



THE NATIVE DIALECT OF SAMARKAND REGION

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Abstract

Every language contains dialectal variations that reflect historical and cultural development. Uzbekistan has many regional dialects, and some of them are influenced by neighboring languages. One of the most interesting examples is the Tajik dialect historically spoken in Samarkand and Bukhara. Although Tajik is not the national language of Uzbekistan, it has been widely used in these cities for centuries. This article examines the historical origins of the Samarkand Tajik dialect, compares it with the Bukhara dialect, and discusses its social and cultural importance today. The study also highlights bilingualism among the population, where Uzbek is mainly used in education and public communication, while Tajik dialect remains common in everyday life.

Keywords: Dialect, Samarkand, Bukhara, Tajik language, Uzbek language, bilingualism, linguistic heritage.

Introduction

Samarkand is one of the oldest cities in the world and is widely known for its historical importance, cultural diversity, and architectural heritage. Throughout history, the city experienced numerous political and cultural changes, which influenced the language, religion, and traditions of its population. As a result, linguistic diversity became a defining characteristic of the region. Today, many residents of Samarkand are bilingual. Uzbek functions as the national and official



language, while a Tajik dialect continues to be used in everyday communication among local communities. The coexistence of these languages reflects the historical development of the city and its multicultural environment. The aim of this article is to analyze the origin and development of the Tajik dialect in Samarkand, identify differences between the Samarkand and Bukhara dialects, and evaluate the cultural significance of preserving this linguistic heritage. This study applies a qualitative research approach based on the analysis of academic literature, historical sources, and linguistic studies related to Central Asian languages. Comparative analysis was used to identify similarities and differences between the Samarkand and Bukhara Tajik dialects. Secondary data from scholarly publications were examined to understand historical language development and patterns of bilingualism in the region.

The history of the dialect. The findings show that the Tajik dialect spoken in Samarkand originates from the Tajik language, which belongs to the Persian-Iranian language family. Its history dates back to the 9th–10th centuries, when Samarkand and Bukhara were major intellectual and cultural centers attracting scholars from different parts of the world.

During this period, Arabic and Persian were widely used languages. Arabic was primarily associated with religious education, while Persian served as a language of literature, science, and everyday communication. Over time, Persian evolved under the influence of local languages, leading to the formation of regional dialects.

The research also demonstrates differences between the Samarkand and Bukhara Tajik dialects. The Bukhara dialect is grammatically closer to standard Tajik, whereas the Samarkand dialect is often considered easier for Persian speakers to understand. Variations appear mainly in pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary. Historical multicultural communities, including Jewish populations in Bukhara, also contributed to linguistic diversity.

Difference between dialects. The results indicate that the Tajik dialect of Samarkand represents more than a linguistic phenomenon; it reflects the historical and cultural identity of the region.

Figure 1.

English	Samarkand	Bukhara	Tajik
Mother	Biya	Modar	Modar
Father	Dada	Padar	Padar
Child	Bacha	Go'dak	Go'dak
Food	Avqot	Taom	G'izo
Good	Zo'r	Xub	Hub
Bad	Ganda	Bad	Bad
Young	Mayda	Xurd	Hurd
Beautiful	Xushruiy	Zebo	Zebo
To sit	Shishtan	Nishastan	Nishastan

Continuous interaction between different ethnic groups encouraged bilingualism, allowing residents to use Uzbek in official domains such as education, government, and media, while maintaining Tajik dialects in family and social communication.

However, modernization and the dominance of official languages create a risk of dialect loss. Preserving these dialects is important for maintaining cultural heritage and understanding the historical development of Central Asian societies. The survival of the Samarkand Tajik dialect demonstrates how language adapts to social and political change while preserving historical continuity.

In conclusion, Samarkand's long history as a multicultural center contributed to the formation of bilingual communities and unique linguistic traditions. Uzbek serves as the primary public language, while the Tajik dialect continues to play an important role in everyday communication and cultural identity. Preserving this dialect helps protect the historical memory, cultural diversity, and linguistic heritage of ancient Samarkand.



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