

REGIONAL DIALECTOLOGY

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Abstract: This article extensively discusses the theoretical and practical foundations of regional dialectology. In particular, it analyzes the phonetic, lexical, and grammatical features of dialects formed in different regions. The historical development of dialectology, scientific schools, and modern research methods are described. The study explores regional dialects of the Uzbek language, their differences, and their influence on the standard language. The relevance of the topic is also highlighted in terms of language preservation, the study of cultural heritage, and language policy.

Keywords: Dialectology, dialect, vernacular, regional linguistics, phonetics, lexicon, grammar, Uzbek language, regional features, linguistic research.

Introduction: Language is the most important cultural heritage of any nation and an inseparable part of its national identity. Every language contains internal diversity, and one of the key manifestations of this diversity is dialect or vernacular. Dialectology is the branch of linguistics that studies this diversity, focusing on regional variations of language—dialects and vernaculars. Especially for languages spoken across vast territories and by multiethnic populations, dialectological studies are of great importance.

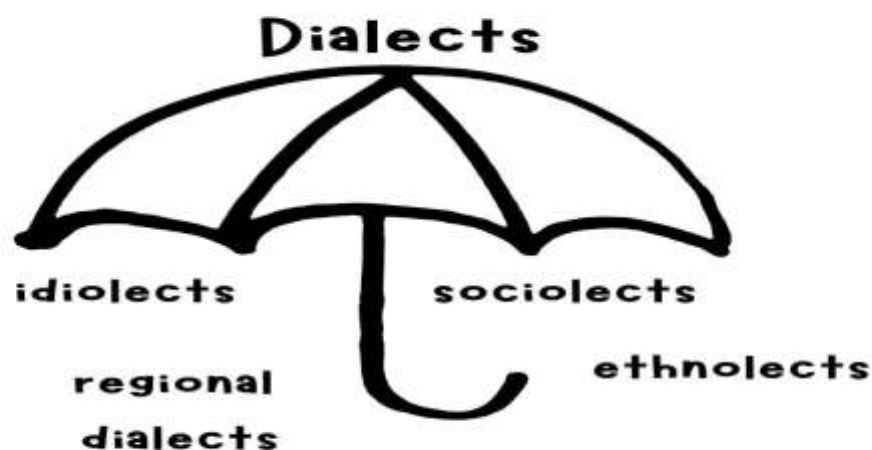
Regional dialectology, as a discipline that investigates regional language changes, also encompasses the culture, historical development, migration processes, and social lifestyle of the people who speak that language. Through this field, one can deeply understand regional differences in language, how they emerged, and how they are preserved in modern times.

The Uzbek language, with its rich history and widespread use across regions, features various regional dialects. Dialects developed in regions like Khorezm, Fergana, Bukhara, Qashqadaryo, Tashkent, and Andijan exhibit distinctive phonetic, lexical, and grammatical characteristics. Studying these features is important not

only for understanding the development of language but also for grasping cultural and social processes. The aim of this article is to thoroughly study the regional dialects of the Uzbek language, analyze their historical formation, their influence on the structure of the language, and their significance in modern linguistics.

Subject and Functions of Dialectology

Dialectology is an independent field of linguistics that studies internal geographical differences in a language, i.e., the phonetic, lexical, and morphological characteristics of dialects and vernaculars. Its main function is to systematically analyze dialects, their coverage, formation, development, and influence on modern standard language.



Types of Regional Dialects and Vernaculars

Dialects of the Uzbek language are typically divided into regional groups such as western (Khorezm), central (Tashkent, Samarkand), southern (Qashqadaryo, Surkhandarya), and eastern (Fergana Valley). Each dialect exhibits unique phonetic, lexical, and grammatical features. For example, in the Khorezm dialect, many Arabic and Persian loanwords have been preserved, while in the Fergana dialect, soft pronunciation and a distinctive intonation can be observed.

Phonetic, Lexical, and Grammatical Features

Each dialect has differences in phonetics (sound system), lexicon (vocabulary), and grammar (word formation, sentence structure). For instance, in the Tashkent



dialect, “I will go” is said as “bormiman” instead of “boraman.” In Fergana, “they had a house” may be said as “uylari borakan” instead of “uylari bor edi.” Such differences provide valuable insights for linguists.

From the History of Dialectological Studies

Dialectological studies of the Uzbek language began in the early 20th century. Scholars such as A. Qayumov, I. Mo‘minov, and S. Sirojiddinov played major roles in this field. They studied dialects by region and developed the first dialect maps.

Modern Approaches and Methodologies

Today, modern technologies are widely used in dialectology, including linguistic mapping, electronic corpora, and tools of computational linguistics. These methods make it possible to digitally preserve and analyze dialects.

Relevance of the Topic

Due to globalization, the influence of mass culture, and urban migration, dialects are at risk of disappearing. Therefore, dialectological studies are important not only scientifically but also for preserving cultural heritage. Moreover, considering regional features in language policy and recognizing regional variants of the mother tongue in education are urgent matters.

Conclusion , Regional dialectology is not only an essential field of linguistics but also a reflection of a nation’s historical and cultural development. The case of the Uzbek language shows how vital this field is and how it evolves through various scientific methods. Studying dialects enriches the language, strengthens national identity, and helps pass down a rich linguistic heritage to future generations.

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