the Uzbek language, among Turkic languages, is inherently multi-dialectal. Extensive studies of Uzbek dialects were conducted in the 1950s, identifying key characteristics. Despite ecological persistence from the 11th to the 20th centuries, current trends indicate challenges to maintaining dialect purity due to population movements. This article focuses on dialects resilient to external influences, with a historical perspective spanning from the 11th century to the present. Notably, the 1920s saw significant scientific investigations into Uzbek dialects, driven by the search for the primary dialect in the development of Uzbek literary language. The article periodizes the history of Uzbek dialect studies, shedding light on each era, its researchers, and their contributions, particularly addressing a neglected period during the Soviet Union.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The Uzbek language exhibits a complex dialectal composition, leading to growing global interest among researchers. Numerous studies on Uzbek dialects have been conducted, culminating in the establishment of Uzbek dialectology. This field has undergone a lengthy historical development. While linguistic studies are generally recognized to have begun with the exploration of the vibrant language of ancient Turkic tribes and their relatives – Пуллиблэнк (1968) - Дёрфер (1968), the same holds true for Uzbek linguistics. Despite Uzbek linguistics originating within Turkic linguistics, its early stages involved the study of the vivid language spoken by ancient Turkic tribes.

This preparatory period for Uzbek linguistics occurred before the formation of scientific linguistics, and Uzbek dialectology emerged during the same period. In this sense, the initiation of Uzbek linguistics is appropriately marked in the 20s of the XXI century. The formation and development of Uzbek dialectology are closely associated with the contributions of Professor E. D. Polivanov and Professor G. O. Yunusov. Researchers worldwide, including Gunnar Yarring, have been drawn to Uzbek dialects. Yarring authored a work on the "Sword Dialect of the Uzbek Language" (1945), with

commentary by S.E. Malov. E. Stephen Vurm also wrote a book on the "Andigan Dialect of the Uzbek Language," and Professor S. Ibrahimov published a related article in the journal "Issues of Uzbek Language and Literature" - Шоабдурахмонов, Ишаев (1969).

As mentioned earlier, the Uzbek language's complex dialectal construction distinguishes it from other Turkic languages. Y. D. Polivanov attributes this complexity to two socio-historical processes. He suggests that the fertile lands of Central Asia attracted eastern Turkish tribes, who, after extensive migration from the East, mixed with the local Persian-speaking population, resulting in the formation of the specific dialect of the Uzbek language - Поливанов (1933). The objective of this study is to periodize the examination of Uzbek dialects.

Until now, scientists have not systematically investigated the history of studying Uzbek dialects, with only a few journal articles available on the subject. Shoabdurahmonov and Ishaev provide a relatively comprehensive overview of Uzbek dialectology up to the 1970s, mentioning past and present dialectologists such as Y. D. Polivanov, K. K. Yudakhin, G. O. Yunusov, S. Ibrahimov, S. Zufarov, and F. Abdullaev. These scholars have conducted research on the phonetics, lexicon, and morphology of Uzbek dialects - Шоабдурахмонов, Ишаев (1969). While E. I. Fazilov also mentions some facts

on this topic - Фазилов (2008), he does not provide analytical data. This article aims to classify the study of Uzbek dialects into different periods based on more than 50 years of the author's observations, analysis, and synthesis of published works in Uzbek dialectology. The author presents this article due to years of lecturing on the subject, writing articles on dialectology, analyzing dialectological works, and preparing scientific and pedagogical staff in this field.

## 2 ANALYSIS

Although the study of Uzbek dialects has a long history, the historical timetable of studying has not been arranged so far. As a result of the study, the essence of the research in Uzbek dialectology and the methodology based on the investigation of dialectics and vivid language, we found it necessary to determine the following periods:

Studying the ancient Turkic dialects. This period includes the end of the XIII-XI and the beginning of the XIV centuries. This period is common to almost all Turkish languages; therefore, it is also an ancient period of the Uzbek language. In this period, learning dialects is based on the notion of language learning, but in reality, this view is not mistaken because researchers are interested in practical issues rather than theoretical issues. Importantly, all aspects of the language structure are centered on studying lexicon, that is, the phonetics and morphology of the language of kindred and tribes explained in the process of interpreting lexicon. The main source of this period is the work of Mahmud Kashgari "Devonu lugatit Turk". This work is a preliminary dialectological study, as all lexical and grammatical forms included in this dictionary are written directly from the language of ancient Turkish tribes and kindred. Mahmud Kashgari mentions two dialects in his work: "Khakani Turkiş" and "Oghuz", and they are also called Turkish and Oghuz - Кошғарий (1960). He considers that the Kipchak dialect was in the part of the Oghuz dialect. Later, this idea was accepted by Abdurauf Fitrat without any change - Фитрат (2006). It is true that Mahmud Kashgari refers to the Kipchak dialect, but for some reasons, he neglected the fact that they had a great position in the places from the Syrdarya to the Irtysh River and along the Dunay and the Volga in the XI – XIII centuries – Шаниязов (1974). Probably Mahmud Kashgari has never been to these zones, and there is no information about it, perhaps, in relatively later periods, the Kipchaks settled in Central Asia - Шониёзов (1999). Consequently, Kipchaks were low numbered in

Central Asia during the period when Mahmud Kashgari lived, so they were part of the Oghuz people.

It is worthy to note that Mahmud Kashgari expresses an idea that can still be the methodological basis for current dialectologists. He says, "The most accurate and precise language is the language of those who know only this language, do not interfere with the Persians, and do not have relatives in cities to visit." - Кошғарий (1960). We can see that the word "language" is used in the sense of "dialect". Although this idea is translated very simply, it is the first most favorable opinion in dialectological studies concerning the correct choice of the respondent, which has not lost its significance yet.

As we mentioned earlier, Mahmud Kashgari was engaged in the creation of the Turkish language in the eleventh century, but this work could not have been carried out without mentioning the phonetics and morphology of that time. Therefore, it is possible to obtain sufficient information about the graphics, phonetics, and morphological features of that period from his work. It will also be possible to note the fact of some present dialects from the semantic interpretations of the words in the work and make etymological conclusions. We are limited to one example. The word *çerkäştı* is noted in The Devon. This word is used as a past form of the verb, in the expression of *ikki su çerkäştı* [two soldiers lined] - Кошғарий (1960). What is important to us is that the word *çerkäştı* is interpreted as "they lined," but the word *çerik* is referred to as "battle line" in the Devon - Кошғарий (1960). In the Indels–Dictionary, which is arranged based on this dictionary, it is given as a soldier - Девону луғатит турк (1967). Jirmunskiy shows that the word used by A. N. Samoylovich based on old Uzbek sources is *žerge*, *jerge* variants in terms of row, circular - Жирмунский (1966) -ka, -ge are two different variants of the same affix, and they are considered noun affixes. There are no facts in the history of the language that its root *çer/žer/žar* was used independently, but the phrase *çir ajlandı* (*chiraylandı*) is used in the present Turkestan dialect (our observation) in this phrase has the meaning a circle, a protuberance of the word *çir*. In the word *çirpiräk* of the Uzbek literary language, the meaning of the circle and round of the *chir* morpheme is preserved. The addition of -kă/ge affix to this word seems to have created a purported word. This viewpoint belongs to us, and its etymology requires further studies.

We may call Mahmud Kashgari the founder of the method of linguistic geography. He was the first to create a map of the Turkic tribes and kindred. This

map has been studied to some extent by Z. Auezova - Kāshgārī (2005), but the interpretation of the inscriptions on this map by Mahmud Kashgari is still awaiting his researchers.

The Kipchak dialects in this period are studied in the book "Attuhfatuz zakiyatu fil lugatit turkiya." The author of this book is unknown. The book reflects the language of the Kipchak tribes in the XIII-XIV centuries. The author intends to use 23 letters to write a dialect of Kipchaks, but in practice, there is confusion in this matter - АТТҮХҒА (1968). The work emphasizes the lexical units and phonetic peculiarities of the Kipchak dialects, including şolaq (chjloq), qaz (g'oz), toqtadi (to'xtadi), qanadi (ezdi), tükruk (tupuk), şiridi (chiridi), buya (buqa), ayaş (daraxt), uru (o'g'ri), and others. The peculiarities of the Oghuz dialect are reflected in this book: kəşür (carrot), qonşi (neighbor), a:çiq (hungry), kəsti (cut), and others. Although the unknown author intended to investigate the language of the Kipchak, the features inherent in the literary language of the period - the XIII-XIV centuries - are wider than the peculiarities of the Kipchak dialect. Therefore, this means that studying the dialects of this period is characterized by the creation of its own original method, that is, the phonetic and morphological features of the vivid language (dialect) studied connected to lexicography. These were the key characters of that time.

Studying medieval Uzbek dialects. We attribute this period to the name of Alisher Navoi. Alisher Navoi takes into account two dialects on the issue of the basis of the literary language in explaining the peculiarities of the literary language in the work "Muhokamat ul Lugatain," dedicated to the issues of linguistics: they are "Khorezmian Turkish" called Oghuz by Mahmud Kashgari and "Khakani Turkish," which was the basement of the literary language during the Karakhanids. It is known that the Turkish literary dialect of the Tilgaqarlugs, known as the "Khakoni Turkish," was a basis dialect during the Karakhanids' period - Турсунов, Ўринбоев, Алиев (1995). This literary language later created a foundation for the emergence of "chigatoy," that is, the old Uzbek literary language. The concept of "Khorezmian Turkish" is mentioned in the majority of works of Alisher Navoi. For example, in the phrase "And Qasidai Burda," also commented on the Khorezmian Turkish language. This term is noted in the book "Majolisun nafa'is" - Навоий (2011).

It is worth noting that Alisher Navoi approaches the Turkish words based on their meanings in the vivid language in exploring Turkish and Persian words in his work "Muhokamatul lugatayn." He also has a unique way of explaining variants of the

phonemic system of the Uzbek language of the fifteenth century, that is, he chooses examples that are extremely characteristic of the vivid language in rendering the variants of the interpreted phoneme. These are as follows: ot - "şaji muhrik" (something can make fire, fire), ot - "murur" (pass away), ut - "muqammirya burd žihātdin āmr" (current verb - win), üt - "burn something" "kallanio'tg'atutup, tukinaritur" - Навоий (2013). It is possible to see that Alisher Navoi understood well the characteristics of o↔ö, u↔ü front row and back row opposite vowels of the vivid Uzbek language (dialect) of that period.

Alisher Navoi attempts to elucidate the polysemy and homonymy of words based on information gathered from a vibrant language, illustrating three meanings of the word "ter." Firstly, "ter" is interpreted as meaning "sweating," secondly, as "a moment," referred to as "alcohol" and "booze" by the Tajik people, and thirdly, as "arrow." For the word "kok," Navoi presents four meanings: 1) "көк" signifies the "sky," 2) it represents "melody," 3) it denotes the "spring," and 4) it refers to the "bump." Navoi's exploration of other words in the context of a lively language is considered a method of dialectological research.

It is crucial to highlight that Alisher Navoi's utilization of folk words and grammatical elements is not pertinent to our work but rather showcases the writer's literary prowess. The emphasis lies on Navoi's scientific approach to the living language (dialect) in speech usage and language interpretation. This involves scrutinizing dialectal peculiarities, and it is important to note that not all of Navoi's ideas should be interpreted as references to dialects. Specifically, his views on the affixes "gäč/käč/yačy/qač" are unrelated to Uzbek dialects and the Uzbek language. This affix was not mentioned in Turkic manuscripts until the 14th century but has only been used in the language since the book "Muhabbatnoma" - Abdurahmanov, & et. al. (2008). Alisher Navoi's attitude towards the language reflects his belief in the positive use of words and forms considered valuable in Turkish languages.

Considering Alisher Navoi's vision based on the peculiarities of the vibrant language (dialect) as a method of studying the dialects of that period, it is evident that although his dialectological views are not explicitly stated, they offer a scientific insight into Uzbek dialects.

Regrettably, until the mid-nineteenth century, despite the usage of Uzbek dialects and the vocabulary possibilities of the Uzbek language, the scientific or practical study of Uzbek dialects was not advanced.

The study of Uzbek dialects in the late XIXth and early XXth centuries was propelled by Russian orientalists who studied the Uzbek language for practical purposes. Central Asia was under Russian occupation during this time, leading Russian orientalists to delve into the history, geography, culture, religion, language, and literature of the vast territory inhabited by Uzbeks. The primary aim was to utilize the local population as a source of labor. Notable figures among these orientalists, including M. Terentev, A. V. Starchevsky, Z. A. Alekseev, A. Vishnegorsky, V. Nalivkin, M. Nalivkina, S. A. Lapin, I. Bilyaev, L. Afanasev, N. S. Budzinsky, N. Ostroumov, directly engaged with the live Uzbek language in creating practical grammar and dictionaries. A more in-depth examination will be given to some of them.

V. Nalivkin and M. Nalivkina note that they created their works based on the materials of the Andijan dialect, and the facts of the Tashkent and Namangan dialects were also used - Наливкин, Наливкина (1884). N.S. Budzinski states that he has created his works based on the materials of the Tashkent dialect, and A.V. Starchevsky based his work on Khiva and Bukhara Uzbek dialects - Старчевский (1878) - Будзинский (1910). Although the works they created were based on the dialects of that period, they could not be considered as dialectological works; they considered the language in practice, that is, dialects as the Uzbek language, but in fact, they were not intended to study the dialects. Nevertheless, they could illustrate that the Tashkent dialect is the six-vowel dialect, and the characteristics of the grammatical forms in the dialects, especially the case, grammatical numbers, and verb forms.

Studying of Uzbek dialects in the 20s and 30s of the 20th century. In these years, researchers began to study Uzbek dialects intensively. Famous linguists of the period, Professors Polivanov, Yunusov, Yudaxin, Borovkov, Reshetov, later Shoabdurahmonov began to work since that time. In their research, the phonetic and grammatical features of Uzbek dialects were studied, and the first scientific classification of the dialects was developed - Шоабдурахмонов, Ишаев (1965). Particularly during this period, it is necessary to emphasize the leadership activities of Polivanov and Yunusov. Numerous articles have been written about Polivanov, and this is reflected on the Internet. His work "Uzbek dialectology and Uzbek literary language (Uzbek Dialectology and Uzbek Literature)" is still in the focus of not only Uzbek dialects but also Turkologists and language theorists. Most importantly, this work illustrates the social and historical reasons for the complexity of the dialectal

composition of the Uzbek language, and it is awaiting new analysis by scientists.

In the research of Polivanov, Uzbek dialectology developed both theoretical and practical points of view. He introduced into the science the notions of iranization, hybridization, crossbreeding, umlaut, "broken" words, and the disappearance of singarmonism in urban and rural dialects. True, there were also critical views on his work - Боровков (1953), but they did not try to understand the essence of these theories. Polivanov's early works included the idea of integrating the Uzbek (literary) language into the Tashkent dialect. Based on this, the phonetic and grammatical (morphological) system of the Tashkent dialect as the Uzbek language was described in the book "The brief Grammar of the Uzbek Language" (*Kratkaya grammatika uzbekskogo yazyka*). It was published in 1926; in this respect, it now aligns with the principles of "Urban Dialects" in "Dialectology," which are published in European countries, particularly at Cambridge University - Chambers, (2004). But in later works, he changes his view that Chigatay is a literary language - Поливанов (1933). It is necessary to note that Polivanov's works in Uzbek dialectology should receive their scientific values.

At present, Yunusov's works on Uzbek dialects are valuable to science. He investigated the Uzbek language along with its dialects. Unfortunately, his dialectological works created during the prohibition period have been out of reach for researchers for many years. True, his classification variant separating Uzbek dialects into Uzbek-Kipchak, Turkish-Barlos, Khiva-Urganch dialects, based on "Ўzbek lahzarini tasnifda bir tazriba," which was published in 1936, is included in textbooks and manuals - Ashirboyev (2016). However, his valuable works in the press of the 20s have just started to be familiar to our science. N. Yangibaeva introduced to science the teachings of G. O. Yunusov that the dialects of the Uzbek language were formed by three groups – Kipchak, Uygur-Chigatay, Oghuz dialects. Therefore, it still maintains three dialects until now, based on the article "Sounds of the Uzbek language," which was published in the magazine "Maorif va o'qitg'uchi" during the prohibition period – Yangibaeva (2019). G. O. Yunusov did not state the classification of dialects in the headline of this article, so the researchers were unaware of it (even if Polivanov too). His article is more valuable as he was able to identify all the vowels and consonants that are typical of Uzbek dialects, despite being in the totalitarian period. His research in this area is still relevant.

The development of Uzbek dialectology in the 50s and beyond includes the period from the 50s of the last century to the independence of Uzbekistan. During this period, Uzbek dialectology formed as a science. Uzbek dialectology was included in the curriculum of philological faculties in higher educational institutions, and a wide range of dialectological studies were conducted in the departments. The Dialectology department started to operate at the Institute of Language and Literature Research of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, and as a result, a large generation of Uzbek dialectologists appeared.

The main peculiarity of this period is that studying Uzbek dialects started based on plans. The Academy of Sciences and the Chairs of Higher Education establishments organized dialectological expeditions, and as a result, scientific and factual texts on Uzbek dialects were collected, and a large group of scholars of Uzbek dialectology grew up. Most importantly, the methodology of studying Uzbek dialects was developed.

It is true that in the 50-80s of the last century, Uzbek dialects were studied not only by the plan but also by the researcher's own choice. During this period, the implementation of dissertation work, especially on Uzbek dialects, increased even more. The following researchers defended their doctoral dissertations on these issues.

Table 1: Exploring Uzbek Linguistic Diversity: Dialects Across Regions.

Researchers	Works
Reshetov V.	Qurama dialects
Shoabdurahmonov Sh.	Dialect and literary language relationship
Abdullaev F.	Phonetics of Khorezm dialects
Ibrahimov S.	Professional lexicon of Fergana dialects
Mirzaev M.	Bukhara Uzbek dialects
Aliyev A.	Namangan dialects
Doniyorov X.	Kipchak dialects
Juraev A.	Linguistic geography of Uzbek dialects
Shermatov A.	lower Kashkadarya dialects
Madrahimov O, Muhammadjonov Q, Rajabov N.	Samarkand dialects

Yuldashev T.	Uzbek dialects of Tajikistan
Ibragimov Y.	Uzbek dialects of Karakalpakstan
Murodova N.	Uzbeks dialects of Navoi region

As it turned out, it is possible to designate three categories of dissertations performed during this period:

Works studying either the phonetic, lexical, or morphological systems of a particular dialect. These include works such as Gulamov's "The morphology of the dialects of the Tashkent region," Ishaev's "Phonetics of Mang'it dialects," Otamirzaeva's "The sound composition of Namangan dialects," and Sadykov's "Lexicon of Tashkent region dialects."

Works studying only one issue of Uzbek dialects. Examples of such works include Nazarov's "Possession category in Uzbek dialects" and Usmanov's "Present tense verb forms in Uzbek dialects."

Dialect and history of language relations. This issue was studied in the works of Doniyorov, "Genealogy and dialects of the Uzbek people," and Tuychiboev's "Stages of development of the Uzbek Language."

Comparative studies of linguistic phenomena in Uzbek dialects with literary language. In this category, research include works like Shoabdurahmonov's "Uzbek literary language and folklore dialects" and works dedicated to the comparative study of Uzbek literary language with Namangan and Forish dialects.

Works studying a comprehensive examination of the phonetic, morphological, lexical (or two of them) features of a particular dialect. These works include Reshetov's "Margilan dialect of the Uzbek language," Afzalov's "Parkent dialects of the Uzbek language," Gulomov's "Jizzakh dialect of Uzbek language," X. Doniyorov's "Bakmal dialects of the Uzbek language," Zafarov's "Sayram dialects of the Uzbek language," Kudratov's "Intermediate dialects of the Uzbek language," and other works. Researchers such as Mirsoatov, Egamov, Abdullaev, Rajabov, Juraev, Farmonov, Aliev, Shermatov, Mamatkulov, Sharipov, Ahmedov, Gafurova, Valiev, Nosirov, Shamsiddinov, Mamatov, Orozov, Bobojonov, H. Sharipov, T. Turgunov, T. Yuldashev have carried out research works in these issues.

Linguistic geography of the Uzbek language. This field was developed by A. Shermatov (doctoral dissertation), Muhammadjonov, Ibrahimov, N. Murodova, Ibrahimova, Rakhmonov.

Admittedly, research on Uzbek dialectology has declined since 2000. However, it does not mean that Uzbek dialects have not been investigated. Firstly, Uzbek dialects have not been fully investigated in descriptive terms, and the dialects studied 50-80 years ago require re-research. This issue is in the focus of the attention of the heads of the Republic of Uzbekistan. On May 13, 2016, the Presidential Decree "On the Establishment of the Uzbek Language and Literature University named after Alisher Navoi" assigned the task of guiding the study of Uzbek dialects to this university, creating the foundation for the beginning of a new era in studying Uzbek dialects.

### 3 CONCLUSION

In summary, the exploration of Uzbek dialects has traversed a rich historical timeline, from the study of ancient Turkic dialects to the intensive research conducted in the 20th century. Mahmud Kashgari's foundational work in the 11th century laid the groundwork for linguistic geography, emphasizing the importance of understanding dialects in their original context. Alisher Navoi's contributions during the medieval period showcased a unique approach, utilizing the vibrant language to uncover phonetic nuances and dialectical variations. The 20th century witnessed a surge in dialectological studies, particularly driven by Russian orientalists and later by Uzbek scholars who established dialectology as a distinct field.

Moving forward, the 20s and 30s marked a crucial period where Uzbek dialectology gained momentum. Scholars like Polivanov and Yunusov contributed significantly, introducing key concepts and classifications. The subsequent decades saw a flourishing of Uzbek dialectology, with dedicated departments, expeditions, and systematic plans for research. This period witnessed a surge in dissertations exploring diverse aspects of Uzbek dialects, contributing to the establishment of dialectology as a recognized scientific discipline. The current focus on revisiting earlier research and the establishment of the Uzbek Language and Literature University named after Alisher Navoi in 2016 indicate a commitment to preserving and advancing the study of Uzbek dialects into a new era.

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