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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.
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 alfabetesi) is a Latin-script alphabet used for writing the Turkish language, consisting of 29 letters, seven of which (ç, ş, ğ, i, i, 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. 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).
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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 view of modern methods 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 and trichotomy (language-speech-communication) (Dzhussupov, Ilbrahimov. 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 sounds contains 42 letters. They are: а, э, и, о, у, и, й, к, к, л, н, н, н, о, и, п, с, т, у, у, и, п, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, и, and z.

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 | А a    | Іі а            | 17 | С ѣ    | С ѣ             |
| 2 | А ә    | О o             | 18 | О o    | О o             |
| 3 | Б b    | Н н             | 19 | О ѣ    | О ѣ             |
| 4 | Д д    | П п             | 20 | П п    | П п             |
| 5 | Е е    | Q q             | 21 | Q q    | Q q             |
| 6 | F f    | R r             | 22 | R r    | R r             |
| 7 | Г г    | T t             | 23 | S s    | S s             |
| 8 | Г ѣ    | Іі ѣ            | 24 | T t    | T t             |
| 9 | H h    | U u             | 25 | У у    | У у             |
| 10 | I i    | Іі Іі           | 26 | Іі Іі  | Іі Іі           |
| 11 | І І    | І І             | 27 | В v    | В v             |
| 12 | J j    | І І             | 28 | І І    | І І             |
| 13 | K k    | Y y             | 29 | Y й    | Y й             |
| 14 | Л л    | Z z             | 30 | Z z    | Z z             |
| 15 | М m    | Ш ш             | 31 | Ш ш    | Ш ш             |
| 16 | Н n    | Ч ч             | 32 | Ч ч    | Ч 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, І, І, Ô, 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, İ, 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, i, І, Ī, k, l, m, n, o, ö, p, r, s, ş, т, u, ū, 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             | maddde                   |
| B b              | baba                       | N n             | nem                      |
| C c              | cam                        | O o             | oda                      |
| Ç ç              | çam                        | Ö ö             | ölge                     |
| 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                     |
| İ i              | iç                         | Ü ü             | ülke                     |
| Й й              | 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 |
|-----|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1   | Ben              | Мен                                                  | necessary |
| 2   | Ad               | Ат, есім                                             |         |
| 3   | Dost             | Дос                                                  |         |
| 4   | Ay               | Ай                                                   |         |
| 5   | Can              | Жан                                                  |         |
| 6   | Dünya            | Дүние                                                |         |
| 7   | Beni             | Мені                                                 |         |
| 8   | Kafes            | Капас                                                |         |
| 9   | Kalır            | Калар                                                |         |
| 10  | Göçer            | Кошер                                                |         |

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            | Капас           |
| 9   | Kalır            | Калар           |
| 10  | Göçer            | Кошер           |

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

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

Table 5

| №   | 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            | Капас           |
| 9   | Kalır            | Калар           |
| 10  | Göçer            | Кошер           |

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 «y» (variants of «be»). Examples of both are given below (Goksel, Kersleik, 2005).
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### Table 6 – Sentence type in Turkish, Kazakh and English languages

| Sentence type | Turkish          | Kazakh          | English                      |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
|               | Subject          | Predicate       | Subject                      | Predicate                       |
|               | Esra             | okula gitti     | Эсра                         | оқуға кетті                      |
| Verbal        |                  |                 | Esra went to school.         |                                |
| Nominal (no verb) | Aliye        | öğretmen        | Элия                         | мұғалім                         |
|               |                  |                 | Aliye is a teacher.          |                                |
| (copula)      | Mehmet           | üniversitede-ý-міш | Мехмет                     | университетте еken |
|               |                  |                 | 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-ý-міш. Kazakh: ketti; müгалім; университетте еken. In Turkish language the sounds of words are soft, in Kazakh language the sounds of words are hard. Example: gitti –ketti. In the example üniversite-ý-міш – the letter «у» is given as in the form of copula, it is in Kazakh language is given as университетте еken. Instead of the letter «у» is given «ен» 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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