

**THE INFLUENCE OF RUSSIAN CULTURE ON THE VOCABULARY AND  
PHRASEOLOGY OF THE KARAKALPAK LANGUAGE**

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**Annotation:** The interaction between languages often carries significant cultural implications, especially in multilingual societies. This paper examines the influence of Russian culture on the vocabulary and phraseology of the Karakalpak language, a member of the Turkic language family spoken primarily in Uzbekistan. Given the historical context of Russian colonization and the subsequent Soviet era, this study aims to highlight how Russian has shaped the lexicon and idiomatic expressions in Karakalpak. The findings indicate that while the Karakalpak language has maintained its core Turkic identity, Russian influence is evident in both everyday language and cultural expressions.

**Key words:** Karakalpak, Russian language influence, cultural interaction, vocabulary, phraseology, sociolinguistics

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**Introduction.** Language does not exist in a vacuum. It is intrinsically linked to culture and societal interactions. In the context of Central Asia, the Karakalpak language serves as a prime subject for examining the influence of the Russian language and culture. Historically, the region has experienced significant Russian influence due to colonization and later as part of the Soviet Union. The outcome of these interactions is a rich tapestry of linguistic exchange, where the Karakalpak language has incorporated elements from Russian. This paper aims to explore how Russian culture has affected the vocabulary and phraseology of the Karakalpak language, with a focus on identifying specific lexical borrowings and idiomatic expressions.

**Historical Background. Russian Colonization and Soviet Influence.** The influence of the Russian language on Karakalpak is rooted in the historical context of colonization. In the late 19th century, the Russian Empire expanded into Central Asia, leading to significant interaction between Russian and local Turkic languages. The official policies of the Soviet Union further promoted the Russian language, which became the lingua franca of various Soviet republics. During this period, education, administration, and media predominantly conducted in Russian, leading to a decline in the use of many local languages, including Karakalpak.

**The Karakalpak Language.** The Karakalpak language is one of the Turkic languages and classified under the Kipchak branch. It is spoken by the Karakalpak people, primarily in the Karakalpakstan Autonomous Republic of Uzbekistan. The language has retained its unique Turkic structure while also integrating lexical items and phrases from Russian, especially in modern usage.

**Russian Influence on Vocabulary. Lexical Borrowings.** One of the most direct indicators of Russian influence on Karakalpak is through lexical borrowings. These borrowings can be categorized into several domains: administrative terms, technology, cuisine, and everyday life.

1. **Administrative Terms:** As the Soviet government instituted various administrative reforms, many Russian terms related to governance, bureaucracy, and law entered the Karakalpak lexicon. Words such as "комиссия" (komissiya - commission) and "протокол" (protokol - protocol) commonly used in administrative discussions.

2. **Technology and Modernization:** With the advent of technology, terms related to modern conveniences and machinery have also found their way into Karakalpak. For instance, terms like

"телефон" (telefon - telephone) and "компьютер" (kompyuter - computer) have been adopted into everyday language.

3. Cuisine: The culinary influence is notable as well, with the introduction of various Russian dishes and cooking terms. Words like "суп" (sorpa - soup) and "котлета" (kotleta - cutlet) have become part of Karakalpak culinary vocabulary.

4. Everyday Life: Many everyday expressions have also adapted Russian terms. For example, "магазин" (magazine (du'ka'n) - store) is regularly used in shopping contexts, reflecting a shift in consumer culture influenced by Russian practices.

**Language Attitudes and Usage.** While many Karakalpaks are bilingual, speaking both Karakalpak and Russian, the use of Russian terms in casual conversation often signifies modernity and education. Younger generations are more inclined to employ Russian vocabulary, sometimes as a marker of social status or urban identity. This shift raises questions about the preservation of the Karakalpak language and the potential for language attrition.

**Influence on Phraseology**

**Idiomatic Expressions**

In addition to outright borrowings, Russian culture has influenced the phraseology of the Karakalpak language. Idioms and expressions often reflect cultural values and social norms, and the integration of Russian phrases into Karakalpak speech indicates deeper cultural exchanges.

1. Proverbs and Sayings: Some Russian proverbs have been adopted into Karakalpak with slight modifications. For instance, the Russian saying "На нас обижаются" (ju' rekke jaqin aliw- to take offense at us) has been transformed into a Karakalpak equivalent, displaying a blend of cultural sentiments while retaining the original meaning.

2. Metaphorical Language: The use of metaphorical expressions is common in both Russian and Karakalpak. Phrases that convey wisdom, experience, or caution often carry parallel structures. An example is the expression "Кто много говорит, тот мало делает" (ko'p so'ylegennin' isi pitpes - Those who speak a lot do little), which aligns closely with similar sentiments in Karakalpak.

3. Modern Slang: The influence of Russian pop culture, music, and media has led to the incorporation of modern slang into Karakalpak. Terms used in youth, culture or social media often transcend linguistic barriers, creating a shared lexicon among younger speakers.

**Cultural Implications**

The incorporation of Russian phraseology into the Karakalpak language reflects broader cultural dynamics at play. Language shapes identity, and the blending of Russian phrases within Karakalpak speech may signify a complex relationship with both cultural heritage and modernity.

**Language Preservation and Future Directions**

**Challenges to Preservation**

As the Russian language continues to exert influence, there are growing concerns regarding the preservation of the Karakalpak language. The dominance of Russian in educational and governmental contexts poses a risk to the vitality of Karakalpak. Language shift, particularly among younger speakers, threatens the future of Karakalpak as a living language.

**Efforts in Language Revitalization**

Efforts are underway to revitalize and preserve the Karakalpak language. Educational initiatives, cultural programs, and media productions in Karakalpak aim to bolster its usage in contemporary contexts. Additionally, there is a growing movement among linguists and cultural activists to emphasize the importance of maintaining linguistic diversity in Central Asia.

**Conclusion.** The influence of Russian culture on the vocabulary and phraseology of the Karakalpak language is a testament to the historical and sociolinguistic complexities of Central Asia. While Russian has become an integral part of modern Karakalpak speech, the challenge

remains to balance this influence with the preservation of the language's unique identity. As Karakalpak speakers navigate their linguistic landscape, the interplay between heritage and modernity continues to shape the future of their language.

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