



Formation and Study of Karakalpak Writing

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Article History	Abstract
Received: 06 June 2023 Revised: 05 Sept 2023 Accepted: 11 Sept 2023	<p><i>This article explores the history and evolution of the Karakalpak language, a member of the Turkic language group, with a focus on its script, spelling, and recent language development efforts. The Karakalpak language has roots dating back to the Sak-Massaget peoples around the Aral Sea and evolved into Turkic through interactions with other groups. Its literary form emerged in the 15th century, and it continued to evolve, with poets like Kunkhoja and Ajiniyaz contributing. The Karakalpak script transitioned from Arabic and Latin to the current Latin-based alphabet, with spelling reforms over time. Recent initiatives aim to strengthen the language's role in education and daily life, preserving its unique features and cultural significance.</i></p>
CC License CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0	<p>Keywords: Karakalpak Language, Linguistic Development, Script Evolution</p>

1. Introduction

Language is an incomparable wealth that forms a person as a person, unites them into groups and nations, takes them to higher stages of development, signifies national identity, and leads to spiritual perfection as well as the most important means of communication between people. At the same time, language is a means of seeing, knowing and perceiving the world. The well-known German linguist V. Humboldt said that "the spiritual world of the people finds its expression in the language. In order to know the spiritual world of another nation, it is necessary to learn the language of that nation. The diversity of languages is not only related to the diversity of sounds and spellings." [1]

Language is inextricably linked with the soul of the people. Language is an integral part of human culture, the only source of strength of the people. Language is the basic movement of the human spirit, which underlies the movement of other types of existence.

Each language is a part of the common human culture. Mother tongue is necessary for the mental, emotional and spiritual development of every person. It is inextricably linked with the history of the nation, it ensures its unity, the unique personality of the nation, it is the main source for the preservation of the nation as a nation, and it ensures the continuity of generations speaking that language.

2. Materials And Methods

Karakalpak language is one of the oldest languages belonging to the Turkic language group. The historical roots of the Karakalpak language go back to the Sak-Massaget peoples who lived around the Aral Sea at the beginning of our era [2]. In the 4th-5th centuries, nomadic Gunn peoples from the Altai fields, Moghul provinces, and China began to move to these lands, and the process of their mixing with the Sak-Massaget peoples, who were already living here, took place and their language became Turkic. The Pecheneg people who lived between the Aral Sea and the Caspian Sea in the 8th-11th centuries formed the basis of the ethnic formation of the Karakalpak population in the Middle Ages [3]. The word "Pecheneg" is based on the word "Saks who live by the water, in swamps", that is, "apasiak". In the 9th-10th centuries, the Pechenegs were divided into three groups due to the invasion

of the Bulgars and the Oghuz. One group went to the Anatolian lands with the Oghuz-Seldjuks, while the other group mixed with the Kipshaks who came here from the Irtysh rivers in the 11th century and went to the fields of Southern Russia. The third group lived around the Aral Sea. The subsequent history of the people of Karakalpak was connected with the Golden Horde. Due to the spread of the Golden Horde, the Khanate of Kazan, Khanate of Kashkargulkhan, and Khanate of Siberia appeared in the XIV-XV centuries. In 1392, the Nogai Horde appeared during the reign of Edige.

Formation of the Karakalpak, Kazakh, Nogai peoples as a population was related to this Nogai Horde. The examples of the rich oral literature of the Karakalpak people confirm that the spoken language of the Karakalpak population and the oral type of the Karakalpak literary language were formed in the 15th century. During this period, a large number of folk songs, fairy tales, and epics were created in the oral form of the Karakalpak literary language. Asan qaygi, Soppaslı Sipira jiraw, Dospambet, Shalkiyiz jiro, Múyten jiraw's terma-tolgaws, Jiyrenshe's eloquent words were created.

3. Results and Discussion

The Karakalpak literary language continued to develop in the later periods. In the 19th century, the classic representatives of Karakalpak literature, such as Kunkhoja, Berdaq, Ájiniyaz, Zardash, Omar, Gulmurat, etc., began to create their artistic works in written form. The emergence and development of writing became the basis for the emergence and formation of the Karakalpak written literary language. During this period, a large number of epic works began to spread among Karakalpaks in written form, as a result of reciting epics, the art of storytelling appeared and developed. In the 19th century, with the construction of mosques and madrasahs in the territory of Karakalpakstan, the introduction of writing and drawing, familiarization of letters, many words from Arabic-Persian languages were adopted into our language, they influenced the enrichment of the vocabulary of the Karakalpak language. Due to the changes in the political and social life of the people of Karakalpakstan in the 20th century, ample opportunities were created for the further development and enrichment of the Karakalpak language.

The emergence and development of the Karakalpak script developed in connection with the writing system of Turkic languages. The earliest writing of the Turkic language is the runic writing, in which the old Turkic written memories of the VI-VIII centuries - Qultegin, Bilke kogan, To'nikók, etc. Writings in the Uyghur alphabet were written between the 10th and 15th centuries. Memoirs such as "Golden Yaruq", "Huastuanift", "Kutadgu Bilik" by Yusup Hos Hajib, "Hibatul Haqayik" by Ahmed Yugnaki, Oğuznama, "Muhabbatnama" by Khorezmi, etc. were written in this writing. The third type of writing left by the Turkic peoples was used in documents, scientific and religious books written in Arabic spelling between the 10th and 20th centuries. Among them, the 14th-century "Codex Kumanikus" is written in the old Gothic font. In the 16th and 17th centuries, the official documents written in the Armenian colonies of Lbov and Kamenets-Podolsky in the Western Ukraine on the territory of the Kingdom of Poland were written in the Armenian alphabet. As we have seen, Turkic peoples used different types of writing in every period.

Legal documents written in Arabic graphics in XVIII-XIX centuries a) "Karakalpak oaths" -1742-1743; b) Orenburg materials 1855-1859; business letters and correspondence of the Karakalpaks in the late XIX - early XX centuries. Academician H. Hamidov studied the linguistic properties of these documents [4].

In the language of legal documents written in Arabic graphics, Arabic-Persian words incomprehensible to the population were often encountered. Also, in the 19th century, I.A. Belyaev and A.A. Divaev wrote the epics "Edige", "Alpamis", "Qoblan" among the Karakalpaks in Arabic graphics [5].

In the 19th century, famous Karakalpak poets Berdaq (1827-1900), Ajiniyaz (1824-1878), Otesh (1828-1902) etc. created their works in Arabic graphics in the Karakalpak variant of the Central Asian Turkish literary language. By adapting the Arabic spelling to the standards of oral speech of the Karakalpak people, he formed a beautiful literary style of the written literary language of Karakalpak [6].

In 1924, after the formation of the Karakalpak autonomous region, the Karakalpak script appeared on the basis of the reformed Arabic alphabet. In November 1924, the newspaper "Erkin Karakalpaq" began to be published. In 1925, in the reformed Arabic alphabet, "Álipbe", "Egedeler Sawati", "Aqiw Kitabi" were published in Tashkent [7]. S. Majitov was the editor and author of these textbooks. There were 29 letters in the reformed Arabic alphabet. This alphabet was used until 1928. There were some problems in the Arabic alphabet and the sound structure of the Karakalpak language in writing, so there were certain difficulties in educating many layers of the people.

In July 1927, the regional party committee decided to switch to Latin graphics. A state commission headed by K. Awezov, the head of the regional executive committee at that time, was established.

On July 30, 1928, Q. Awezov and S. Majitov presented the first plan of the Latinized Karakalpak alphabet for discussion at the regional government council. After extensive discussions and taking into account recommendations, a new Karakalpak alphabet based on Latin graphics was approved at the end of 1928. The Latinized alphabet consisted of 32 letters, eight of which were adopted to represent vowel sounds. In 1928, the textbooks "Karakalpak álipbesi" under the collective authorship of Tortkul and under the leadership of K. Awezov and "Khat tanish" by Eraliev (T. 1929) were published in this alphabet.

In 1930, on the initiative of press workers, writers and teachers, a conference on improving the alphabet and spelling was held, and the following recommendations were adopted:

1. Remove the Afrikata letter "ch" from implementation and give its service to the letter "sh";
2. Use the unvoiced letter "p" instead of the voiced letter "b" in the auslaut position of the word: mekteb - mektep, kitab-kitap;
3. Write the lip vowels in the first two syllables: qulun, kuduq, búgún.

These recommendations were approved by the government decision of December 12, 1931.

In 1931, the issue of developing strict spelling rules of the Karakalpak language was raised, and in 1932, two plans of Karakalpak orthography were prepared. Q. Ubaydullaev and Kosekeevler were the compilers in the first plan, Q. Ayimbetov was the compiler in the second plan. These two plans, after extensive discussion among Karakalpak intellectuals, were combined and adopted at the first orthographic conference in September 1932. According to the decision of this conference, the following plans were adopted:

1. The letters "ı", "i" with a tight sound are used in all positions of the word;
2. The letters "u", "ú" with lip sounds are written in the first and second syllable;
3. Lip sounds "ó", "ó" are written only in the first syllable;
4. While speaking, keep the base of the word despite some changes due to the influence of the sounds on the sides: duzshı - dushshı, jonqa - jońqa, janbadı - jambadı.

In July 1935, the second spelling conference was organized in the city of Tortkul, and the issues of improvement of Karakalpak alphabet and spelling rules, principles of formation of Karakalpak terminology, directions of development of Karakalpak literary language were considered. It was proposed to make the following changes to the Karakalpak alphabet and spelling rules:

1. Discontinuation of the letters "ğ", "ó", "ú" adopted to express the sounds characteristic of the Karakalpak language;
2. Do not use "ı", "i" with short sounds at the beginning of the word.
3. Writing the letters "u", "ú" with lip sound only in the first syllable of the word.

These recommendations caused intense debate among the participants of the conference, and the conference could not reach a single conclusion on the matter.

In October 1938, the third spelling conference was convened in Tortkul. At this conference, a new version of the alphabet and spelling rules of the Karakalpak language compiled by N. Dawqaraev, Q. Ayimbetov, and U. Kojurov was adopted. There are 32 letters in the Karakalpak alphabet in this variant, eleven of which are taken to represent vowel sounds (two to represent the sounds ı, i in words

that came from the Russian language), and 21 letters to represent consonants. The structure of the alphabet remained the same, but changes related to spelling rules were introduced:

1. A sign was adopted to express the double lip sonor "w". Before that, the letter "v" was used as in the Uzbek language;
2. The letter "v" was preserved in the structure of foreign words: wagon, asset;
3. The letters "я", "ю", "ё" are written in the form of the combination "ya", "yiw", "yo": partiya, yamasa, yolka;
4. One character "s" was used to express the sounds "ш", "ч".
5. The letter "ш" in the words that entered the Russian language was represented by two letters "ss": ssetka.
6. The letter "ц" in the words entered from the Russian language was represented by the combination of the letter's "t" and "s". Lip vowels were written only in the first syllable.

Since 1936, the process of transition to writing based on Russian graphics began in the former national republics. Therefore, in 1940, the Department of Karakalpak Language and Literature of the Research Institute of Karakalpakstan prepared a plan for a new Karakalpak alphabet based on Russian graphics. The preparers were K. Ubaidullaev, Q. Ayimbetov, N. Dawqaraev.

This plan was approved by the decision of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Karakalpakstan on July 18, 1940. A two-year deadline was set for the transition to writing based on Russian graphics. This alphabet consisted of 35 letters, 6 letters were adopted to represent 9 vowel sounds: the sound "ə" was written as аѐ, the sound "ɣ" was written as уѐ, and the sound "ɵ" was written as оѐ. The letters я, ю, ё are accepted. 24 letters were adopted to represent consonant, "н" was written as "нѐ". Ъ - softening, ъ - subtraction signs are accepted. The letters к, ф, х were adopted to express the sounds characteristic of the Karakalpak language. This alphabet was used unchanged until 1957. On February 28, 1957, a decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Karakalpakstan ASSR was adopted on making some changes to the construction of the alphabet and spelling rules. This alphabet consists of 41 letters, 9 letters represent vowel sounds, 26 letters represent consonant sounds, and 6 more letters (ə, ɵ, ю, я, ъ, ъ) were adopted. The following changes were made to the 1940 alphabet:

1. The letters ə, ɵ, ɣ were introduced to express the vowel sounds characteristic of the Karakalpak language;
2. The letter "ŷ" was introduced to represent the sonorous double lip "w" sound. Earlier "v" was used: suv - cyŷ, vatan - ŷatan.
3. The letter ɣ was introduced, previously it was written in the form of "нѐ".

Thus, the number of additional letters added to express the sounds characteristic of the Karakalpak language became eight: á, ó, ú, ġ, q, o, ń, h. This alphabet is still used today. On February 26, 1994, a new Karakalpak alphabet based on Latin graphics was adopted, consisting of 31 letters. 6 symbols were adopted to represent 9 vowel sounds: Aa, Ee, Íi, Ii, Oo, Uu. Vowels Ə, ɵ, ɣ were expressed by putting a colon apostrophe over the letters a, o, u: Ää, Öö, Üü. 20 characters were adopted to represent consonants: Bb, Dd, Ff, Gg, Hh, Xx, Jj, Kk, Qq, Ll, Mm, Nn, Pp, Rr, Ss, Tt, Ww, Yy, Zz. In the Karakalpak language, an apostrophe was added to the side of the letter "Gg" to represent the sound "f", and to the side of the letter "Nn" to represent the sound "ɣ": G'g', "N'n'". On December 29, 1995, at the fifth session of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, another change was made to the Karakalpak alphabet.

1. Five letters of the alphabet: A'a', G'g', O'o', U'u', N'n' with a stop sign, one letter (sh) was taken as a combination of letters.
2. The combination of letters "Sh" became the function of the letters ч, ш, щ in the Russian alphabet.
3. The letter "Vv" used in additional Russian words was adopted, the number of letters in the alphabet increased to 32.

On October 8, 2009, at the session of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, some changes were made to the alphabet and spelling rules.

1. The letters "c" to represent the letter "ц" in Russian graphics, "ch" to represent the letter "ч" were added, and the number of letters in the alphabet became 34 letters.

2. By placing a hyphen next to the former letter I ı, it became I'i' type, that is, the capital letter was written with two elements, and the lower-case letter with three elements.

3. Changes were introduced in the spelling of letters E, o, o'. The letters e, o, o', which were written in the form of a fragment at the beginning of the word, were previously written in the form of the combination ye, yo, wo' with the addition of the letters y, w in local words. Yertek, Yernazar, Wol, Wospan, Wónim, Wo'tegen.

On April 7, 2014, the decision of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Karakalpakstan "On giving the name of our state in the Karakalpak language" was approved. According to this decision, the name of our country should be written as "Ўзбекистан" in Cyrillic script and "O'zbekstan" in Latin script. That is, the sonar "w" at the beginning of the word "O'zbekstan" will be removed.

On June 10, 2016, at the ninth session of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the Law "On Amendments and Additions to Certain Laws of the Republic of Karakalpakstan" was adopted and according to its 11th paragraph, additions and changes were made to the Law of the Republic of Karakalpakstan "On the introduction of the Karakalpak alphabet based on the Latin script". On the basis of this Law, the rules of spelling were improved and reorganized by the working group organized by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. The proposed spelling of the Karakalpak alphabet, based on the Latin script, aims to preserve the rules of that script without making major changes to our current script. The reason is that this script has been improved over twenty years of application experience, as a result of conferences and press exchanges, and it can be considered that it has become a stable script.

Also, for one year (2015-2016), these spelling rules were discussed at three republic-level scientific-practical conferences and articles published in the local press. Thus, it has undergone many discussions by linguists, experienced school teachers, and the general public.

On October 8, 2009, the Law of the Republic of Karakalpakstan "On the introduction of the Karakalpak alphabet based on the Latin script" was included. The changes "In local words, the letters "y, w" are added in front of the letters e, o, ó at the beginning of the word, and they are written in the form of the combination "ye, yo, wo'", which was done in the Law of the Republic of Karakalpakstan "On the introduction of the Karakalpak alphabet based on the Latin script" on October 8, 2009, caused difficulties in learning the alphabet for elementary school students. In such writing, regardless of the explanations of elementary school teachers, according to the formed program, reading the words together, there were cases of students saying the sounds y, w and using words starting with the letters e, o, o in the form of y-etik, w-orak, w-o'pepek. Due to the problem of placing pictures related to words starting with the letters e, o, o in the methodical guide "Su'wretli a'lipbe", which plays an important role in developing the ability of first graders to see and remember, "Orthographic dictionary of the Karakalpak language" was not published as it was not possible to give at least one Karakalpak word starting with the letters e, o, ó in the dictionary. In the Karakalpak alphabet, the use of apostrophes on the upper side of 6 letters (A'a', U'u', O'o', I'i', G'g', N'n') separates the letters from each other and makes our writing ugly. Since each word in computer writing needs to be spaced one space, it has become difficult to determine word boundaries with an apostrophe letter. As a result, at the session of the Supreme Council, taking into account the opinions and suggestions of linguists and the general public, the following additions and changes were made to this law:

a) Amendment adopted on October 8, 2009, "In local words, the letters "y, w" are added in front of the letters e, o, ó at the beginning of the word, and they are written in the form of the combination "ye, yo, wo'" was removed; the writing of the letters e, o, o at the beginning of the word was preserved as a previously formed norm of our literary language. Among them, the first and sixth paragraphs of this law were left unchanged, that is, the Cyrillic letters c, ch used in words borrowed from foreign languages were preserved.

b) apostrophes on the side of the letters that show the sounds (A'a', U'u', O'o', I'i', Γ'r', N'n') that represent a unique feature of the Karakalpak language was removed and changed to an acute sign placed on top of the letter: Áá, Óó, Úú, Íí, Ğğ, Ŋŋ.

d) the currently used apostrophe in the letter 'I' with a tight sound was removed, and writing in the "İ" type, that is, the capital letter with an acute sign, and the lower-case letter (ı) without an acute sign, was adopted. Since the lowercase letter of this letter in the former alphabet consists of three elements, it creates additional problems in writing and reading.

e) the writing of the letter e in the beginning of the word in the form of the compound ye (yertek, yer, yemen), in the form of e in the adopted words (economy, electricity, energy) also created additional difficulties. The reason is that in the languages of the Turkic peoples (Uzbek, Turk, Azerbaijani, Turkmen) who switched to the Latin script before us, the experience of using the letter e in both cases was formed. Therefore, in the new spelling rules, both these services were assigned to the letter e.

Resolution No. 135 of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Karakalpakstan dated November 3, 2020 on "Measures to further increase the reputation and status of the Karakalpak language as a state language", and Resolution No. 410 of July 16, 2021 of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Karakalpakstan "Measures for further development of the Karakalpak language" were adopted. Based on these decisions, the concept of Karakalpak language development in educational institutions in 2021-2030, the following tasks are defined:

- increasing Karakalpak language classes in secondary schools,
- increasing the number of Karakalpak language departments in higher education institutions to 8 by 2025 and 12 by 2030,
- creating dictionaries,
- creating textbooks based on the national program,
- ensuring the integration of Karakalpak alphabet, Karakalpak alphabet and orthography language into modern press technologies and communications, based on Latin textbooks

In order to implement these works, M. Dáwletov and Sh. Abdinazimov published "Qaraqalpaq tiliniń orfografiyalıq sózligi" [8]. On the basis of the national program, Sh. Abdinazimov, J. Ospanova, H. Abdijabbarova published "Álipbe" in 2021 [9]. In 2022, the team of authors published the textbook "Ana tili hám oqıw sawathıǵı" [10] for the 1st and 2nd grades, and the textbooks "Karakalpak language" for the 3rd, 6th, and 10th grades. In 2023, 7 volumes of the "Dictionary of the Karakalpak language" were published.

On July 5, 2016, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan adopted a decision "On approval of the basic spelling rules of the Karakalpak language" and "Qaraqalpaq tiliniń imla qaǵıydaları" were published in 2016 [11].

S.E. Malov [12], E.D. Polivanov [13], especially N.A. Baskakov's capital work played a big role in the research of the Karakalpak language [14].

In the middle of the 20th century, local Karakalpak linguists rose. G. Ubaidullaev conducted research on the improvement of the Karakalpak alphabet and spelling rules, phonetics of the Karakalpak language. D.S. Nasyrov continued the path started by N.A. Baskakov and created a fundamental work on the formation of the Karakalpak spoken language and the formation of its dialectal system [15]. Research in this regard continues today.

4. Conclusion

In the last period, practical work was carried out to improve the Karakalpak alphabet based on the Latin script and to stabilize its spelling rules. In 2015-2016, conferences were held three times on the republican scale. Errors in the Karakalpak alphabet and spelling rules have been corrected. The spelling rules of the Karakalpak language have been newly developed and approved.

In short, as an integral part of world and Turkish language knowledge, today's knowledge of the Karakalpak language is trying to carry out scientific and research work based on the requirements of the present time.

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