



THE HISTORICAL PROCESSES OF UZBEK ORTHOGRAPHY

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ANNOTATION

In this article, the stages of development of Uzbek orthography are gradually studied in relation to the history of Uzbek writing for the first time. It reveals the important features of the spelling of each period.

Keywords: orthography, writing, process, Arabic script, Cyrillic script, Latin script, spelling rules.

INTRODUCTION

The origin and historical development of Orthography is closely linked to the development of society, to the rise of its culture to a higher level, as well as to the growing need to record political, legal, and aesthetic ideas so as to leave for further generations. Therefore, the orthography is one of the greatest cultural discoveries and it plays a crucial role in the development of human society from various perspectives.

The unparalleled role and importance of written words in the development of society can be clearly seen even in our current societies with large advancements in computer technologies, the Internet, and mobile communications. In the functioning of all these tools one can see that the role of written words is indispensable. The rules and norms of orthography determine the adequate and proper exchange of written communications. Thus, just as no human society can be imagined without the rules of writing, writing itself cannot exist without spelling rules. The history of Uzbek writing during 20th century is characterized by a lot of complex processes involved. During this period Uzbek writing was radically reformed several times – from one graphical system to another. Such a phenomenon is witnessed rarely in the history of other global nations. It can be inferred from the analysis of available sources that the history of Uzbek writing during 20th century includes four major periods in itself:

- 1st period – years based on Arabic graphics (1900-1929)
- 2nd period – years based on Latin graphics (1929-1940)
- 3rd period – years based on Russian graphics (1940-1995)
- 4th period – years based on double-writings (1995-present)¹

Due to the fact that the change in writing led to changes in spelling rules, Uzbek spelling rules were also reformed many times during this period. Although Uzbek orthography has undergone many complex processes, its background history is studied in sufficiently in Uzbek linguistics. This is

probably why, despite the fact that the orthography is given as a separate section in all of the programs and textbooks of “Modern Uzbek literary language” system, they lack the information on its historical background. In particular, the linguist R.Jomonov proposed that: “The spelling rules of Uzbek language, the stages of their formation, scientific-theoretical, organizational and ideological factors are still poorly understood. Especially, insufficient attention has been paid to issues such as the role of spelling rules in the development of the Uzbek literary language, the history of the language, its integral connection with grammar and terminology.”² However, the spelling section of the literature on Uzbek linguistics should also include information about its history. The first major study of the history of Uzbek orthography was elucidated in the dissertation of linguist Fakhri Kamal on “Uzbek Orthography”³. Also, this particular issue was raised to some extent in the various scientific works of our linguists A.Nurmonov, S.Ibragimov, H.Jamolkhonov, R.Jomonov, Y.Abdullaev. The history of Uzbek spelling in relations with the history of Uzbek writing can be periodized as follows:

1st period – spelling reforms of the years based on Arabic graphics (1900-1929)

2nd period – spelling problems of the years based on Latin graphics (1929-1940)

3rd period – spelling problems of writing based on Russian graphics (1940-1995)

4th period – reforms in the years based on two records (1995-present)

In the period till 1916th during the 1st period, the main focus was on the organization of literacy, education, and training. By 1918, as a result of the establishment of the scientific society by the name of “ChigatayGurungi”, which deals with the issues language, spelling, and literature, considerate attention was paid to the issues of the alphabet and spelling. On October 9-10, in 1923, the first conference of Central Asian Uzbeks on the issues related to alphabet and spelling rules will be held. Along with the new alphabet, new spelling rules⁵ were also adopted during the conference, which were approved by the Turkestan Commissariat of Education on October 18, 1923 and were in force until 1929. Thus, in the history of Uzbek orthography, **the first spelling rules** were adopted in relation with the reformation of the Arabic alphabet.

On August 10, 1929, a meeting of the board of the People's Commissariat of Education of Uzbekistan was held, which approved the new spelling rules recommended by the language and spelling conference in May. Thus, **the second spelling rules** in the history of Uzbek orthography were adopted. The "Rules" consist of 29 articles, which give more attention and place to the expression of synharmonic dialect features in writing⁶. This particular aspect of the writing provoked a public dispute, which in 1933 led to the creation of a new draft of the rules of Uzbek orthography.

On July 4, 1940, at a meeting of the government commission on the establishment of a new alphabet, the "Orthography of the Uzbek literary language" (draft) was also approved with some

changes and amendments. Thus, begins a new stage in the history of Uzbek writing - a period based on Russian graphics. At the same time, **the third spelling rules** in the history of Uzbek spelling were adopted.

On the basis of critical opinions and suggestions expressed in the press in 1953-1955, several new drafts of the "Basic Rules of Uzbek Orthography" were created, the last of which were submitted to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Uzbekistan.

On April 4, 1956, the "Basic Rules of Uzbek Spelling" (revised and improved version) was approved by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Uzbekistan⁷. These spelling rules consist of 5 sections and 72 rules.

In 1989, the Uzbek language was given the status of the state language, and with the achievement of national independence, a new era began with the new problems of Uzbek writing. On August 24, 1995, based on the legislation 339 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan the spelling rules of the new Uzbek script based on Latin script⁸ were approved. This is **the fourth spelling rule** in the history of Uzbek spelling.

It is known that we currently have double-writing processes in use. Obviously, this has an impact on the writing culture of the society and the general level of spelling literacy of the members of the society. Particularly, there are many cases of contravention of spelling rules in the press literature. The simplest example of this is the adoption of spelling rules for the Uzbek script based on the Cyrillic alphabet in 1995 and the adoption of rules for the Latin alphabet in 1956. For example, the fact that prepositions such as -u, -yu are always written with a dash is a phenomenon related to the Uzbek script based on Latin script, but this rule also applies to texts based on Russian graphics. However, according to the 1956 rule, prepositions such as -u and -yu are added to the word when they come as a linking word. In order to apply such subtleties correctly, it is necessary to know the spelling rules perfectly or to eliminate the double-writing process as soon as possible.

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