

**MORPHOLOGICAL VARIATION IN THE DIALECTAL SPACE OF THE UZBEK
LANGUAGE: AN AREAL APPROACH**

Sanoyeva Nodira Erkin kizi

Asia International University, Department of
Uzbek and Russian Philology Lecturer

E-mail: coouottvvo@gmail.com

Abstract. This article provides a comprehensive analysis of morphological features observed in the territorial dialects of the Uzbek language from the perspective of areal linguistics. The study examines the geographical distribution of morphological units, the factors influencing their formation, variations in affixation systems, dialectal forms of verb categories, and their relationship with the norms of the literary language. Additionally, changes arising from the geographical distribution of linguistic phenomena and their interaction with neighboring languages are substantiated with relevant examples.

Keywords: areal linguistics, linguistic geography, dialectology, morphology, affixation system, dialect, territorial variation.

Language is a complex system that develops in close connection with societal progress. Each language evolves according to its internal laws; however, external factors such as geographical, social, and historical influences also play a significant role in this process. In this regard, the territorial dialects of the Uzbek language demonstrate the richness and diversity of its morphological system.

The Uzbek language belongs to the Turkic language family and, throughout its long historical development, has formed various dialects and subdialects across different regions. These dialects differ not only phonetically and lexically but also morphologically. Areal linguistics, by studying the geographical distribution of linguistic phenomena, allows for a scientific explanation of these differences. Therefore, this article analyzes the morphological features found in Uzbek dialects based on an areal approach.

Theoretical foundations and methodology of areal linguistics. Areal linguistics (linguistic geography) is a scientific field that studies the geographical distribution of linguistic units, their interaction, and their historical development. Within this approach, linguistic phenomena are mapped and their distribution areas are identified. Areal research relies on the following methods:

Geolinguistic mapping

Collection and comparison of dialectal materials

Comparative-historical analysis

Statistical and areal delimitation methods

Morphological phenomena hold particular importance in areal analysis, as they represent a relatively stable layer of the language system. Nevertheless, under the influence of territorial factors, noticeable changes also occur within morphological structures. Dialectal System and Areal Zones of the Uzbek Language

The dialects of the Uzbek language are generally classified into three major groups:

Karluk dialect (central group)

Kipchak dialect (northwestern group)

Oghuz dialect (southwestern group)



Each dialect is distinguished by specific morphological features and is distributed across particular regions. The differences among these dialects have clear geographical boundaries, which are reflected in linguistic maps.

Main Types of Morphological Features 1. Areal Features of the Plural Category. In the standard Uzbek literary language, the plural suffix is typically expressed as -lar. However, in dialects, various forms are observed:

-la (southern regions)

-dar (northern regions). Examples:

bolalar - bolala

yigitlar - yigitdar

These variations can be explained by phonetic reduction, assimilation, and the influence of neighboring languages. 2. Dialectal Forms of Possessive Categories

Possessive suffixes also vary across regions:

uyim - uyum

ko'zing - ko'zingg

kitobi - kitobi / kitobiyn

Such forms are associated with phonetic adaptation and changes in stress patterns. 3. Areal Differences in the Verb System. The verb system is one of the most dynamic layers in dialects. For example: Present continuous tense: kelayapman - kelvatman, kelyapman;

Past tense: borgan edim - borgandim, borg'andim

In some dialects, shortening and the addition of auxiliary elements in verb forms are observed. 4. Territorial Features of Word-Forming Affixes. Word-formation processes also differ across dialects: Suffixes such as -chi, -kor, -g'ar are more active in certain regions. New words are formed based on regional communicative needs. This reflects the internal developmental processes of the language. Factors Influencing the Areal Distribution of Morphological Features

The territorial differentiation of morphological phenomena is influenced by several factors:

1. Geographical Factors

Natural barriers such as mountains and deserts limit the spread of linguistic units and contribute to the formation of distinct dialect zones.

2. Social Factors

Lifestyle, occupation, and social interactions of the population affect language development.

3. Historical Factors

Historical migrations and political processes have played a significant role in the formation of dialects.

4. Language Contact

Interaction with neighboring languages has led to morphological changes:

In southern regions — influence of Tajik

In northern regions — influence of Kazakh and Karakalpak

Scientific Results of Areal Analysis

Based on the areal approach, the following conclusions can be drawn:

Morphological units are distributed according to territorial systems. Transitional zones exist between dialects. Some forms have been preserved as historical layers. The language system is dynamic and constantly evolving. The Importance of the Areal Approach in Education. The results of areal linguistics can be effectively applied in education:

Students develop a conscious understanding of dialectal differences



Norms of the literary language are strengthened

Linguistic thinking is enhanced

The effective integration of areal linguistics into the educational process requires the development of specific pedagogical strategies and methodological tools. In particular, the use of dialectal materials in classroom activities allows students to compare linguistic forms and identify structural differences between dialectal and standard language units. One of the most productive methods is the **comparative analysis approach**, in which students are presented with examples from various dialects and asked to analyze their morphological structures. For instance, learners may examine differences in plural formation, possessive suffixes, or verb conjugation patterns across dialectal variants. This approach not only strengthens their understanding of grammar but also develops analytical and critical thinking skills. Another effective strategy involves the use of **linguistic maps and visual materials**. By presenting the geographical distribution of specific morphological features, teachers can help students visualize how language varies across regions. This method contributes to a deeper comprehension of areal patterns and enhances students' spatial and cognitive awareness of language. In addition, incorporating **project-based learning** can significantly improve students' engagement. Students may be assigned to collect dialectal data from their local communities, analyze it, and present their findings in class. Such activities foster independent research skills and encourage learners to view language as a living and evolving system.

Challenges in Applying the Areal Approach. Despite its advantages, the application of areal linguistics in education is associated with certain challenges. One of the primary difficulties is the limited availability of systematically organized dialectal materials suitable for classroom use. In many cases, teachers must rely on fragmented sources or conduct their own data collection. Another challenge lies in the potential confusion between dialectal forms and the norms of the literary language. Without proper guidance, students may incorrectly generalize dialectal features as standard forms. Therefore, it is essential for educators to clearly distinguish between normative and non-normative language usage while maintaining a descriptive and non-prescriptive approach.

Furthermore, time constraints within the curriculum may limit the extent to which areal linguistics can be incorporated into lessons. Since language courses often prioritize standard grammar and communication skills, additional content related to dialectology must be carefully integrated to avoid overloading students.

The Role of Areal Linguistics in Developing Linguistic Competence

Areal linguistics plays a crucial role in the formation of comprehensive linguistic competence. It enables students to understand not only the structural aspects of language but also its social and cultural dimensions. By studying dialectal variation, learners become aware of the diversity within a language and develop a more tolerant and inclusive attitude toward different speech forms. Moreover, the areal approach contributes to the development of **metalinguistic awareness**, which is the ability to reflect on and analyze language as a system. This skill is particularly important for future teachers, linguists, and researchers, as it allows them to approach language phenomena from a scientific perspective.

The study of morphological variation across dialects also enhances students' ability to identify patterns and generalizations within the language system. As a result, they gain a deeper understanding of grammatical categories and their functional roles.

Prospects for Further Research and Educational Development

The integration of areal linguistics into education opens up new directions for both scientific research and pedagogical innovation. Future studies may focus on creating comprehensive dialectal corpora, developing digital linguistic maps, and designing interactive



learning platforms that incorporate areal data. In the context of modern education, the use of digital technologies is particularly promising. Online databases, mobile applications, and virtual mapping tools can provide students with access to authentic dialectal materials and facilitate independent learning. Such technologies also allow for the visualization of complex linguistic data, making it more accessible and engaging.

Additionally, interdisciplinary collaboration between linguistics, pedagogy, and information technology can lead to the development of innovative teaching resources. This will not only improve the quality of language education but also promote the preservation and study of linguistic diversity. This is especially important in teaching native language and linguistics courses.

The areal analysis of morphological features in the territorial dialects of the Uzbek language reveals the complexity and richness of its linguistic system. The territorial variation of morphological units is a multifactorial process closely related to historical, social, and geographical influences. The areal linguistic approach enables a deeper understanding of these processes and contributes to the scientific explanation of the development patterns of the Uzbek language.

REFERENCES

1. Shavkat Rahmatullayev. Hozirgi o'zbek adabiy tili. – Toshkent: Universitet nashriyoti, 2006.
2. Abduvali Nurmonov. O'zbek tilshunosligi asoslari. – Toshkent: Fan, 2012.
3. A. G'ulomov. O'zbek tilining grammatikasi. – Toshkent: O'qituvchi, 1975.
4. E. Begmatov. Hozirgi o'zbek adabiy tilining leksikologiyasi. – Toshkent: Fan, 1985.
5. B. Jo'rayev. O'zbek dialektologiyasi. – Toshkent: Fan, 1990.
6. N. Mahmudov. Til va nutq madaniyati. – Toshkent: Ma'naviyat, 2003.
7. S. Usmonov. O'zbek tili grammatikasi. – Toshkent: O'qituvchi, 1980.
8. H. Ne'matov. O'zbek tilining morfologiyasi. – Toshkent: Fan, 1998.
9. M. Mirtojyev. O'zbek tili dialektologiyasi. – Toshkent: Universitet nashriyoti, 2004.
10. R. Qo'ng'urov. O'zbek tilining stilistikasi. – Toshkent: O'qituvchi, 1992.

