



GANIJON ABDURAHMONOV'S PHONETIC HERITAGE: THEORETICAL VIEWS AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

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Abstract: *This article analyzes the scientific heritage of Ganijon Abdurahmonov, who occupies a distinct place in Uzbek linguistics owing to his fundamental research in phonetics. Using a descriptive-analytical method, the study examines the scholar's classification of vowel and consonant phonemes, his treatment of stress, and his codification of pronunciation norms for the Uzbek literary language. The findings confirm that Abdurahmonov's theoretical framework remains a cornerstone of Uzbek phonetic science and continues to inform contemporary teaching methodology. The article concludes that his works constitute an enduring scholarly resource for linguists, educators, and students alike.*

Keywords: *Ganijon Abdurahmonov, Uzbek linguistics, phonetics, phoneme, stress, pronunciation norms, phonetic system, articulation, acoustics.*

INTRODUCTION

The history of Uzbek linguistics is distinguished by a number of scholars whose contributions have shaped the discipline's theoretical and applied foundations. Among them, Ganijon Abdurahmonov occupies a pre-eminent position as the founder of the Uzbek school of phonetics. His research systematically examined the sound structure of Uzbek, established pronunciation standards for the literary language, and created a pedagogical framework for phonetic instruction that remains in use today.

Despite the centrality of Abdurahmonov's work to Uzbek phonological science, no comprehensive English-language synthesis of his

theoretical contributions exists. This article addresses that gap by reviewing his principal works, synthesizing his views on phoneme classification, stress, and pronunciation norms, and evaluating the lasting impact of his scholarship on the field.

Research Objectives

- To analyze the scholar's principal works in phonetics.
- To examine his classification of vowel and consonant phonemes, his account of stress, and his codification of pronunciation norms.
- To assess the place of Abdurahmonov's phonetic heritage within Uzbek linguistics.



- To demonstrate the relevance of his theoretical views to modern linguistic scholarship.

Methods

The study employs a descriptive-analytical approach. Primary sources consist of Abdurahmonov's four major monographs and textbooks published between 1959 and 2001. Secondary sources include Rasulov's (2010) history of Uzbek linguistics, which contextualizes the scholar's contributions within the broader development of the field. Content analysis was applied to identify recurring theoretical principles across the corpus, while comparative analysis situated those principles within the international phonetic tradition. No empirical data collection or experimental procedure was involved; the research is entirely library-based.

RESULTS

Analysis of Abdurahmonov's corpus reveals four landmark publications, each targeting a distinct aspect of Uzbek phonetics:

"Stress in the Uzbek Language" (1959) – A monograph that provides the first systematic account of Uzbek stress, covering its acoustic, articulatory, and perceptive dimensions and demonstrating its phonological role in lexical differentiation.

"Pronunciation Norms of the Modern Uzbek Literary Language" (1963) – A normative work that codifies orthoepic rules for the literary standard, laying the phonetic groundwork for a unified national pronunciation.

"Phonetics of the Uzbek Language" (1996) – A university-level textbook presenting a comprehensive theoretical treatment of the Uzbek phonetic system, including phoneme inventories, stress rules, and pronunciation norms.

"Applied Phonetics of the Uzbek Language" (2001) – A practice-oriented manual offering pronunciation exercises designed to correct deviant speech and develop accurate articulation in language learners.

Abdurahmonov established that Uzbek possesses 6 vowel phonemes (a, o, u, i, e, o') and 25 consonant phonemes. Vowels are classified along two articulatory axes: (1) tongue advancement — front, central, and back; and (2) tongue height — high, mid, and low — supplemented by the criterion of lip rounding. Consonants are organized according to place of articulation (bilabial, labiodental, alveolar, palatal, velar) and manner of articulation (plosive, fricative, sonorant). Each phoneme is characterized by both articulatory and acoustic parameters, providing a dual descriptive framework that bridges phonetics and phonology.

Abdurahmonov identified Uzbek stress as primarily dynamic in nature, typically realized on the final syllable of a word. He demonstrated, however, that stress position is not invariant: morphological processes such as pluralization (e.g., bola 'child' → bolalar 'children') can trigger stress shift. He examined stress from phonetic, phonological, and morphological



perspectives, formulated placement rules, and showed that stress functions as a meaning-differentiating feature in certain minimal pairs. These findings constituted the first rigorous formal account of Uzbek prosody.

In his monograph(1963), Abdurahmonov argued that literary-language pronunciation must rest on obligatory, codified norms grounded in the phonetic system of the language and sensitive to its developmental trajectory. He formulated a set of orthoepic rules — covering segmental quality, stress placement, and connected-speech phenomena — that became the normative reference for educated Uzbek speech and informed subsequent curricular standards.

Discussion

The results confirm that Abdurahmonov's theoretical output is remarkable for its internal coherence: his phoneme classification, stress analysis, and pronunciation norms form an integrated system grounded in consistent articulatory and acoustic criteria. This integrative approach was innovative for Soviet-era Turkic linguistics, in which phonetic and phonological description were often treated separately.

The enduring pedagogical relevance of his applied phonetics manual (2001) suggests that his descriptive framework has proven robust enough to support language teaching across several decades of educational reform. At the same time, certain aspects of his work — particularly

his six-vowel inventory and the binary stop/continuant distinction within consonants — invite re-examination in light of instrumental phonetic studies conducted since the 1990s. Future research might also situate his pronunciation norms within current sociolinguistic debates about standardization in post-Soviet Uzbek.

From a broader perspective, Abdurahmonov's career illustrates how a single scholar's sustained engagement with a field can establish disciplinary infrastructure — textbooks, normative references, and a training tradition — that outlasts any individual publication.

Conclusion

Ganijon Abdurahmonov is recognized as the pre-eminent figure in Uzbek phonetics. His systematic classification of phonemes, rigorous analysis of stress, and codification of literary-language pronunciation norms collectively constitute a foundational scholarly legacy. Four decades after his most influential works appeared, they continue to serve linguists, educators, and students as authoritative references. This article has demonstrated that his contributions merit recognition not only within Uzbek linguistic historiography but also within the wider comparative study of Turkic phonological traditions. Translating and disseminating his ideas in English is a necessary step toward integrating Uzbek phonetics into international scholarly discourse.



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