



**NEUTRALIZATION OF CONSONANT OPPOSITION IN ANLAUT OF THE UZBEK  
LANGUAGE**

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**Annotation**

The article discusses the oppositional relations between consonant phonemes and the neutralization of oppositions of consonant phonemes in the initial (anlaut) positions of words in certain conditions and certain speech situations in the Uzbek language.

**Keywords:** opposition, neutralization, initial position of a word, final position of a word, labial consonants, nasal consonants, lingual consonants.

Neutralization is the weakening of the distinctive features of two realities under certain conditions. Neutralization is a universal phenomenon which applies to all levels of language and there is the concept opposition under its manifestations. It is known that comparing the features in the content of a linguistic unit from one linguistic unit to another similar linguistic unit is determined on the basis of contradictions. Such kind of detection method is widely used, especially in phonology. The features making up the content of a particular phoneme in a phonological system are compared with the features making up the content of another phoneme. Differential features, which exist in the content of both phonemes and serve to differentiate them from each other, are phonologically important, the other non-differential features are considered phonologically insignificant. Therefore, the main focus is on the opposition of linguistic units in system linguistics.

[2] Phonological oppositions, popularized by NS Trbetskoy's book *Osnovy fonologii* [1], began to be used in world linguistics for various levels of the language system. Due to the great emphasis on the study of contradictions between different level units in the language system, the classification of contradictions has also become increasingly sophisticated. In this, in particular, the service of A.A. Reformatsky was great. He perfectly classified the oppositions between phonemes in the Russian phonological system. [2]

The article does not focus on all types of opposition, but on the types which lead to neutralization. When members of an opposition in the language system come into a syntagmatic relationship throughout the speech process, they can retain the feature which is the basis of the opposition. Accordingly, oppositions are divided into constant and neutralized oppositions. If the members of the opposition retain the features which are the basis of the opposition even when they come into a certain syntagmatic relationship in the whole process of speech, the constant opposition, on the contrary, is a neutralized opposition or rather the neutralization of opposition in the language system.

Neutralization of opposition between phonemes is a direct speech process and is inextricably linked with the specifics of certain commonalities which take place in a particular speech process. The concept



of neutralization was initially applied only to phonological level units. The disappearance of distinctive features between phonemes was called neutralization. This concept, recognized in phonology, later began to be applied to other level units of language [3,56-62]. The phenomenon of neutralization between consonant phoneme oppositions in Uzbek linguistics was first described by Professor A. Abduazizov. In particular, he wrote: "In the Uzbek language, the free exchange of consonant phonemes is more common than vowels and one (sometimes two) phonemes in the phonological structure of words can be replaced without interfering with the meaning of the word." [4, 78].

The author notes thinking about correlative consonants that there are eight correlative pairs in the Uzbek language according to the features voiced and voiceless : p-b, t-d, s-z, f-v, k-g, sh-j, ch-dj, x -g'. Explains that neutralization occurs as a result of the resonance of voiced consonants in a weak position (at the end of a word) in oppositions distinguished by such a phonological element. Neutralized consonants indicate that they have the same phonological elements in the same phonetic situation and the unit formed is an archiphonema for both phonemes. [4, 23] But A.Abduazizov did not intend to cover the phenomenon of neutralization in detail in the Uzbek language, a number of issues related to the moderation between non-correlated consonants are left out of the author's view. Therefore, in our work we focus on the opposition of correlative and non-correlative consonants in the initial position (anlaut) and their neutralization.

In the Uzbek language, the main distinguishing features are the place, way, features of consonants participation in the consonants opposition. The multiplicity of consonant phonemes also increases the opposition between them [4, 20].

I. According to the place of articulation we can distinguish the following opposition follow the viewpoints of prof A. Abduazizov.

1. Labial - forelingual consonants:
  - a) Occlusive: p - t, b - d
  - b) Constrictive: f - s, v - z, f - sh, v - l
  - c) nasal sonants: m - n
2. Labial - forelingual: f - y, v - y
3. Labial - backlingual:
  - a) Occlusive: p - k, b - g
  - b) Constrictive: f - x, v - g'
4. Labial - glottal consonants: f - h, v-h
5. Forelingual - backlingual consonants:
  - a) occlusive: t - k, t - q, t - g'
  - b) constrictive: s - x, z - g.
6. Forelingual - glottal consonant: s - h, z - h, sh - h, j - h, ch - h, dj - h.

II. The following unit of opposition is divided according to the ways of articulation:

1. Explosive - sliding:
  - a) labial consonants: p - f, b - v
  - b) forelingual consonants: t - s, d - z, t - sh, d - j



- c) backlingual consonants: k - x, g-g', q - x
- g) backlingual and glottal consonants: k - h, g - h
- 2. occlusive - affricate: forelingual consonants: t - ch, d - j
- 3. Constrictive - affricate: forelingual consonants: sh-ch, j-dj
- 4. occlusive - nasal sonant:
  - a) labial consonants: b - m
  - b) forelingual consonants: d - n
  - c) backlingual consonants: g - ng
- 5. Constrictive - sonant: z - l, j - r, v - m
- 6. Sonants:
  - a) median sonant - nasal sonant: l - n
  - b) lateral sonant - oral sonant: l - r

### **III. The following oppositions are distinguished according to the articulation of sounds:**

- 1. Labial consonants: p- b, f -v
- 2. Forelingual consonants: t - d, s - z, sh - j, ch - dj
- 3. Backlingual consonants: k - g
- 4. Deep Backlingual consonants: q - g'

Thus, the Uzbek language consonant phonemes have 26 oppositions according to the place of articulation, 23 oppositions according to the ways of articulation and 8 oppositions according to the articulation of sounds, a total of 57 oppositions. There are also two-featured and three-featured oppositions and if these are also taken into account, the number of consonant oppositions will increase even more. Paradigmatic relations of consonants, such as the above, can lead to various changes in the speech process, the disappearance of distinguishing marks between contradictions, the free exchange of meaning in a weak position of the signifier, and the inability to differentiate meanings. As a result, a neutralization phenomenon occurs.

In the Uzbek language, from the above-mentioned one-featured oppositions of consonants, there is a greater neutralization in the syntagmatically weak position in the syntagmatic between the pairs, which form a contradictory relationship on the basis of the sign according to the presence of sound. The modification between consonant contrasts is related to the weak position of the consonants. In other words, the distinguishing features of opposing phonemes disappear in a weak position in syntagmatics. As a result, it remains the same both perceptually and significantly.

The modification of the paradigmatic contradiction of consonants occurs as a result of a morphological process. Therefore, the modification of consonants is inextricably linked with morphology.

N.S. Trubetsky considers the study of phonological means of a particular language from the morphological point of view as the object of morphology. [4,115].

S.B. Bernstein distinguishes between the concept of phonetic changes (foneticheskie izmeneniya) and the concept of phonetic exchanges (foneticheskie cheredovaniya), emphasizing that the first occurs only



in connection with the position of the phoneme, and the second emerges in the form of grammar, word formation. [5,43-59]. In his view, phonetic exchanges will be the material of morphology.

According to some Turkic scholars, in the ancient period of Turkic languages, the oppositions of consonants rather than the existence of consonants was somewhat consistent [5,129].

Instead of appearing, they are divided into lip consonants, pre-tongue consonants, middle tongue consonants, and back tongue consonants. Consonants belonging to the same paradigm according to this sign are mutually contradictory according to the way they appear and the way they appear. In syntagmatics, on the other hand, the opposition of consonants belonging to the same paradigm can be neutralized. Below we consider the modification of the consonant oppositions in the prepositional position rather than the occurrence.

1. Moderation of lab consonant contrast. The consonants p, b, f, v, m belong to the paradigm of labial consonants. Because these consonants are members of the same paradigm, they are easily moderated, losing their distinctive features in syntagmatics.

In the p-b oppositions, the opposing members are opposed according to the features of according to the place of articulation and the ways of occurrence in general, only according to one feature – the resonant-resonant feature. At the same time, a number of Turkic scholars acknowledge that the archetype of lip consonants is soundless, occlusive, lip-synchronous, the rest of the consonants were formed as a result of its various changes, variants and divergence of variants into independent phonemes over time. [5,130; 6,79; 7,163; 8,91]. For example, puz-buz-muz, pich-bich «kesmoq».

In the dialects of the modern Uzbek language there is a moderation of the oppositions of p-b consonants at the beginning of the word. For example, bit-pit, bitirmoq-pitirmoq-puturmoq and others.

In the P-f contrast, both limbs have a sign of silence, lip tone. They differ in the method of formation: the first is explosive, the second is slippery. The fact that the consonant f is not specific to anlaut in Turkic languages, that this consonant occurs only in derived words at the beginning of the word, leads to a moderation of the contradiction between p-f consonants in syntagmatics, f has an explosive character, and thus adapts to Turkish phonetic structure. For example, fol ochish-pol ochish, fan-pan, faqir-paqir and so on.

Although the above lexemes differ from each other on the basis of the opposition of consonants in the anlaut in literary-orthographic writing, but in oral speech the opposition between these pairs disappears. Their pronunciation is the same. The features which distinguishes in what sense it is used remains context. That is to say the meaning in which these words are used becomes clear in the speech process.

In the B-v contrast, the opposing organs are the same according to the lip position and different according to the manner of production. The first has an occlusive feature and the second has constrictive feature. In the process of speech, the feature of distinction between these consonants disappears and moderation occurs. Moderation is in favor of a more constrictive consonant. For example, 1) bor-vo: (Tashkent): Puli vo: mi? «Puling bormi?»; 2) Bosh-vosh (Andijan): bir vosh uzum "bir bosh uzum" and others.



B-m consonants are common to each other according to labiality, voiced and differ in according to the production. The first is occlusive and the second is a nasal consonant. Since it has the property of differentiating on the basis of a feature, there will be a convenient opportunity in moderation to moderate the opposition between these consonants. In some Uzbek dialects, moderation in this position is in favor of a more constrictive sound. For example, burun-murun (Kipchak), burun-murun (Kipchak), burilish-muyulish and so on. Furthermore, b-m compatibility in Turkic languages may be the result of p-b-m divergence in the diachronic aspect. For example, puz-buz-muz.

2. Moderation of oppositions of forelingual consonants. The paradigm of lingual consonants includes the consonants t, d, r, s, z, sh, ch, j, l, r. It is a feature-lingual featured that unites consonants into a paradigm. However, phonemes belonging to the same paradigm contradict each other within the paradigm with known distinctive features.

In particular, the consonants t-d, s-z, ch-j are mixed according to the feature of voiced-voiceless, the consonant t-n according to the feature of sonority - non-sonority, the consonants t-s, d-z according to the feature of occlusive - constrictive, the consonant t-ch according to the feature of occlusive-constrictive or not, the l-n consonants are contrasted according to the forelingual feature or median, the r-n consonants are contrasted according to median-lateral, and the l-r consonants according to the lateral-vibration feature. These oppositional pairs can be mediated by losing distinctive features in syntagmatics.

Moderation of the opposition between the consonants -d. These consonants come into a mutually privative opposition on the basis of a feature in Modern Uzbek. The first is a voiceless consonant and the second is a voiced consonant. The remaining features are common to both consonants. Therefore, forelingual, occlusive features are a unifying features. In Uzbek dialects, there is a moderation of distinctive features between t-d consonants in the word structure. In this position, in one position, the other is freely exchanged without affecting the meaning of the word. Moderation is mainly in favor of a voiced consonant. For example, tovush-dovush, tog'i-dog'i, tumaloq-dumaloq and so on.

In Uzbek dialects, the moderation of the opposition between t-d consonants is considered to be the relict of the divergence of consonants in Turkic languages in diachrony and the correspondence of consonants between Turkic languages.

The opposition of t-d is also the basis for the classification of Turkic languages. According to this feature, Turkic languages are divided into two:

Languages which use "t" at the beginning of a word and languages which use "d" at the beginning of a word. For example, tush-dush, to'g'ri-do'g'ri, to'g'ri-do'g'ri and so on. To the question of which opposition is more ancient above mentioned a number of Turkic scholars answer that the voiceless is old one.

T-ch consonants are contradicted in the Uzbek consonant system on the basis of features of occlusive-constrictive. The remaining features are common. Hence the feature of occlusive-constrictive distinguishes the meaning of meaningful units and has a phonological value. In the process of speech, there is a loss of the distinguishing feature between these pairs in the anlaut, a moderation. For example, tush-chush, tish-chish and so on.





The moderation of the opposition between t-ch consonants in the anlaut occurs more in front of sh consonant. It shows that in syntagmatics the effect of the consonant sh after the opposing organs on the sound-assimilation of the consonant t before it is caused by the moderation of t and the elements of these consonants to the consonant ch embodied in it.

L-n consonants differ in their occlusive and constrictive feature. Sonority is common with forelingual features. Features of occlusive and constrictive, nasal-non-nasal sound serve distinguish meaning. For example, lola-nola, lom-nom and others. Because these consonants have minimal differentiation, they may lose their distinctive features in the speech process, with one freely exchanging the other in place and not affecting meaning. For example, nodon-lodon and so on.

S-ch consonants form generosity according to the feature of voiceless and forelingual in the consonant system of the Uzbek language and differ according to the feature of occlusive, constrictive and occlusive-constrictive.

In s-ch opposition, these features are considered phonologically valuable features of these consonants using one in place of the other instead of the other in a relation of contrast distribution serving to distinguish the meaning of meaningful units. For example, sol-chol, sochiq-chochiq, so'k-cho'k and so on. But sometimes at the beginning of a word these consonants may be freely exchanged and may not make sense. In this case, there is a moderation between the opposites of the above consonants. Moderation is in favor of a more occlusive and occlusive-constrictive consonant. For example, sichqon-chichqon, soch-choch and so on. The examples show that the moderation of the opposition between the s-ch consonants and the use of ch instead of s without affecting the meaning occurs mainly before the ch consonant. This suggests that it is the result of regressive assimilation.

S-t consonants have in common with the features of voiceless, forelingual and differ from each other according to occlusive-constrictive features. It is the feature which serves to distinguish their meaningful units in the paradigmatic relationship,. For example, sol-tol, sur-tur, sut-tut and others. In some Uzbek dialects, the distinguishing features of these consonants may not be affected by the fact that one is replaced by the other at the beginning of the word.

Moderation is in favor of an occlusive consonant in this pair. For example, siyqanchik-tiyqanchik (Andijan), suyan-tuyan-tayan (Andijan) and others.

Moderation of the opposition of the mediolingual and backlingual consonants. Since the mediolingual consonant is one, there is no need to discuss about the moderation of this consonant to this paradigm, since there are no oppositions which unite and are contradicted by certain features according to the manner of production. But the consonant y is contrasted with other organs of the paradigm and this opposition is observed to be moderate at the beginning of the word. In this position we consider the moderation of the opposition of consonants belonging to the same paradigm according to the manner of production. K-g consonants have a commonality according to backlingual, occlusive features and differ according to the feature of voiced and voiceless. These features are considered to be the distinguishing feature of meaning when it comes in the context of the meaningful units of these consonants. For example, kul-gul, kar-gar (agar), ko'l-go'l and others in anlaut.



3. At the same time, in some modern Uzbek dialects, the loss of distinctive features between these consonants may be due to the fact that in one position one of the opposing members is freely replaced by the other and does not affect the meaning. For example, kun-gun (Oghuz), ko'z-go'z and so on. Such moderation is the result of phonetic compatibility in the anlaut between the Qarluq-Uyghur, Kipchak group and the Oghuz group of Turkic languages.

The consonants q-g' have a commonality with the feature through the deep backlingual, occlusive-constrictive, distinguishing with the features of voiced-voiceless. So these consonants are contradicted by two features. Making maximum opposition. However, in some Uzbek dialects it is observed which in the anlaut sometimes one is replaced by the other and does not affect the meaning. For example, g'oz-qoz, qarg'a-g'arg'a (Kipchak), quzg'uz-g'uzg'un (Kipchak). Moderation of Q-g' consonants at the beginning of a word is rare. In the middle and at the end of the word, however, this phenomenon is much more common. In the above examples, we see that the consonant gohg', gohq is used as a result of the disappearance of the feature of distinction between the q-g' oppositions. The first is the voiceless in the historical development of Turkic languages, the separation of voiced consonants from voiceless consonants, the relic of q-g' divergence. .

In the phonological system of the Uzbek language, the consonants q-x have a common language with deep linguistic, consonantal features, and are distinguished by explosive-sliding features.

This sign is considered a phonologically valuable sign for contradiction and serves to differentiate the meaning of these meaningful units in the context of mutual contrast distribution within the meaningful units.

For example, anlautda qil-khil, qol-khol and others. In some Uzbek dialects, one of the above consonants is replaced in the anlaut without affecting the meaning, which means that the contradiction between these consonants is moderate. Moderation is in favor of a slippery consonant. For example, a whip. But in anlaut this phenomenon is very rare.

Instead of appearing above, we thought about the moderation of the consonantal opposition in the anlaut, which belongs to the same paradigm. It is also observed that instead of appearing in the same position, the contradictions between consonants belonging to different paradigms are also moderate. For example, the consonants j-y form a commonality according to the feature of sound and differ from each other according to the features of occlusive-constrictive, forelingual and backlingual. In different parts of the word, these pairs are in a relationship of contrast distribution, serving to differentiate the meaning of meaningful units. For example, jon-yon, jir -yir "kermoq, ayirmoq" and so on.

In modern Uzbek dialects, in the anlaut, the above consonants are replaced by the other without affecting the meaning of the meaningful units and the features of distinction are moderate. For example, jo'nalish-yo'nalish, jugan-yugan, jo'ng-yo'ng, jur-yur and so on.

In fact, the moderation of these consonants in Uzbek is a remnant of the phonetic correspondence (correspondence) between the Qarluq and Kipchak groups of Turkic languages at the beginning of the word. This harmony is preserved between the Qarluq dialects of the Modern Uzbek language and the Kipchak dialects. For example,

Qarluq dialect



## Kipchak dialect

*Yilon, ilon*

*jilon*

*yer*

*jer*

*yur*

*jur*

*yoz*

*joz.*

The mixture of Kipchak and Qarluq elements in the Uzbek language led to the expansion of this harmony in Uzbek speech. In modern Uzbek, the variant beginning with an occlusive consonant in one place and the variant beginning with a constrictive consonant in the second place serves as a norm. For example, the category of jo'nalish case (yo'nalish case), yo'nalishdagi taksi (not jo'nalishdagi taksi). Jun (literary norm) -yung (dialect), yur (literary norm) -jur (dialect), jugan (literary norm) -yugan (dialect) and others.

Thus, at the phonological level of the Uzbek language, the following distinguishing features, which cause the opposition of consonants, can be neutralized by the loss of the distinguishing feature in the syntagmatic relationship:

1) According to the place of articulation;

2) According to the ways of articulation;

Acoustic feature is the feature (feature of voiced and voiceless)

The moderation of the opposition of the consonants according to the acoustic feature, the place of articulation and the ways of articulation is observed both in the end of word position and in the initial of word position (anlaut). From these characters, moderation based on acoustic feature is considered comprehensive, consistent, while moderation based on other features is sporadic, dialectal in nature. The moderation of the contrasts of both vowels and consonants is related to the position of these phonemes in the word. This shows how important the phonetic position is in determining the phenomenon of moderation.

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