

Phonetic Features of Possessive Additionals In Uzbekistan, Turkish, Kazakh, Azerbaijan And Uygur States

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Abstract: In this article, the phonetic phenomena of possessive suffixes used in the Uzbek, Turkish, Kazakh, Azerbaijani, and Uyghur languages are examined and briefly analyzed. Particular attention is paid to phonetic processes observed in certain lexical items. The phonetic system of possessive suffixes in the Uzbek language is theoretically analyzed on the basis of both formal and semantic approaches. Within the framework of formal grammar, the study investigates the morphological features, affixal forms, and grammatical categories expressed through the phonetics of possessive suffixes. From the semantic perspective, the syntactic role of possessive suffixes in sentence structure, their semantic load, and their context-dependent variability are analyzed. These approaches are compared with one another, and their respective advantages in revealing the structure of the Uzbek language system are highlighted.

The research findings confirm the significance of the integrated application of these approaches in the theoretical analysis of the Uzbek, Turkish, Kazakh, Azerbaijani, and Uyghur languages, thereby contributing to the broader field of linguistics.

Keywords: Possessive suffixes; phonetics of possessive suffixes in the Uzbek language; phonetics of possessive suffixes in the Turkish language; phonetics of possessive suffixes in the Kazakh language; phonetics of possessive suffixes in the Azerbaijani language; phonetics of possessive suffixes in the Uyghur language.

Introduction: PHONETICS OF POSSESSIVE SUFFIXES IN THE UZBEK LANGUAGE

Possessive suffixes in Uzbek dialects were specifically studied by K. Nazarov under the supervision of Professor A. G'ulomov. These suffixes indicate that an object belongs to one of the three grammatical persons and occur in both singular and plural forms. While possessive suffixes in y-dialects such as Fergana and Khorezm largely coincide with the norms of the literary language, they demonstrate distinct phonetic features in other y-dialects (Jizzakh, Tashkent, Parkent) as well as in j-dialects of Uzbek. In j-dialects, possessive suffixes appear in several variants depending on whether the word stem is hard or soft [1].

In the Uzbek language, possessive suffixes express ownership and undergo various phonetic changes depending on whether the word ends in a vowel or a consonant. These changes are closely related to the agglutinative nature of the language and are mainly manifested through the following phonetic phenomena.

1. Variants After Vowels and Consonants

Possessive suffixes appear in two main forms depending on the final sound of the word:

When added to words ending in a consonant, a linking vowel—usually the phoneme i—appears at the beginning of the suffix:

kitob → kitobim (my book), kitobing (your book), kitobi (his/her book).

When added to words ending in a vowel, the linking vowel is omitted or altered:

oilā → oilam (my family), oilang (your family), oilasi (his/her family).

In the third person singular, the form -si is used instead of -i.

Voice of Consonants (q/k)

In Uzbek, when possessive suffixes are attached to disyllabic or polysyllabic words ending in q or k, these consonants change into their voiced counterparts (g' and g respectively):

qulqoq → qulog'i (his/her ear)

yurak → yuragi (his/her heart)

However, this phenomenon does not occur in monosyllabic words, for example:

o'q → o'qim (my arrow).

3. Changes in Certain Vowels

In some monosyllabic words, the vowel in the word stem may change when a possessive suffix is added. This is mainly related to historical phonetic processes. For instance, examples such as son → sana (in the word sanoq) illustrate this phenomenon.

These phonetic features define the normative rules of the Uzbek literary language and play an important role in ensuring correctness in both spoken and written speech.

PHONETICS OF POSSESSIVE SUFFIXES IN THE TURKISH LANGUAGE

Possessive suffixes in Turkish, as in other Turkic languages, express possession by attaching to nouns. Their phonetic characteristics are governed primarily by two fundamental principles: vowel harmony (synharmonism) and consonant alternation.

The vowels within possessive suffixes harmonize with the final vowel of the stem. This harmony is divided into two types:

Major (Four-Way) Vowel Harmony

This type applies to first- and second-person singular and plural possessive suffixes. The vowel in the suffix changes according to the final vowel of the stem and appears as i, i, u, or ü:

After a or ı → i: araba → arabam ("my car")

After e or i → i: kedi → kedim ("my cat")

After o or u → u: okul → okulum ("my school")

After ö or ü → ü: göz → gözüm ("my eye")

Minor (Two-Way) Vowel Harmony

This type is observed in third-person possessive suffixes (-si/-si/-su/-sü or -i/-i/-u/-ü).

Consonant Alternation

When possessive suffixes are added, final consonants of the stem may undergo phonetic changes. If a word ends in voiceless consonants such as k, t, p, or ç and a vowel-initial suffix—especially the third-person singular—is added, these consonants soften:

k → ğ: kitap → kitabı ("his/her book")

t → d

p → b

ç → c

If a word ends in a vowel, first- and second-person suffixes are added directly (araba → arabam). In the third person, the auxiliary consonant s is inserted (araba → arabası). When another suffix follows the possessive suffix, the auxiliary consonant n is used (onun eli → elinde).

These phonetic characteristics arise from the agglutinative nature of Turkish and contribute to the melodic quality of the language.

PHONETICS OF POSSESSIVE SUFFIXES IN THE KAZAKH LANGUAGE

In Kazakh, possessive suffixes undergo a range of phonetic changes primarily due to vowel harmony and assimilation.

Vowel Harmony (Synharmonism)

This is a fundamental feature of Kazakh phonetics. The vowel in the possessive suffix changes depending on whether the vowel in the stem is front or back:

Back vowels (a, o, u, ı): bala → balam ("my child")

Front vowels (ä, ö, ü, e, i): äke → äkem ("my father")

Consonant Assimilation

The initial consonant of possessive suffixes—particularly in the third person—may change depending on the final consonant of the stem. Voiced stems tend to take voiced suffixes, while voiceless stems take voiceless variants. In some cases, plosive consonants may shift into fricatives at morpheme boundaries.

Multiple Suffix Variants

Due to these phonetic rules, each possessive suffix may have several variants (usually two or four). For example, the first-person singular suffix may appear as -(ı)m / -(i)m.

Stress Shift

When possessive suffixes are added, stress generally shifts from the stem to the suffix, although some sources indicate that certain possessive forms may

remain unstressed.

These features demonstrate the close interaction between morphological and phonetic rules in the Kazakh language.

PHONETICS OF POSSESSIVE SUFFIXES IN THE AZERBAIJANI LANGUAGE

The phonetic characteristics of possessive suffixes in Azerbaijani are distinguished by strict adherence to vowel harmony, a fundamental feature of Turkic languages. This rule requires the vowel in the suffix to harmonize with the final vowel of the stem.

Azerbaijani is an agglutinative language in which vowel harmony operates very strongly. Possessive suffixes may appear in two or four variants depending on the phonetic structure of the stem.

Azerbaijani has nine vowel phonemes (a, i, o, u, e, ə, ı, ö, ü), and possessive suffixes correspondingly appear in four forms, such as -(ı)m, -(i)m, -(u)m, -(ü)m for the first-person singular.

If a word ends in a vowel, the auxiliary consonant s is used before the third-person possessive suffix (ana → anası “his/her mother”). In other persons, suffixes are added directly (ana → anam “my mother”).

Although phonetic changes within stems are relatively rare, some internal vowel reduction may occur (şəhər → şəhrim “my city”). Unlike Uzbek, suffixes beginning with d or t occur only in the d-initial form in Azerbaijani.

A comparative table of possessive suffixes further illustrates these phonetic patterns [3].

Overall, the phonetic behavior of Azerbaijani possessive suffixes is defined by vowel harmony and the use of auxiliary consonants depending on whether the stem ends in a vowel or a consonant.

PHONETICS OF POSSESSIVE SUFFIXES IN THE UYGHUR LANGUAGE

In Uyghur, possessive suffixes, like those in other Turkic languages, primarily follow the principle of vowel harmony. This requires suffix vowels to adapt to the final vowel of the stem in terms of front/back and rounded/unrounded features.

For example, although the first-person singular possessive suffix is -m, the epenthetic vowel preceding it changes:

ata-m (“my father”) – back vowel

qız-im (“my daughter”) – back vowel

dost-um (“my friend”) – rounded vowel

gül-üm (“my flower”) – front rounded vowel

Consonant Adaptation

Certain consonants in suffixes may also vary depending

on the final sound of the stem, becoming voiced or voiceless accordingly.

Epenthetic Vowels

If a stem ends in a consonant, a short, phonetically appropriate vowel may be inserted before the possessive suffix. This vowel may not always be reflected in the orthography [3].

Orthography and Pronunciation

Although these phonetic changes are consistently observed in pronunciation, they are not always fully represented in Uyghur orthography, which is based on the Arabic script. This leads to some discrepancies between pronunciation and spelling.

These features reflect the agglutinative nature of Uyghur, in which morphemes regularly undergo phonetic adaptation when combined.

Conclusion

In conclusion, every nation possesses its own unique linguistic resources, and studying and teaching them contributes—even modestly to the development and popularization of the language. In the Uzbek, Turkish, Kazakh, Azerbaijani, and Uyghur languages examined above, possessive suffixes follow similar structural and phonetic principles, though they differ in specific realizations. Comparative analysis of these features yields valuable results in dialectology and Turkic linguistics.

In linguistics, it is nearly impossible to establish an absolute and final theory, as language is closely connected to the complexity of human psychology. Language is the materialized form of human essence. The development of any academic field depends on diverse perspectives, scholarly debate, and the advancement of theoretical frameworks. Even if the ideas presented are relative, this is a natural aspect of the research process and ultimately contributes to the progress of the discipline.

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