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THE QUESTIONS OF TRANSFERENCE OF MODERN KAZAKH ALPHABET TO LATIN GRAPHICS: PROPOSALS AND PROJECT

Annotation: The article dwells upon the issues of transference of modern Kazakh alphabet to Latin script. Linguistic and extralinguistic reasons for the transition to the new Kazakh-Latin alphabet are considered. The issue of the draft projects of the alphabet proposed by Kazakhstani scientists and citizens (as the citizens take active part in discussion of the issue as well) has been discussed from 1993, and special attention has been drawn to the problem of choice of the letters referring to the specific Kazakh phonemes. Having analyzed the proposed projects of the alphabet, the authors of the article choose the design proposed by the scientists from the Institute of Linguistics named after Akhmet Baitursynov. Pointing to the letters, advised to be removed from the Kazakh alphabet based on the script of the Russian language, the researchers propose to introduce new alphabet graphemes ф, в, h. The article demonstrates the adoption of the alphabetic script, referring to the specific phonemes of Kazakh language.

Keywords: Kazakh alphabet, Kazakh language, Kazakh phonemes.

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ҚАЗІРГІ ҚАЗАҚ АЛФАВИТІН ЛАТЫН ТІЛІНЕ АУДАРУ МӘСЕЛЕЛЕРІ: ҰСЫНЫСТАР МЕН ЖОБАЛАР

Аннотация. Мақалада қазіргі қазақ әліпбиін латын әліпбиіне көшіру мәселелері қарастырылады. Жаңа қазақ-латын әліпбиіне көшудің лингвистикалық және экстралингвистикалық себептері қарастырылған. Қазақстандық ғалымдар мен азаматтар ұсынған әліпби жобалары туралы мәселе (азаматтар да осы мәселені талқылауға белсенді қатысатындықтан) 1993 жылдан бері талқыланып келеді және нақты Қазақ фонемаларына қатысты әріптерді таңдау проблемасына ерекше назар аударылды. Ұсынылған әліпби жобаларын талдағаннан кейін мақала авторлары Ахмет Байтұрсынұлы атындағы Тіл білімі институтының ғалымдары ұсынған құрылымды таңдайды. Орыс тілінің жазуы негізінде қазақ әліпбиінен алып тастауға ұсынылған әріптерді көрсете отырып, зерттеушілер ф, в, h жаңа әліпбилік графемаларын енгізуді ұсынады. Мақалада қазақ тілінің ерекше фонемаларына жататын алфавиттің қабылдануы көрсетілген.

Тірек сөздер: қазақ әліпбиі, қазақ тілі, қазақ фонемасы.

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ВОПРОСЫ ПЕРЕХОДА СОВРЕМЕННОГО КАЗАХСКОГО АЛФАВИТА НА ЛАТИНСКУЮ ГРАФИКУ: ПРЕДЛОЖЕНИЯ И ПРОЕКТЫ

Аннотация. В статье рассматриваются вопросы перевода современного казахского алфавита на латиницу. Рассматриваются лингвистические и экстралингвистические причины перехода на новый казахско-латинский алфавит. Вопрос о проектах алфавита, предложенных казахстанскими учеными и гражданами (поскольку граждане также принимают активное участие в обсуждении этого вопроса), обсуждается с 1993 года, и особое внимание уделяется проблеме выбора букв, относящихся к конкретным казахским фонемам. Проанализировав предложенные проекты алфавита, авторы статьи выбирают конструкцию, предложенную учеными Института языкознания имени Ахмеда Байтұрсынова. Указывая на буквы, рекомендованные к удалению из казахского алфавита на основе письменности русского языка, исследователи предлагают ввести новые алфавитные графемы ф, в, һ. В статье демонстрируется принятие алфавитного письма, относящегося к специфическим фонемам казахского языка.

Ключевые слова: казахский алфавит, казахский язык, казахские фонемы.

Introduction

The beginning of the transition of the Kazakh script to the Latin alphabet was laid by the article of the academician A. Kaidar “Latin graphics in expectation of a bright future”, in which the opinion about the transition to the Latin graphics was expressed for the first time. The scientist cited the following reasons for the urgent transition of the Kazakh writing to the Russian alphabet in the Soviet time: “The scholar of Turkey, Professor Timur Kocaoglu wrote in the newspaper” New explanations” (09.08.1991): “In 1927, the Soviet government replaced the Arabic script, which was used by all the Turkic peoples in the USSR to the Latin alphabet. However, the Latin alphabet was adopted as a Turkish script in Turkey in 1928; therefore, fearing the strengthening of cultural ties between the Turks of Anatolia and the Turkic-speaking peoples of the Soviet Union, the Soviet authorities forced them to take six types of Cyrillic alphabet, slightly different among themselves in 1939-1940” [3]. Therefore, A. Kaydar argued that without policy intervention, the alphabet change can occur on the basis of free choice, and the alphabet should be Latin, since it is “distributed at the interethnic, worldwide high level,” and is officially adopted as an international phonetic transcription as a model for the exact designation of “linguistic facts “. The initiative of the academician aroused great interest among scientists and philologists, and also gave birth to new ideas.

Purpose of the study

The main purpose of the article is to find an answer to the question of how to adapt the modern Latin alphabet to the phonetic system of the Kazakh language. Further in the article the analysis of scientific views on this problem is given.

Another important turning point is expected in the history of Kazakh script. This is the transition to the Latin schedule. And indeed, for the Kazakh steppe, the change of the alphabet is of socio-economic importance, this process usually occurs during the period of change from one socio-political age to another. Alternatively it also can be the integral part of national politics at a period of strengthening of an epoch. This can be seen by looking at the history of the Kazakh script of our people. Undoubtedly, it is encouraging that the problem of transition to the Latin alphabet is not a spontaneous decision of the members of the community alone, this issue is presented to everyone’s attention, it is a socially significant problem. It is noteworthy that the new alphabet was adopted within one month (for example, the transition to the Cyrillic alphabet was carried out between December 20, 1939 and January 15, 1940, and those who did not accept the new alphabet were accused of humiliating the alphabet offered by the authorities and brought to justice, and the prosecutor’s office was instructed to monitor them [1]. In addition, the campaign to decide on the transition to the Latin alphabet from the Arabic script, with the advantage

of one vote in favor of the Latin script (instead of the training commissioner of Kazakhstan N. Zaliuli, more people formally voted for the Latin alphabet) was undertaken. [2]. That is why that campaign of switching to a new alphabet with the intervention of a superficial and hasty policy now requires the mutual coordination of both extra-linguistic and linguistic conditions when considering questions of transition to a new Latin script. Therefore, the relevance of the study lies in the problems that cause difficulties in the transition of the Kazakh script to the Latin script, and in the analysis of the difficulties encountered in projects on the Kazakh alphabet proposed by modern scientists.

Methods of research

The following methods were used in the study. Initially, an analysis was carried out in the form of a discussion of the discussions that took place in the scientific community, from the 1990s to the present day. Various scientific views have been grouped, and directions on general opinions of scientists have been determined. The analysis of common aspects of projects is carried out alphabetically. The letter-phoneme ratio for problem phonemes in the main alphabetical project, proposed by the scientists of the Institute of Linguistics, is analyzed.

Main part

More than 100 articles were published on this issue from 1990 to 2015 on the periodical pages. The authors of articles, relating to different professions, age, position, have completely different points of view and views on this issue. They can be divided into the following groups.

1. A group supporting the transition to the Latin schedule, their main arguments are:

– adoption of Latin graphics in order to keep up with the flow of computerization, enter the international arena and use the Internet resources in full force;

– wide use of e-mail, telegraph; an opportunity to form a common Turkic script; return or preserving the linguistic nature of the Kazakh language;

– getting rid of the influence of the Russian language on the phonetic, morphological, syntactic, lexical levels.

2. A group opposing the transition to the Latin schedule.

3. A group suggesting a return to the ancient Turkic writing.

4. A group that supports the initiative of the reform of modern writing.

The academician A. Kaidar, seeing a large number of articles published in the periodical press, realizing the desire of people to become the authors of the new Kazakh script, and thus, be famous published an article in 1996 in which he asked the President to issue an official decree in order to organize and combine all these people [5]. A. Kaidar wrote: “This is the problem of the century for the entire Turkic world. I wonder which ruler it will finally find its solution under? Programmers and linguists should come to some decision “[4].

Actually, A. Kaidar’s proposal on the transition of the Kazakh script to the Latin alphabet arose from his desire to adopt an alphabet common to all Turkic peoples, so called common writing. Therefore, in the Kazakh-Turkish alphabet proposed by the scientist there are such letters as <j> -j, c <ч>, f <ф>, v <в>. However, in the Middle Ankara project of 34 letters, two were not used in Azerbaijani, ten - in Uzbek, and eight - in Turkmen alphabets. Thus, in the new alphabet of the Turkic peoples there are differences from 8 to 20 letters. This indicates a decrease in the possibility of creating a common Turkic alphabet.

Another group of initiators believe that the transition to the Latin alphabet is necessary in order to protect the Kazakh language from the influence of the Russian language, to strengthen the natural power of the Kazakh language and to preserve it. In fact, the language that exists in the lingual environment of the language the writing was adopted from has a great risk of undergoing a serious deformation. When a language takes the writing of another language, the phonemes of this language adapt to the sound system of the native language’s writing. For instance, in order to increase the number of terms we simply copy the lexical layer of another language through direct translation, tracing and copying of phrases, syntactic rules, sentences

and text. We slowly move away from the path of natural development of our language. Currently, the simultaneous use and writing of any units up to words and texts in the Kazakh and Russian languages has become mandatory. Preparing any text first in Russian, and only then translating it into Kazakh has also turned into a tradition. Considering that currently 7.5 million Kazakhs (44.3%) and 6 million Russians (35.3%) live in Kazakhstan, it can be noted that the influence of the Russian language on the Kazakh language will not decrease. Thus, a group of authors who published the articles related to the issue of the transition of the Kazakh script to the Latin alphabet in newspapers and magazines expressed an objection. Their main arguments are based on the following:

1. The transition to Latin means to step back - a step back in the past.
2. The new writing will hurt our economy. It is not more than just a hobby for reforms;
3. Cyrillic can be used online as well. Even if it is impossible to establish international communication with Russian graphics, with the help of this graphic we can use the achievements of leading technologies. In 2001 the Kazakh language became the 56th language that was introduced to the Internet by the World Internet Information in Paris. Russian letters enrich our language whereas the transition to the Latin alphabet will only bring economic and psychological problems, so it would be better to reform the Russian alphabet that is familiar to us. For instance, the sound composition of the Kazakh language can be represented by the 31 letter of the Russian alphabet.
4. The stability in writing reflects our spiritual conservatism. The uniformity of the alphabet speaks of the high culture of the people.
5. The adoption of Latin graphics will give rise to a language problem (Russian, Kazakh, English). The influence of the English language will increase.

Opinions were also expressed on the transition to the ancient Turk language. It was uttered in the early years of the Kazakh independence when the feeling of patriotism about changing the alphabet was expressed more.

There are a lot of articles that talk about the need to switch to Latin graphics, which show the composition of the alphabet. Many of the authors of the articles on the question of how to convey the audio composition of the Kazakh sounds with 26 letters of Latin script, say that it is better not to go beyond the Latin alphabet, to use the possibilities of 26 letters, which will reduce economic costs and speed up international communication.

For this purpose, the authors propose to take an English letter that has no sound significance and is used extremely rarely as one marker, and denote them with specific sounds of the Kazakh language. For example, sounds *ı*, *u*, *h*, *ə* are identified by a combination with sound *h*: *nh* - <*ı*>, *sh* <*u*>, *tsh* (*ı*), *gh* (*ə*) etc.

Thus, those who hold this view suggest adding 10-11 letters to the existing 24 letters of the English alphabet. Then, for example, the word *ademi* (ademi) can be sent using 7 letters *jademiy*, and in order to write the word *anim* instead of the four keys you need to type six - *aeniem*. In this way we show the softness of the word twice. However, in this way we do not save the letters and complicate the reading.

Analyzing the above, we were convinced that for the Kazakh script, at this stage, the Anglo-Latin standard, the scientific technique of civilization, the market and the economy are more threat rather than the politics or language policy.

The phenomenon of synharmonicity in the Kazakh language seems to derive diacritical letters from the complexities of their use. Therefore, a number of authors of articles consider the use of an apostrophe for vowels of the Kazakh language to be correct. The apostrophe in the initial position indicates the softness of the word ('*jihaz* - *zhiyhəz*, 'Ahmed - Əhmed, 'kinalamay - kinələməu); And words that have soft syllables mixed with hard syllables can be identified by the suggestion of A. Baitransynov as a hyphen or, with respect to the labial front syllable. Only soft or only solid sounds can be combined into the whole one.

Compare the forms, economy in the writing of words, denoted by a combination of letters, diacritical signs and by means of an apostrophe (Table 1).

Table 1 – The comparison of economizing in writing words denoted by a combination of letters, diacritical marks and by an apostrophe

Pronunciation	к [°] үмән	к'үwә	Тсифр	әбә'үwәліі
Spelling	Күмән	Күә	Цифр	Әбәүәлі
Combination of letters	Kjumjan	Kuewae	Tsifr	aebbluewaeliy
Diacritics	Kūmān	Kūuā	Sifr	Ābduālī
Apostrophe	'kuman	'kua	Cifr	'abduali

Thus, words marked with an apostrophe in writing are economical.

So, the question of whether to choose an additional eight letters when taking Latin graphics or whether it is necessary to use the letters of the Russian language is one of the intractable questions today.

There are 28 phonemes in the sound system of the Kazakh language: 9 vowels (а, ә, ы, і, о, ө, ұ, ү, е), 19 consonants (т, д, н, п, б, м, с, ш, з, ж, л, ң, р, к, қ). Of these, 13 phonemes (a, b, d, e, l, m, n, o, p, r, s, t, z) correspond to the composition of the Anglo-Latin alphabet.

Is it necessary to select letters for such sounds as **ф, в, х, ч, ш, ц, һ**, which entered our alphabet from Cyrillic alphabet?

In general, the question of changing the alphabet was raised, on one hand, in order to avoid the power of the Russian language, because the written language has a great influence on the language. In this case, it becomes obvious that it is incorrect to use phonemes of a different language that are not peculiar to the sound composition of the Kazakh language only in order to designate those terms borrowed from another language. In other words, it is inaccurate to do it only for the principle of quoting the right spelling.

However, we must not forget about the dialect of a language development. Despite the fact that there are no sounds **ф, һ, в**, in the sound system of the language such words as *tapsa*, *sepse*, *abay*, *ebedeysiz* suggest the variations [n], [b], [h] of the phonemes n, b, k, that could be heard at the pronunciation of the interjections *ah ұрды*, *ұһінеу*. The same can be traced in the words *Fayzolla* and *Fazyl* where the sound **ф** is subconsciously uttered. This fact testifies to the changes and the development of the sound composition of the language. Thus, the sound system of language is not an unchangeable phenomenon. There are differentiations of sound tones, sound changes arising under the influence of the neighboring language and borrowed words that can be noticed in the sound system of any language

In the irrepressible modern age of information flow and innovative technologies, language does not wait for the re-creation of words and denotata. Those relevant cultural patterns in the language require that they be called the nominatives of the original language. Nowadays the scientific, technical, military, financial, banking and sports vocabulary seeks to obtain an international (common) features. The desire for the scientific and technological progress is also reflected in the language. Thus, the historical progress itself forces the borrowing of terms from other languages. Therefore, avoiding the elements of another language is not always the right decision.

On this issue, opinions are divided: some argue that it is not necessary to label the sounds **в, ф, ц, ш, ч** with letters. They believe that when we switch to the Latin alphabet, we will benefit, since we can finally get rid of the letters **я, ю, ё, ф, в, х, ш, ч, ь, ъ, ц**, which we once borrowed from Russian graphics in order to write words according to the principle of the original. We can also clearly show the sound composition of the letters **y** and **h** as in : *чанаев-сараев*, *цех-сех*, *вагон-багон*, *факт-пакт*.

However, quite another point of view claims the idea that a letter is needed for any sound available in the language since there are names that contain the sounds **ф, в, һ**, in Kazakh. An assessment of the level of language development that pays attention to features in the Kazakh pronunciation pattern is one of the main reasons.

Thus, the authors of the Russian-based Kazakh alphabet translate into the Latin alphabet by means of transliteration: the letters in the Latin script are used in their meaning, and for sounds **ч, и, ш**, it is proposed to use digraphs, trigraphs, and diacritics. Some scholars suggest using extra letters of English graphics. For example, **Сс (ш), Hh (ф), f (ж), v (ы), x (й), y (ү), q (ө), x (ә)**.

In our opinion, if the goal of changing the alphabet is to get rid of the letters of the Russian alphabet, borrowed on the principle of the original, and if there is no possibility to replace them with Latin letters or there is not enough Latin letters, then one does not need to distinguish them with paired sounds and diacritical signs. Therefore the letters **f, v, h** will perform their function, and the sounds [x], [h] will be denoted by the letter h, the letters <и> -с, <ч> -ш, <ш> -шш. Since the articulatory base of the modern Kazakh language is rather weak, it is more suitable for the pronunciation of uncompleted consonants (*тепсе, акша, абай*).

The future development of a language can be characterized by the prevalence of voiced and sonorous consonants. Therefore, we believe that in words *қықайа* [кыйкайа], *қақарман* [қақарман], *жіғаз* [жыйқаз], *уқлеу* [уқлеу], *пото* [пото], *пилот* [пыйлот], *пилм* [пыйлм] the weak pronunciation of sounds **ф, в, һ** is much more pleasantly perceived by ear than its closed and unobtrusive pronouncing. In this regard, since the weak pronunciation of the sounds **ч, и, ш** does not in any way affect the meaning of the word, we consider denoting them by the letters *s* and *c*: *sirk, sement, sellofan, sentner, sifr, carlston, cempion*.

How are the specific sounds of the Kazakh language designed?

Vowels are denoted by diacritics: the phoneme <ә> one of the signs ä / ä, the phoneme <ө> one of the signs ö / ö, the sound <ү> - the letter ü, the sound <у> - the letter ü, the sound <е> - the letter <і>. The sound i is denoted by the letter i or by an apostrophe.

Thus, for the vowels of the Kazakh language (if you do not use the apostrophe) the following Latin letters correspond: <a>-a, <ә>-ä, <ы>-i, <і>-i, <ү>-ü, <у>-ü, <o>-o, <ө>-ö, <е>-e.

For the phoneme <к> several variants of signs are suggested: the letters Qq, Kk, қ қ, and for the phoneme <к> - phonemes Kk and Cc. If we follow the theory of the alphabet, that the variants of a single phoneme denoted by a letter should be denoted by mutually analogous letters, then the solid consonant <к> -k, and the soft consonant <к>-правильным, will be correct.

And if in the received alphabet there is a letter corresponding to the given sound (in this case, for example, the letter Qq), then it will be more correct to use the capabilities of the alphabet. In our opinion, for the phoneme <к> it is best to use the letter q, rather than an extra diacritic sign. And for the phoneme <к> there is a letter k, the letter <ң> can be denoted by the letter ŋ, and <ш> by the letter ş, which is available in other Turkic alphabets.

There is also an opinion on the letters **я** and **ю** of Russian alphabet, which denote the softness of the phonemes *a* and *y*. Therefore, these letters do not fulfill their functions in the Kazakh language. Instead, they represent difficulties in spelling, translating syllables and splitting words into syllables. Writing some words must be memorized (*қояйын, аяйын*). “ However, there are no clear evidence that the letters **я** and **ю** have a negative influence on the sound of the original Kazakh words.

In the initial classes, they are taught that these letters are a combination of sounds <и> and <a>, <у> and <y> (but they do not convey the correct sound composition to u). Hence, the designation of the letters i, w, ë by a combination of two sounds, although it does harm the division into syllables of words, it must be admitted that they simplify and save the spelling of words.

For example, when writing words such as *ayu*, *soy*, Latin in Latin it will be necessary to add 2-3 letters or once again use the keyboard when typing the words *ajuw*, *sojuw*, *qijuw*. Despite the fact that the words *py*, *su*, *ayu*, *kyu* consist of two or three letters, but they sound like *ҫ-ҫу*, *суу*, *аһ-ууу*, *кү-ууу*, that is, they are pronounced with the sounds 4: 3, 4: 5. And this will lead to the fact that when you divide these words into syllables, there will be a difference between oral and written speech.

Thus, we believe that the system of consonants of the Kazakh language will be more appropriately conveyed by denoting the following letters of the Latin script: in **в (б)**, **д (д)**, **g (г)**, **ğ (ғ)**, **ж (ж)**, **к (к)**, **q (қ)**, **l (л)**, **m (м)**, **n (н)**, **η (һ)**, **p (п)**, **r (р)**, **s (с)**, **ş (ш)**, **t (т)**, **w (у)**, **y (й)**.

So, in our opinion, if the computer's capabilities allow using an apostrophe, then in the new Kazakh alphabet we will be able to use the tradition proposed by A. Baytursynov, spelling through an apostrophe. The use of the apostrophe on the letter was proposed not only in the alphabet of A. Baitursynov, but also in the alphabets of H.Dosmukhamedov (1925), K. Zhubanov (1934), N.Torekulov (1925), J.Amautov and A.Zhunisbek (2002).

The Latin letters **a, y, o, e, ü** in those alphabets are suggested for the equivalence of the letters **а-ә, ы-і, о-ө, ұ-ү, е** in Kazakh Cyrillic. Despite the fact that the phonemic status of consonants <ҫ>, <ҫ>, <қ>, <к> was determined, four sounds can be transmitted by two letters, and the hardness and softness can be distinguished by an apostrophe. In the new alphabet, there are 27 letters that use an apostrophe (Table 2).

Table 2 - Draft a new alphabet using an apostrophe

#	letter	phoneme	#	Letter	Phoneme	#	Letter	Phoneme	#	Letter	Phoneme
1	A	а-ә	8	Ğ	Ғ	15	M	М	22	t	Т
2	B	Б	9	H	Һ-х	16	N	Н	23	v	В
3	Ş	Ш	10	I	Ы-і	17	Ŋ	Ң	24	ü	ұ-ү
4	D	Д	11	J	Ж	18	O	о-ө	25	w	У
5	E	Е	12	K	К	19	P	П	26	y	и-й
6	F	Ф	13	Q	Қ	20	R	Р	27	z	З
7	G	Г	14	L	Л	21	S	С			

Conclusion

Thus, according to the opinion of I.E. Gelbt “since from the point of view of the theory of writing the Latin alphabet in the form in which it is applied in the countries of the West has no advantages in comparison with, say, Arabic, Greek or Russian alphabets” [6], we believe that Latin graphics can be adapted to the sound composition of the language.

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