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CLASSIFICATION OF KAZAKH LANGUAGE DIALECTS AND ISSUES OF DIALECT STUDIES

Abstract. This article examines the importance of studying the history, grammatical structures, and vocabulary of a language. Determining the stages of language development and its historical periods is carried out through the analysis of its vocabulary. The current forms of the Kazakh language are characterized as the common national language and local varieties, i.e., dialects. In dialectological research, assessing the natural features of a language, monitoring its development, and revealing its vocabulary are among the key directions in linguistics. Based on previous research on local languages, the article provides a definition of the concept of a local language, explores the factors influencing its formation, and examines the classification of local languages and the diversity of such classifications. It also analyses the distinctions between dialects and the literary language, the integration of dialectal elements into the literary language and terminological corpus, and their positive and negative aspects. Furthermore, the article presents a brief chronology of dialectological studies in Kazakhstan and discusses scholars' views on whether Kazakh has dialects, highlighting two opposing perspectives and reviewing the works of their representatives. The article also addresses the current state of Kazakh dialectology and its methodological, technical, and social challenges. It emphasizes the inconsistency of existing dialect classifications, the lack of unified criteria, and the absence of a universal typology. Accordingly, the need for an integrative classification that encompasses phonetic, morphological, and lexical features is underlined. Another issue under discussion is the inconsistency of transcription: the fact that different researchers denote the same sound with different symbols significantly complicates comparative studies. As a solution, the adoption of a unified transcription system based on the IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) is proposed.

Keywords: literary language; local language; dialectology; transcription; vocabulary; language development

For citation: Ibragimov, Zh., Sadibekov, A. Classification of Kazakh Language Dialects and Issues of Dialect Studies. *Tiltynam*, 2025. No.4 (100). P. 45-58.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55491/2411-6076-2025-4-45-58>

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ҚАЗАҚ ТІЛІНІҢ ДИАЛЕКТИЛЕРІН ЖІКТЕУ ЖӘНЕ ДИАЛЕКТОЛОГИЯ МӘСЕЛЕЛЕРІ

Аннотация. Бұл мақалада тілдің тарихын, грамматикалық құрылымдарын және сөздік қорын зерттеудің маңыздылығы қарастырылады. Тілдің дамуы мен тарихи кезеңдерін анықтау сол тілдегі сөздік қорды талдау арқылы жүзеге асады. Қазақ тілінің қазіргі колданыстағы формалары жалпыхалықтық және жергілікті тіл, яғни диалект ретінде сипатталады. Диалектологиялық зерттеулерде тілдің табиғи сипатына қарай онын ерекшеліктерін бағалау, даму үдерісін бақылау және сөздік қорын ашу – тіл біліміндегі өзекті бағыттардың бірі. Мақаламызға арқа болған жергілікті тіл туралы зерттеу енбектеріне сүйене отырып, жергілікті тіл ұғымына анықтама, жергілікті тілдердің қалыптасуы және оған әсер ететін факторлар, жергілікті тілдердің жіктелуі және бұл жіктеудердің саналуандыры, диалект пен әдеби тіл арасындағы ерекшелік, диалектілердің әдеби тілге немесе терминдік қорға енүі және онын он және теріс түстарын айқындауға тырыстық. Сонымен катаң мақаламызда еліміздегі жергілікті тіл зерттеулері дамуының қысқаша хронологиясын, қазақ тілінде диалектілердің бар-жоғына қатыстыға ғалымдардың пікірлерін, бұл

көзқарастың екі топқа бөлінетіндігін, және осы екі түрлі көзқарасты ұстанатын топ өкілдерінің еңбектеріне де орын берілді. Макала қазақ диалектологиясының қазіргі жағдайы мен оның әдіснамалық, техникалық және әлеуметтік мәселелерін көшпенді түрде талдауга арналған. Қолданыстағы диалектілер классификацияларының үйлесімсіздігі, бірыңғай критерийлер мен әмбебап типологияның жоқтығы атап өтіледі. Осыған байланысты фонетикалық, морфологиялық және лексикалық ерекшеліктерді қамтитын интегративті классификация құрудың маңызы атап өтіледі. Екінші мәселе ретінде транскрипцияның біріздендірілмеуі қарастырылып, әртүрлі зерттеушілерде бір ғана дыбыстын бірнеше таңбамен белгіленуі салыстырмалы зерттеулерге кедерігі келтіретіні дәлелденеді. Мұны шешудің жолы ретінде IPA (Халықаралық фонетикалық алфавит) негізінде бірыңғай транскрипция жүйесін қабылдау ұсынылады.

Тірек сөздер: әдеби тіл; жергілікті тіл; диалектология; транскрипция; сөздік қор; тілдін дамуы

Сілтеме жасау үшін: Ибрагимов Ж., Садібеков А. Қазақ тілінің диалектілерін жіктеу және диалектология мәселелері. *Tiltanytum*, 2025. №4 (100). 45-58-бб. (ағыл. тілінде)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55491/2411-6076-2025-4-45-58>

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КЛАССИФИКАЦИЯ ДИАЛЕКТОВ КАЗАХСКОГО ЯЗЫКА И ПРОБЛЕМЫ ДИАЛЕКТОЛОГИИ

Аннотация. В данной статье рассматривается важность изучения истории языка, его грамматических структур и словарного запаса. Определение этапов развития языка и его исторических периодов осуществляется через анализ лексического фонда. Современные формы казахского языка характеризуются как общенародный язык и местные разновидности, то есть диалекты. В диалектологических исследованиях оценка природных особенностей языка, наблюдение за его развитием и раскрытие словарного состава являются актуальными направлениями языкоznания. Опираясь на исследования, посвящённые местным языковым формам, в статье даётся определение понятию «местный язык», рассматриваются факторы его формирования, классификация местных языков и многообразие этих классификаций. Также анализируются различия между диалектами и литературным языком, процессы проникновения диалектных элементов в литературный язык и терминологический фонд, а также их положительные и отрицательные стороны. Кроме того, приводится краткая хронология исследований по местным языковым особенностям в Казахстане и рассматриваются мнения учёных о наличии или отсутствии диалектов в казахском языке, выделяя два противоположных подхода и работы их представителей. Статья также посвящена современному состоянию казахской диалектологии и её методологическим, техническим и социальным проблемам. Отмечается несогласованность существующих классификаций диалектов, отсутствие единых критериев и универсальной типологии. В связи с этим подчёркивается необходимость создания интегративной классификации, включающей фонетические, морфологические и лексические особенности. Второй проблемой выделяется отсутствие единой системы транскрипции: один и тот же звук у разных исследователей передаётся разными символами, что затрудняет сопоставительные исследования. В качестве решения предлагается принятие единой транскрипционной системы на основе МФА (Международного фонетического алфавита).

Ключевые слова: литературный язык; местный язык; диалектология; транскрипция; словарный запас; развитие языка

Для цитирования: Ибрагимов Ж., Садібеков А. Классификация диалектов казахского языка и проблемы диалектологии. *Tiltanytum*, 2025. №4 (100). С. 45-58. (на англ. яз.)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55491/2411-6076-2025-4-45-58>

Introduction

Although the concept of dialect still has some definition, it is popularly called a local language or dialect phenomena. That is, dialect phenomena are linguistic phenomena that arose at the stages of development of a certain folk language.

By dialect we mean the linguistic features that are not in nationwide use, but are used only in a certain territorial area. In order to call any language group a dialect, it must have a character that is not in popular use and differs from the literary language.

Dialectology is one of the areas of language in the science of language that studies the dialectal

differences in a particular language, the origin of these dialects, the state of distribution and the relationship of these dialects to the literary language.

Dialectal language – that is, local languages is characterized by a variety of words and features of phrases in the language fund of the local people inhabiting a particular region. The local language, on the other hand, develops harmoniously with the history, way of life and worldview of the people living in a particular geographical area. There are also phenomena in which some elements of the local language are included in the national language fund and acquire a generalized character (Akar, 2016: 12).

Local languages, along with the use of the language base of a particular region, are used in parallel with the common folk language, as well as differ in lexical, phonetic, grammatical characteristics. This language group, that is, local languages, is studied by the science of dialectology.

In the works of N. Sauranbayev, it is argued that dialects in the Kazakh language, that is, local features – the source of the ancient times, the historical heritage of the past, are the product of historical phenomena and these dialects are not characterized by obvious features, as in some Turkic languages.

In general, there are two stages of language development: the upper form is a literary language of any nationality, and the lower form is dialects. This is stated in the work "Kazakh dialectology", authored by Kaliyev and Sarybayev: "The branch of linguistics that studies dialects and subdialects is called dialectology. The task of dialectology is to check the features of the local language. Kazakh dialectology studies subdialect and dialects in the Kazakh language. We call dialect, subdialect as the local branches, parts of the folk or national language that have their own characteristics. It contains features that differ from the common features inherent in the common language" (Kaliyev, Sarybayev, 2002: 4).

We see that there are data in dialects regarding many sounds, suffixes, and words that have been forgotten in the written language. Consequently, dialect plays an important role in determining the changes and development processes that have occurred in the language with the passage of time. The compiled texts and the studies carried out related to dialects contain important data on the solution to the problems of language in research.

The way a dialect is formed is rooted in speech. Speeches are formed by linguistic features that are close to each other, as a result of which a group of speeches, and then a dialect is formed. A peculiarity that distinguishes dialects from each other is their distinctive features. In the case of distinctive features, dialects are distinguished from each other and have a distinctive character from the general literary language. The existence or absence of a common dialect is determined by the distinctive feature of linguistic use and is the most important element in the study of the dialect (Eltazarov, 2016: 35).

There are three main features in terms of the distribution and perception of information in the meaning of dialect lexical words:

The first is that the distribution of dialect words is measured by territorial (territorial) criterion. The second is considered to be a language unit used only by a certain part of users of local words. Third, due to the inclusion of local words in the composition of the literary language, an increase in the function of the dialect for the dissemination and perception of information may be reflected. There are also phenomena in which dialect words are included in the literary lexis and in the terminological lexis.

One of the main factors affecting the dialectal phenomenon is the influence of the linguistic features of neighboring nations in geographical space on the language of the local population. It is considered a natural phenomenon that as a result of the interaction of neighboring peoples, there is a process of exchange of these values in the domestic way of life, traditions and language. Therefore, it can be assumed that the dialect phenomenon itself is formed as a natural process.

There are views based on the opinion that the formation and development of local languages in the Kazakh language is related to the history, structural features and geographical location of the people/nation. According to Zh. Aimauytov, due to the geographical position of the Kazakh people, there is a process of exchange of words between peoples due to their neighboring location with other nations. S. Amanzholov, on the other hand, expresses the opinion that the history of the tribes and the history of the language are consonant, and the basis of modern local languages is sourced from the

history of the nations (Koç, 2014: 22).

Materials and methods

The main purpose of the article is to identify the existing shortcomings in dialect studies of the Kazakh language, despite the presence of a large number of works, and to consider measures to eliminate these shortcomings. Also in this work, attention was paid to the topic of determining the role of dialects in the literary language. One of the objectives of the article is to clarify the points studied, based on the works related to the dialect topics of the Kazakh language.

During the preparation of the article, the research works of domestic and foreign scientists related to the dialect topics of the Kazakh language were considered as material. The research methodology was applied both to the comparative historical method of considering common concepts in dialect research works of the Kazakh language, and to critical methods of historical analysis, differentiation, and source studies in the study.

The article literary language in linguistic science describes the disclosure of the essence of the concepts of the local language, the classification of dialect languages and their diversity, and the relationship of the two types of language on this basis. The fact that classification on this topic is carried out according to different criteria, as well as the lack of a single unified dialect classification system, is expressed as the main problem of studying this field.

It is necessary to record the collected materials with modern audio and video recording devices. Another important area in dialectology is the transcription phase. Determining the unique sound features of the regional dialect using transcription signs (transcription alphabet) is a very important stage in dialect research. It is necessary to study the dialect situation of the studied region from the point of view of its special phonetics, morphology and vocabulary.

Dialects in the Kazakh language are linguistic elements that existed before the formation of the Kazakh nation, and this phenomenon appeared in the Kazakh language after the fifteenth century.

Literature review

In general, the work on the study of Kazakh dialects can be divided into three stages:

- 1) The studies carried out before the October revolution;
- 2) Studies conducted during the Soviet period;
- 3) Studies carried out during the period of the Republic of Kazakhstan;

1. The studies were carried out before the October Revolution

There is no detailed information about the dialects of the Kazakh Turkish language from scientists who worked in the field of Turkology before the October Revolution (1917). Because local and foreign turkologists have not personally dealt with the dialectical features in Kazakh Turkish (Shakhipova, 2007: 129).

It is possible to come across materials with dialect features in some books published during this period. In some books published during this period, you can find materials with dialectical features. These materials have also prompted some turkologists to put forward different ideas as to whether there are dialects of the Kazakh Turkish language. For example, a group of linguists as W. Radloff, P.M. Melioransky (who later changed his opinion), especially A.M. Pozdneev reported that Kazakh dialects hadn't existed. The second group N. Ilminsky, N.F. Katanov, P.M. Melioransky, M. Terentyev reported that dialects were found in part, if not in the entire territory of the Kazakh territory. The works of A.V. Vasilyev, N.N. Pantusov, Sh. Valikhanov, A.A. Divayev and others published before the October Revolution have important linguistic material that can be used in the study of Kazakh dialects. W. Radlov and A.M. Pozdneev believes that there are no dialects in Kazakh Turkish (Nakysbekov, 2010: 16).

For the first time, Zhusipbek Aimauytov wrote about the presence of linguistic features of the Kazakh language of a "local", "regional" nature. In his article, where Zh. Aimauytov first introduced the term "peculiarities of the native language" into the Kazakh Turkish language and even wrote the first scientific article on this topic. In his article, Zh. Aimauytov focused on both the local language characteristics in Kazakhstan and the historical, political and social formation processes of Kazakh dialects.

2. The studies conducted during the Soviet period

The serious study of Kazakh Turkish dialects from the phonetic, grammatical and lexical points of view began during the Soviet period. The first research group on the compilation of local linguistic features of Kazakhstan in Soviet Period was established in 1937 under the leadership of professor I. Kenesbayev, but from a theoretical point of view, research works began later. With the language materials obtained as a result of these researches, Kazakh dialectology has emerged as a branch of science. In terms of theory, the period of generalization and the beginning of more intensive compilation of dialects began after the 1940s. In 1945, the Department of Kazakh Language History and Dialectology was opened at the Institute of Language and Literature of the Kazakh Academy of Sciences, and the cultural richness of the folk language began to be widely studied, and some articles have been published since 1946.

In 1937, the Kazakh Department of the Soviet Academy of Sciences sent three separate expert teams to Kegen Narynkol of Almaty region, Maqtaaral district of South Kazakhstan region, Nura district of Karagandy region and started dialect examinations. These studies were continued in Mangistau, Torgay in 1939, in Sarysu, Aral, Orda in 1940, and many dialectical materials were compiled from these regions. These compiled oral materials were a source of research by Kazakh dialectologists such as S. Amanzholov, Zh. Doskarayev, N.T. Sauranbayev and G. Musabayev, according to the classification of the Kazakh dialect, after 1953 (Shalbayev, 2000: 596).

For the first time in the history of Kazakh dialectology, in 1944, Zh. Doskarayev defended his master's thesis, *Some Issues of the Southern Dialects*, in 1948, S. Amanzholov's doctoral thesis entitled *The Main Problems of the Kazakh Language*. From 1948 and 1949, dialectology specialists of the Institute of Linguistics and Literature of the Academy of Sciences of the KazSSR began to systematically go on trips to compile local language characteristics. They went to some remote regions sometimes two or three times and thus increased the number of dialectological materials. In 1951, Zh. Doskarayev and G. Musabayev published a small dialectological dictionary, and in 1953 and 1954 in the journal *Voprosi Yazikoznaniya* S. Amanzholov and Zh. Doskarayev published articles on Kazakh dialects. Detailed scientific studies in this field were published in 1955 by Zh. Doskarayev and S. Amanzholov in 1959. In 1956, a guide was published to help in the study of compiling the local language characteristics of Kazakh Turkish. In recent years, the number of dialectology specialists has increased, and Zh. Bolatov, O. Nakysbekov, P. Omarbekov, G. Kaliyev and other young researchers have begun their research.

Since 1953, important names of the Kazakh dialect have started working on folk dialects. The following Dialectical Characteristics of the Kazakh Turkish were identified by the following linguists: in 1954 G. Kaliyev, *The Dialect of Aral*, in 1960, S. Omarbekov, *The Dialect of Mangistau*, in 1963 O. Nakysbekov, *The Shu Dialect*, in 1964 Ye. Baizholov, *The Dialect of Kazakh Turks in the Kostanai Region*, in 1965 Ye. Nurmagambetov, *The Dialect of Kazakh Turks in Turkmenistan*, in 1965 N. Zhunisov, *The Dialect of Kazakh Turks in the Karakalpak SSR*, in 1966 Ye. Boribayev, *The Dialectical Characteristics of Orda Kazakh Turks*, in 1967 T. Aidarov, *The Kazakh Turkic Dialect in Tamdi region of the Uzbek SSR*, in 1967 Yu. Ebdulveliyev, *Phonetic-Grammatical Characteristics of the Kazakh Turkish Tashkent Dialect*, in 1968 Sh. Bektirov, *The Kyzylorda Dialect*, in 1969 B. Beketov, *The Dialect Characteristics of the Kazakh Turks in the South of Karakalpakistan*, in 1975 A. Tasimov, *Dialectical peculiarities of Kazakh Turkish on the coast of Edil River* (Akar, 2018: 599).

By making extensive use of the materials obtained since the 1950s, trial studies of DDKL have started to be conducted. One of the trial dictionaries of Turkic knowledge in this field is a short dictionary, by Zh. Doskarayev contains about 1,500 words, which was published in 1955. Published in 1959 by S. Amanzholov, the number of words in the dialectological dictionary is close to 4000. Although these two dictionaries have some shortcomings, they were written in accordance with the requirements of that period. In 1969, as a result of the joint work of dialectologists, the "Kazak Tilinin Diyalektologiyalik Sozdigi" was compiled, which contains more than 6,000 words (Omarbekov, Zhunisov, 1985: 159).

3. The studies were carried out during the Republic of Kazakhstan

During this period, the linguistic characteristics of the Kazakhs, which spread to all over the world, were studied more. Because information about the language characteristics of Kazakh Turks

living abroad was not included in the mentioned DDKL. This deficiency was eliminated by the Regional Dictionary of the Kazakh Language published in 2005 as a result of the joint work of dialectologists and containing more than 22,000 words. The reason why this dictionary, compiled by combining the results of all studies conducted to this day, qualifies as a regional one is that it covers the linguistic peculiarities of Kazakh Turks living in China, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Iran, Russia and other countries. In 2007, a dialectical dictionary called "Dialectologiyalik Sozdik" was published.

The work of studying the language and dialectical characteristics of Kazakhs living outside Kazakhstan has also attracted the interest of linguists. Because the language characteristics of Kazakhs living outside the country have not been studied much. In recent years, extensive dialect studies have also been published in the works of B. Bazylkhan, F. Sagyndykova, Zh. Bissenbayeva, K. Kurmanaliyev, B. Otebekov, S. Mustafa and N. Biray. In addition, doctoral thesis studies have also been conducted on the local people's dialects of Kazakhs. These are the research works of M.K. Esimbolova, B. Zhusipova, A.Z. Essenbay, K.S. Kalibayeva, M.S. Atabayeva and F. Shakhipova.

Since dialectology of the Kazakh language is a field of science that begins to be studied late, every study on this topic is considered important. One of the most important tasks of research in this field is to evaluate dialects by their natural nature, identify specific features and peculiarities of the local language, as well as track the development and changes of the language and reveal the vocabulary of this language.

Dialect research of the Kazakh Turkish language is a branch of science that began to be studied later than other areas of Kazakh linguistics. In 1937, a research team was established under the direction of I. Kenesbayev to study the dialect features of the Kazakh Turkish language. Specialists in Kazakh dialects were sent to various regions of Kazakhstan to compile characteristics of the Kazakh dialect, and studies of the collected language materials were conducted on the subject of phonetics, morphology, vocabulary. Later, in 1945, a department studying the history and dialectology of the Kazakh language was established at the Department of Language and Literature of the Kazakh Academy of Sciences. Over the past 80 years, numerous studies – including monographs, articles, textbooks, dissertations, dialectology dictionaries, and classifications – have been conducted on Kazakh dialects.

The opinion that local language features are found in the Kazakh language is expressed in the works of turkologists P.M. Melioransky and N. Ilminsky (Kysmetova, 2024: 20).

The fact that the Kazakh language has dialectal variation is enough for scientists who support the opinion, as well as scientists who refute this phenomenon. In particular, most of the specialists of the Kazakh language, such scientists as V. Radlov, P. Melioransky, N. Ilminsky, A. Pozdneev, were of the opinion that the Kazakh language does not have dialectal features. Academician V. Radlov supported the idea that the Kazakh language is a monolithic language, so there are no dialects in this language. And S. Malov, N. Ilminsky said that "in the vast expanses of the Kyrgyz (Kazakh) Sahara, the Kyrgyz-Kaisak language is not divided into dialects".

Results and discussions

Determining the existence of dialect languages and classifying or grouping them is a very complex task. In the process of studying local languages, materials are often collected within the framework of the following topics and analyzed based on the results of the study of this material. The topics are listed below.

Table 1 – Compilation Topics in Dialect Studies

Кесте 1 – Диалектология бойынша жинақтау тақырыптары

Таблица 1 – Темы компиляции по диалектологии

Related to Source Individuals:	Related to the Region:	Related to Daily Life:	Related to Traditions, Customs, and Folklore:	Related to Various Professions:
Biographies of source individuals	Foundation of the region	Daily tasks	Asking for a girl's hand in marriage, henna ceremony	Past life

Continuation of Table 1 / Кесте 1 жалғасы / Продолжение Таблицы 1

Education levels	History and ethnic background, origin of the region's name	Field, garden, orchard, planting, harvesting activities	Engagement and wedding customs	Rituals related to tombs in the region
Military memories	Sources of livelihood in the region	Tools used in fieldwork	Dances and games played at weddings	Daily life
Events that happened to them	Region-specific dishes	Winter preparations, old and new clothes	Wedding meals	House, vineyard, and garden work
Memories	Vegetables and fruits grown in the region	Recipe, pastry making	Clothing worn at weddings	Animals, their names, and characteristics
Respect and reverence for elders, superstitions	Difficulties of the region, events that occurred in the region	Tools and kitchenware used in daily life	Preparing the dowry, items found in the dowry	Names of household items, structures and building sections, place names
Comparing old times with the present	Natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods	Hunting, making bulgur, cheese, butter, tarhana, tomato paste, pickles, etc.	Funeral customs, circumcision ceremonies, sending off soldiers	Children's games
Customs related to post-birth	Nursery rhymes, lullabies, fairy tales, riddles, proverbs, jokes	Beekeeping	Naming the child and birth customs	Asking for a girl's hand in marriage, engagement, and related customs
Plants growing in the surrounding area		Old measuring instruments and units of measurement	Children's games, folk songs	Kinship terms, color terms

Since it is difficult to clearly distinguish dialects from each other, it is not easy to classify the Kazakh language even within its framework. Specialists of Kazakh language have not come to a common opinion on this issue, and the topic of dialects of the Kazakh language has been debated for a long time. However, in our article we considered several options for the classification of local languages in the Kazakh language.

In a study conducted by Nakysbekov, it can be seen that the southern regional dialect is divided into the following six subgroups:

1. The Zhetisu dialect (Almaty region);
2. Shu dialect (Zhambyl region);
3. Symkent dialect (Shymkent region);
4. Kyzylorda dialect (From the East of Kyzylorda region through the Syr Darya to Turkestan);
5. Tashkent dialect (Kazakh villages in Tashkent and Bukhara regions of Uzbekistan);
6. Tajik dialect (Kazakh villages living in Tajikistan).

Among scientists, there are two types of views related to the fact that the dialects of the Kazakh language relate to the languages of the former tribe. The first is S. Amanzholov's view of linking dialects in the Kazakh language with the former tribal and horde factor in the Kazakh land. The second is the view of N. Sauranbayev that dialects are a phenomenon that arose after the process of population formation (Akar, 2018: 20).

Zhusipbek Aimaulytov classifies local words into three groups: 1) useful words, 2) harmful words, 3) controversial words. The fact that controversial words are used in positive and negative terms depending on the region suggests that it is necessary to study the root of these words in Turkish,

Persian, Arabic. As harmful words, it is proposed to highlight the fact that the same word is spelled differently, and that these words have their own root of origin, are widely used, correspond to the law of language, and are easy to write. And the useful words, the meaning is synonymous words, but given the fact that these words come from different roots, the need for sorting is recommended when using these words.

We base the attempt to sort Kazakh dialects on the work of G. Aliyev and Sh. Sarybayeva "Kazak dialectologiyasi". In this study, Kazakh dialect specialists S. Amanzholov, Zh. Doskarayev, N. Sauranbayev and G. Musabayev attempted to classify Kazakh dialects based on the compiled language materials. The opinions of these scientists on the classification of Kazakh dialects can be listed as follows:

- a) S. Amanzholov divided it into 3 groups: Northeast, South, West;
- b) Zh. Doskarayev divided it into 2 groups: Southeast, Northwest;
- c) N. Sauranbayev divided it into 2 groups: Southeast, Northwest;
- d) G. Musabayev divided it into 2 groups: Changeable dialect (auyspaly soylenis), Local dialect (zhergiliki soylenis).

The classification of Kazakh Turkish dialects was first carried out by S. Amanzholov. S. Amanzholov connects the emergence of the Kazakh dialect with the relations of hordes in the Kazakh region. According to him, three local dialects have emerged with the formation of three Kazakh hordes. It is reported that it is spoken within the boundaries of the Senior horde (Northeastern dialect), Middle horde (Southern dialect), and Junior horde (Western dialect).

They are as follows:

1. Northeast dialect: Akmola, Pavlodar, Semei, Eastern Kazakhstan, Kokshetau, Karagandy, some regions of Northern Kazakhstan and some districts of Kostanai and Taldykorgan region. Amanzholov included the Kerei, Naiman, Argyn, Konyrat and Kipchak tribes in the northeastern dialect group. These tribes have occupied the Ertis, Esil, Tobol, Torgai river and the vast regions of Altai Tarbagatai since early periods. They are bordered by the tribes of the Senior horde in the South, the tribes of the Middle horde and the Tatars, Bashkirs in the West; Altai, Barabin and Tobol Tatar Turks in the North, and in the East by the Mongolian, Chinese and Uighur Turks. S. Amanzholov stated that the Northeastern dialect is the dialect underlying the Kazakh literary language, and that it is very close to the written language when compared with other dialects in terms of phonetics, grammar and vocabulary. Amanzholov has not made any analysis of this group. The main reason for this is the opinion that the Northeastern dialect is the basis for the written language.

2. Southern dialect: Almaty, Zhambyl, cities of Southern Kazakhstan and some southern districts of Taldykorgan and Kyzylorda. S. Amanzholov includes the languages of the old Uisin, Qanli, Dulat and Zhaliyir tribes in the southern dialect of Kazakh Turkish. These tribes have settled in the plains of Zhetisu, Syr Darya and Alatau since early periods, in other words, in the places where today's Almaty, Taldykorgan, Zhambyl, Southern Kazakhstan and Kyzylorda region are located. It borders the Uighurs in the East, the Naiman, Kerei, Konyrat tribes in the Northeast, the Alshyn tribe group in the Northwest, and the Uzbek and Kyrgyz Turks in the South. In the XVI century, before the Mongol invasion, this tribe, which joined the Kazakh people in the XII century, was called the "Senior horde". Since the social, economic and cultural conditions of these tribes were common from the very beginning, over time their spoken language turned into a local dialect. It was also influenced by the fact that the tribes included in the Senior horde remained weak in relation to other Kazakh tribes for various natural and historical reasons. Lake Balkhash, Betpak-Dala steppes in the north, Ulan-Baitak steppes in the northwest, Kyzylkum and Aral Sea were natural obstacles for these tribes. In addition, the language of Uighur and Kyrgyz Turks has also been influential in the formation of these dialects. In the 17-19 centuries the influence of Uzbek Turkish can be mentioned with the fact that the Senior horde remained under the rule of Khokand and Khiva Khanates.

3. Western dialect: Western Kazakhstan, the city of Aktobe and the southern region of Kyzylorda, some districts of Kostanai in the West. S. Amanzholov considers the Western dialect of Kazakh Turkish to belong to the language of the Alshyn tribe group. These tribes have occupied the Aral and Caspian coasts, the coasts of the Zhaiyq and Or rivers since very ancient times. Accordingly, today this dialect

covers all the districts of Oral, Guryev, Mangistau, Aktobe region. It borders with the Southern dialect of Kazakh Turkish and Karakalpak Turks in the South of the Alshyn tribes' union, Turkmen Turks in the South-West, Tatar Turks Nogai Turks, Northeastern dialect and Bashkir Turks in the Northwest.

Zh. Doskarayev divided Kazakh Turkish into two major dialects:

1. Southeastern dialect group: it covers Southern Kazakhstan, Zhambyl, Almaty region, Southwestern districts of Taldykorgan city and Southeastern districts of Kyzylorda.

2. Northwestern dialect group: West Kazakhstan, Guryev, Aktobe, Kostanai, Karagandy, Tselinograd, Pavlodar, cities in the Western districts of the North Kazakhstan region (Kazaly, Aral, etc.) and the Northwestern cities of Semei region enters (Atmaca, 2016: 42).

Drawing attention to the fact that the historical development of these two dialect groups has not been clearly studied, he developed his own classification according to phonetic, morphological and lexical features.

N. Sauranbayev classified the dialects of Kazakh Turks as Southeastern and Northwestern dialects. Sauranbayev's classification is close to Doskarayev's classification in general.

However, Sauranbayev preferred to use the term "dialect" instead of "accent". Sauranbayev showed the sounds *sh*, *d* (for example, *shapan*, *shal*, *mandai*) for the Northwestern group and *ch*, *l* (for example, *chapan*, *chal*, *manlay*) for the Southeastern group as distinguishing features (Mamirbekova, 2024: 150). Musabayev divided the dialectal features of the Kazakh language into two groups. They are: variable dialect and local dialect.

a) Variable dialect: Musabayev has included in this group the words used by some of the indigenous people who come from other languages. The Kazakh language includes words from Uzbek and Kyrgyz Turkish in the South, Tatar and Bashkir Turkish in the West, Altai Turkish and Chinese in the East. In places where words are taken from the dialects of the Turkish language and Chinese, a commutative dialect has emerged. For example: The borrowed words such as *pahta* (maqta), *katta* (ulken) from Uzbek Turkish, and *taygn* (tazi) from Kyrgyz Turkish languages.

b) Local dialect: Musabayev thinks that the influence of ancient tribe languages and the state of the local economy are related to each other in the formation of a local dialect. Musabayev has discussed the reflection of place, animal, plant names and professional words in the local dialect of the literary language (Kysmetova, 2024: 150).

Again, two groups of widespread classifications of the local language can be distinguished: traditional dialect features and non-traditional dialect features. Traditional dialectal features include the features of a group of languages that have been in use since ancient times. If there is no tradition of dialectal features, then in linguistic use there are words that later appeared, often borrowed from other languages. Ethnic names are an example of traditional dialectical features. Researchers of dialect languages divide local languages in the Kazakh language into four groups – the Eastern dialect group, the Western dialect group, the Southern dialect group, and the Central-northern dialect group.

In another classification, the dialect languages are divided by linguists into six groups:

- 1) Zhetsu dialect (Almaty region);
- 2) Shu dialect (Zhambyl region);
- 3) Shymkent dialect (former Shymkent region, now Turkestan region);
- 4) Kyzylorda dialect (Kyzylorda region);
- 5) Tashkent dialect (Kazakh districts of Tashkent, Bukhara regions);
- 6) Tajik dialect (Districts inhabited by Kazakhs in Tajikistan) (Kaliyev, Sarybayev, 2002: 47).

As we have already shown in sequence above, we have noted that there is a classification of local languages by various criteria and their specific features. The very classification of dialects allows us to say that the Kazakh language has a group of local languages and an indicator that they are classified into several groups allows us to say that our language has a rich local language vocabulary, in addition to the literary language.

It can be said that the literary language and dialects are closely related and have complementary functions. In fiction, the author uses the local language to represent his work, and we cannot say that this is a negative method, but it is necessary that the dialects used do not contradict the norms of the literary language. Sometimes dialects penetrate into literary languages, and there are phenomena that

enrich the vocabulary of the language. In the introduction of dialect words into the literary language, it is necessary to prioritize the principles of magnitude and rationality. In the opposite case, the name can lead to a violation of the norms of the literary language and lead to the threat of dialectification of the literary language. Therefore, it should be borne in mind that the introduction of elements of dialect languages into the literary language is a very responsible work. In our language, this process, that is, the phenomenon of dialectification, can be described as reflected in the 70-80s of the XX century. The concept of dialect and literary language as an opposite phenomenon in science is described in the works of R.I. Avanesov. As a counterpoint to this, there are also opinions that local words that have become part of the fiction language acquire a new character, and the scope of use expands and becomes generally understandable (Kaliyev, Sarybayev, 2002: 48).

In the science of the concept of dialect and literary language as phenomena opposite to each other, it is written in the works of R.I. Avanesov as an opposing view, there are also opinions that local words that have become part of the artistic literary language acquire a new character, expand and become more understandable (Eltazarov, 2016: 28).

Zhusipbek Aimaulytov also tells in his works about the benefits and harms of local languages, that is, dialects, to the literary language. As a negative effect, dialects indicate that different pronunciation of a thought, one object, or the same phenomenon causes ambiguity, and that unstable, variable pronunciation of existing words or phrases negatively affects literacy levels.

In Kazakh dialectology, prominent scholars such as S. Amanzholov, Zh. Doskarayev, N. Sauranbayev, and G. Musabayev each proposed their own model of dialect classification. While these works played an important role in the development of Kazakh linguistics, from today's perspective their methodological approaches reveal certain limitations and shortcomings.

1. One-sidedness of classification. Most of these researchers based their classifications on a single aspect – geographical distribution (Amanzholov), lexical features (Doskarayev), or social usage (Musabayev). Although these approaches were effective for their time, they failed to fully capture the complex, multi-layered structure of the language. For example, while a dialect may be tied to a particular region geographically, its lexicon may share features with another area. Similarly, a dialect might have distinct morphological structures yet be phonetically closer to the literary language.

2. Lack of integration. There is no consistency between classifications. One scholar divides dialects into three groups, while another divides them into two. However, the similarities and differences between these models have not been systematically compared. Since these classifications are not integrated, it becomes difficult for researchers to establish a unified and coherent system.

3. Ignoring modern factors. The works of these scholars mainly reflect the mid-20th century. Today, however, new factors influence language use: migration, urbanization, the impact of digital communication and media language, youth language and mixed linguistic phenomena.

These processes affect the frequency of dialect use, the weakening of linguistic norms, and the disappearance or transformation of local features. Therefore, dialectological studies should not rely solely on the past but must also take into account current dynamics.

4. Absence of a typological model. The scholars did not propose a concrete typological framework. They merely listed dialects without systematically comparing them to identify shared and distinctive features that could form a typological basis. As a result, their models fall short of contemporary requirements.

Although Kazakh dialectology is a well-established field, it now requires new perspectives, integrative approaches, and comprehensive analyses. The older classifications cannot be dismissed altogether – they have historical and theoretical significance. However, to accurately represent the present-day linguistic landscape, dialects must be systematically studied at the phonetic, morphological, lexical, semantic, and sociolinguistic levels, leading to the creation of a unified model.

To advance this field, the following proposals are suggested:

1. Integration of classification methods. Different approaches (geographical, phonetic, lexical, social) should be combined into a comprehensive typology. For instance: mapping phonetic distinctions, registering lexical features in a regional corpus, comparing morphological differences, Analysing domains of use and social influences. This aligns with the requirements of modern sociolinguistics and

corpus linguistics.

2. Utilization of modern technology. Develop a digital corpus of Kazakh dialects. Compile audio and video materials into a dialectological platform. Employ artificial intelligence to automatically analyse frequency, correspondence, and patterns of change.

3. Adoption of a standardized IPA-based transcription. Harmonize the various transcriptional practices used by different authors. Establish a stable transcription system based on the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). This will facilitate comparative studies of dialect materials.

4. Incorporating regional features into education and cultural policy. Introduce regional vocabulary and dialects into school curricula (e.g., as elective courses). Prepare dialect dictionaries and educational resources. Promote cultural diversity by using regional linguistic features in literature, media, and cinema.

5. Engaging with the international academic community. Study Kazakh dialectology within the broader framework of Turkic linguistics, comparing it with other Turkic languages. Participate in international projects and conferences, and increase publications in English. For Kazakh dialectology to progress to a new level, it must move beyond repeating earlier classifications and instead adopt new methods, technologies, and practical solutions. Approaching this field with attention to current social, digital, and cultural changes is both relevant and necessary.

Dialect studies are among the most challenging areas in language research. In research conducted in this field, a significant reason for the difficulties encountered in transcribing sound recordings and analyzing the created texts is the discrepancies in the use of transcription symbols. The issue of transcription symbol usage in dialect studies must be resolved, and a unified approach should be embraced.

One of the problems arising from different transcription spellings in dialect studies is that the same signs indicate different sounds or the same sound is indicated by different signs. This situation makes the job of researchers who will both research a single dialect region and conduct comparative dialect studies quite difficult (Erdinç, 2008: 203].

In the tables below, the transcription signs used for the vowels a and e will be determined and the confusion in the research will be explained with examples (Table 2, Table 3).

Table 2 – Vowel «a»

Кесте 2 – «А» дауысты дыбысы

Таблица 2 – Гласная «а»

<i>between “a-e”</i>	<i>between “a-i”</i>	<i>between “a-o”</i>	<i>between “a-u”</i>	<i>thin “a” in foreign words</i>	<i>fuzzy “a”</i>	<i>long “a”</i>	<i>short “a”</i>
á	à	å	á	â	â	ã	ă
ø	à	æ		â		a:	a
ä	a	a°				â	à
a	a					ã	
â	â						
	ă						
	â						
	á						
	a						
	â						

Table 3 – Vowel «е»

Кесте 3 – «Е» дауысты дыбысы

Таблица 3 – Гласная «е»

<i>between “e-a”</i>	<i>“e-i” between closed “e”</i>	<i>between “е” and open e half closed “e”/ between “е-i” very closed “e”</i>	<i>between “e-ö”, semi- circular</i>	<i>close to “i” thick “e”</i>	<i>long “e”</i>	<i>short “e”</i>
ә	è	ä /	ö	ə	ē	ě
е	ę	/ ε	ə		ε:	ε
ä	e		ë		ē	/ ε
а	é					è
ę	è					
è						

When the tables given above are examined carefully, the confusion experienced in transcribing the collected dialectal data in dialect research and in correctly identifying the sounds and determining the signs in the transcription will be clearly seen.

In Kazakh dialectology, the issue of transcription still remains an unresolved and complex problem, maintaining its relevance to this day. The fact that different researchers designate the same sound with different transcription symbols complicates the qualitative comparative analysis of materials. This paper analyses the given problems and proposes possible solutions.

1. Analysis of the transcription issue. In dialectological studies, the use of different transcription symbols for the same sound, or the indication of several sounds by a single symbol, negatively affects the accuracy and comparability of data. For example, the sounds *a* and *e* (see Tables 2 and 3) are represented in multiple ways: Such diversity complicates the comparison of research findings and causes inconsistency. Authors often apply their own transcription systems, which leads to multiple representations of the same linguistic data.

2. Standardization of transcription. To solve this problem, the transcription system should be aligned with international standards. In this regard, we propose a transcription system adapted to the phonetic system of the Kazakh language on the basis of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA):

- For the main sounds of the literary language – use stable IPA symbols (e.g., ə – [æ], ө - [ø], ү – [y]);
- For dialectal features – apply additional symbols or diacritics;
- Divide the transcription system into three levels: phonemic, dialectal, and allophonic.

3. Example of transcriptional discrepancies among different authors. The fact that different authors transcribe the same word differently is a significant issue in Kazakh dialectology. For example, the word *batyr* appears as *batur* (in the IPA system) in one author's work, while another presents it as *bâtır*. Similarly, the phrase *kele jatyr* is transcribed as *k'ele zatur* in one source, and as *kèle jâtür* in another. These discrepancies arise from the use of different transcription approaches: the first variants rely on the IPA, which ensures phonetic precision, whereas the second use more traditional or ad hoc conventions, which tend to lack clarity and allow for subjective interpretation.

4. Steps towards transcription standardization:

- Develop a unified transcription guide for Kazakh dialectology;
- Clarify sounds based on phonetic maps and audio databases;
- Create a digital transcription platform (audio + text + transcription) with the help of IT specialists.

5. Influence of modern factors. Today, the main factors influencing dialects are:

- Social mobility: migration from rural areas to cities leads to a convergence of spoken language with literary norms;
- Influence of neighbouring languages: Russian, Uzbek, and Kyrgyz languages affect dialects in border regions;
- Media language and the Internet: on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram, the

blending of dialect and literary language is evident.

In Kazakh dialectology, the unification of transcription and the renewal of classification remain among the key tasks. A system adapted to international standards, a new classification method based on empirical data, and research approaches that consider the current sociolinguistic situation will give momentum to the field's development. In the future, it is crucial to establish a scientific foundation for practical projects such as transcription systems, dictionaries, and electronic corpora.

In contemporary Kazakh dialectology, research has been significantly more focused on lexical studies than on phonetics and grammar. For instance, approximately 60-70% of scholarly articles published over the past decade have been dedicated to examining lexical material, while only about 15-20% have addressed phonetics and grammar. This statistic indicates a clear preference for collecting and describing dialectal vocabulary.

While this lexical focus has contributed to compiling regional lexicons and exploring word usage, it has also led to an underrepresentation of regional variation in sound systems and grammatical structures. As a result, there is a lack of systematic analysis regarding phonetic and morphological variation, which hinders the comprehensive description of dialects and weakens the methodological foundations for language standardization and educational practices.

To address this imbalance, it is essential to increase the number of studies devoted to phonetics and grammar and to establish a more comprehensive and balanced research strategy. This would strengthen the scientific basis of Kazakh dialectology and offer deeper insights into the historical and contemporary processes of language development.

Conclusion

In the article, the main issues encountered in Kazakh dialectology – divergent views in dialect classification and the lack of consistency in transcription – were analysed through concrete examples, and directions for their resolution were proposed. The study allows the following specific conclusions to be drawn:

1. Differences in classification criteria were identified. For example, S. Amanzholov divided the dialects into three groups (North-Eastern, Southern, Western), while N. Doskarayev and N. Sauranbayev classified them into two groups (North-Western and South-Eastern). In contrast, G. Mussabayev, based on typological principles, proposed “transitional” and “local” dialect types. These differences were shown to arise from prioritizing phonetic, lexical, or historical-ethnographic features. Standardizing classification is necessary for developing linguistic maps, compiling regional dictionaries, and informing language policy.

2. Persistent discrepancies in the transcription of sounds were recorded. In the transcription of the vowels *a* and *e* (see Table 2 and Table 3), the same sound was represented by multiple symbols (e.g., *a*: á, à, Ҙ, à, â; *e*: ä, ҩ, è, ҩ, ē), or conversely, one symbol denoted multiple sounds. This situation hinders the comparative analysis of dialect texts, making it essential to unify transcription on the basis of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA).

3. Links to practical applications were established. The research findings can guide the use of dialectal material as a lexicographic resource, the supplementation of school textbooks with regional features, and the employment of dialectal data as reference material in teaching Kazakh as a second language. This approach offers a way to adapt the teaching and standardization of the language while preserving its internal diversity.

The classification and transcription issues identified in the article are not only of theoretical importance but are also crucial for applied linguistics, dialect cartography, the creation of electronic corpora, and state language policy. The proposed solutions can make a concrete contribution to the systematic development of these areas.

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Information about the article / Мақала туралы ақпарат / Информация о статье

Entered the editorial office / Редакцияга түсті / Поступила в редакцию: 15.02.2025.

Accepted for publication / Жариялауға қабылданды / Принята к публикации: 10.12.2025.

Available online / Интернетте қол жетімді / Доступно онлайн: 12.12.2025.