



COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF LETTERS IN THE UZBEK AND ARABIC ALPHABETS

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Abstract

This article provides a comprehensive overview of the historical development of the Uzbek script, tracing the transition from Arabic script to Cyrillic, and subsequently to the current Latin alphabet. It also presents a comparative analysis of the phonetic capabilities of Uzbek letters, the distinctive features, and shortcomings of various writing systems. The study draws scientific conclusions based on historical sources, linguistic scholars' opinions, and practical challenges.

Keywords: history of Uzbek script, Arabic script, Cyrillic script, Latin script, phonetic capabilities, comparative analysis of writing systems, alphabet reform.

Introduction

The script of every nation is one of the most important symbols of its culture, thinking, and identity. The Uzbek people have used several writing systems throughout their history. The Arabic script played an important role in our people's life for centuries. From the early 20th century, the Latin script was introduced, followed by the Cyrillic script, and after independence, the current Latin script was officially adopted [1, p.67]. Today, the alphabet issue remains one of the pressing topics. This article discusses in detail the phonetic capabilities of different writing systems, the letters of the Uzbek alphabet, and their comparative analysis.

Main Part

History of Uzbek Script. The Uzbek script was formed on the basis of the Arabic script starting from the 9th century. The Arabic script served as the main tool for



writing religious and scientific works [2, p.45]. However, it did not fully correspond to the phonetic system of the Uzbek language. For example, there were no specific symbols for the sounds 'o', 'g', and 'ng' [2, p.56]. At the beginning of the 20th century, under the influence of the Jadid movement, the transition to the Latin script began. In 1929, a unified Turkic alphabet based on the Latin script was introduced [3, p.78]. In 1940, for political reasons, the Cyrillic script was adopted. During this period, certain problems arose between the pronunciation and writing of the Uzbek language [3, p.95]. After independence, the issue of returning to the national script was raised, and in 1993, a new alphabet based on the Latin script was adopted [4, p.112].

Arabic Script and its Features

The Arabic script was mainly used in the religious and spiritual spheres. Its main advantage was that it was widespread in the Muslim East and facilitated communication [1, p.102]. However, due to the incomplete representation of vowels, reading texts was difficult. As the Arabic script was primarily a consonant script, it was weak in reflecting the rich vowel system of the Uzbek language [2, p.57].

Cyrillic Script Period

The Cyrillic script was partially adapted to the Uzbek language, but it contained unnecessary letters. For instance, the symbols 'Щ', 'Ъ', and 'Ь' were not used in Uzbek phonetics [3, p.81]. At the same time, the Cyrillic script allowed a clearer representation of some Uzbek sounds. For example, special symbols were introduced for 'o', 'g', and 'ng' [3, p.96]. However, this script became a tool of Russification and brought the Uzbek language closer to Russian [3, p.100].

Latin Script and the Current Alphabet

The Latin script, adopted after independence, created broad opportunities in the international arena [4, p.120]. This script is compatible with computers and technologies, allowing for widespread use. However, difficulties remain in representing certain sounds. For example, the sounds 'sh', 'ch', and 'ng' are



represented by digraphs consisting of two letters [5, p.211]. In addition, the technical standards of the symbols 'o' and 'g' vary in use.

Comparison of Phonetic Capabilities of Letters

A major drawback of the Arabic script was the lack of vowels, while the Cyrillic script was overloaded with unnecessary symbols [2, p.60]. The current Latin script is concise and convenient, but the representation of some graphemes with two letters complicates writing [5, p.215]. Thus, each writing system has its own unique advantages and disadvantages.

Practical Problems and Solutions

Today, during the process of fully implementing the Latin script, a number of issues are being observed. In particular, unified standards of writing have not yet been fully applied in textbooks, official documents, and mass media [5, p.230]. Moreover, different variants of symbols are used in technological tools. To solve this problem, it is necessary to establish a unified state standard and teach the script thoroughly in the educational process.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, Arabic, Cyrillic, and Latin scripts have played significant roles in the history of the Uzbek script. Each writing system had its advantages as well as problems. Today, the Latin script is being widely introduced as the national script, and scientific and practical research continues to improve it. The following recommendations are proposed:

1. Review certain letters in the Latin script based on phonetic compatibility.
2. Establish strict state-level rules for standardizing the script.
3. Expand the teaching of the history of the Uzbek script in school and higher education curricula.
4. Develop Uzbek script programs integrated with modern technologies.

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