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THE EFFECT OF ALPHABET CHANGES IN CENTRAL ASIAN TURKISH COMMUNITIES FROM 1926 TO THE PRESENT ON TURKISH CULTURE

The alphabet is one of the most important factors that define a nation and serves as a bridge in transmitting cultural heritage to future generations. It is unthinkable to imagine a country without an alphabet. XIX. There was alphabet unity among Turks until the last quarter of the century. Physical and cultural fragmentation began with Soviet Russia's occupation of Turkestan geography. The new regime expanded Tsarism's policy toward Turks and assimilated Turks living under its rule. It ripped their geography apart. He repeatedly changed their alphabet. Reading Classical Turkish works and entering Turkish dormitories were prohibited by President Josef Stalin's order. Turkistan's intellectuals were executed. As a result, the Turks living in Soviet territory lost contact with the past. The goal was to create a completely different society by blending it with Russian culture. The world experienced unexpected developments in the 1990s. As the Soviet Union disintegrated, the Turkic Republics gained their independence. It seceded from the USSR and began to establish its national states. The search for a new alphabet was the most important of these.

Key words: Soviet, Turkestan, Alphabet, Cyrillic, Latin.

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1926 Жылдан бүгінге дейін орта азия түрік қоғамдарындағы әліпби өзгерістерінің түрік мәдениетіне әсері

Әліпби – ұлтты айқындайтын маңызды факторлардың бірі және мәдени мұраны келешек ұрпаққа жеткізуде көпір қызметін атқарады. Әліпбисіз елді елестету мүмкін емес. XIX. Соңғы ширегіне дейін түріктер арасында әліпби бірлігі болды. Физикалық және мәдени бытыраңқылық Кеңестік Ресейдің Түркістан географиясын басып алуынан басталды. Жаңа тәртіп патшалықтың түріктерге қатысты саясатын кеңейтіп, оның қол астындағы түріктерді ассимиляцияға түсірді. Бұл олардың географиясын жарып жіберді. Ол олардың әліпбиін бірнеше рет өзгертті. Классикалық түрік шығармаларын оқуға және түрік жатақханаларына кіруге президент Иосиф Сталиннің бұйрығымен тыйым салынды. Түркістанның зиялылары ату жазасына кесілді. Соның салдарынан кеңестік территорияда тұратын түріктердің өткенмен байланысы үзілді. Мұндағы мақсат – орыс мәдениетімен араласып, мүлде басқа қоғам құру болатын. 1990 жылдары әлем күтпеген оқиғаларды бастан өткерді. Кеңес Одағы ыдыраған кезде Түркі Республикалары өз тәуелсіздігін алды. КСРО-дан бөлініп, өзінің ұлттық мемлекеттерін құра бастады. Солардың ішінде жаңа әліпбиді іздестіру ең маңыздысы болды.

Түйін сөздер: кеңес, Түркістан, әліпби, кириллица, латын.

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Влияние реформы алфавита в центральноазиатских тюркских общинах с 1926 года по настоящее время на тюркскую культуру

Алфавит является одним из важнейших факторов, которые делают нацию нацией и служат мостом в передаче ее культурного наследия молодым поколениям. Нация без алфавита немислима. С XIX века и до последней четверти у тюрков существовало алфавитное единство. С занятием Туркестанской географии Советской Россией началась физическая и культурная

фрагментация. Новый режим продолжил политику царизма по отношению к тюркам и ассимилировал живших под его властью тюрков. Это разорвало их географию. Они несколько раз прошли реформу по смене алфавита. По приказу верховного вождя Иосифа Сталина чтение классических турецких произведений на тюркской советской территории было затруднено. Интеллигенция из Туркестана была репрессирована. Таким образом, связи тюрков, проживающих на советской территории, с прошлым были разорваны. Пытались создать совершенно иное общество, растворив его в русской культуре. В 1991 году в мире произошли неожиданные события. Советский Союз распался, сегодняшние тюркские республики обрели свободу. Они отделились от СССР и стали строить свои национальные государства. Наиболее важным из них был поиск нового алфавита.

Ключевые слова: Советский Союз, тюркский алфавит, кириллица, латиница.

Introduction

Except for Turkey, Turks were subject to Communist, Socialist, or totalitarian regimes before the dissolution of the Soviet Union. It was nearly impossible to meet with Turks and conduct research and study in this region. It was impossible to travel there from Turkey, and it was difficult to return there. As the Soviet Union disintegrated, the opportunity to travel to and from these geographies in a very comfortable manner arose.

There is a large body of literature written in Turkish using the Cyrillic alphabet in Russia and the Turkic Republics. The Cyrillic alphabet is still known and used by the majority of people in this region. It is being discussed, as in the past, to re-establish an alphabet union among Turks. The formation of the Organization of Turkish States will be critical to the realization of this concept. If this is accomplished and a common alphabet is developed, common cultural values can be passed down to future generations.

The purpose of this research

The Turkic Republics, which now span vast geographical areas, were forced to submit to the dominance of Totalitarian regimes in the east and west over the last century. Their homeland was divided, their language was corrupted, and their alphabet was changed several times for them to be socially and culturally assimilated. Both their history and their connection to each other were eventually erased. The Soviet Union had been dismantled by 1991. Turkish republics declared their independence. He began working on the Alphabet to create their national state. Many of them abandoned the Cyrillic alphabet, which they had been compelled to use for many years, in favor of the Latin alphabet. They did, however, add new letters to their alphabet. This further complicates the Turks' agreement. The goal

of this research is to look at how these differences affect Turkish culture.

Method of Research

The field research method, specifically a literature review, was used in this study. The findings we obtained during our travels to the Turkic Republics are evaluated in the article to see the problem arising from alphabet differences. The Turkic Republics, which changed their alphabet after the Soviet Union fell apart, also held state-level discussions on the subject. The decisions made here are also scrutinized to bring integrity to the issue.

Discussion and Conclusion

XIX century. The Turkestan Turks were subjected to social and cultural destruction under totalitarian regimes in the nineteenth century. Their language was tainted, and their alphabet was altered several times. The regime limited their contact with the outside world for them to be completely isolated. The main question here is: Did they live in other nations other than Turks in Soviet geography? Why didn't Stalin interfere with their alphabet?

Following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the common view at the International Symposium on Contemporary Turkish Alphabets (1991), led by Turkey and attended by the leading scientists and intellectuals of the Turkic Republics, was to adopt the Latin alphabet. It can be said that the idea of integrating more quickly with the west, combined with the fact that this alphabet is closer to Turkish dialects and dialects, has been effective in this. Even though the advice given here was ignored, except for Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, the majority of them abandoned the Cyrillic alphabet in favor of the Latin alphabet. They made the first deviation by using different letters in their alphabet. This further complicates the Turks' agreement. The transition to the Latin alphabet in Kazakhstan has

brought the issue back to the forefront. Kyrgyzstan frequently uses the same alphabet. If this historical opportunity is properly utilized, reading and writing among Turks will accelerate, and they will be able to understand each other more easily. Also, as in the past, cultural unity among Turks will be restored.

1. In Tsarist and Soviet Russia

During the Tsarist period, Turks were found in Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, Crimea, the Caucasus, and Turkestan. They used the Arabic alphabet for over a thousand years, until the first quarter of the twentieth century. Scholars and intellectuals who left the Ottoman Empire and traveled to Turkestan conversed and exchanged ideas without incident.

Prof. Dr. Nikolai I. Kaminsky used "language" as a weapon in the work of dividing the Turkestan Turks into pieces and melting them in the Russian pot for the first time to eliminate this unity in Tsarist Russia. He proposed phonetic differences to separate Turkish tribes into nations.

"The alphabet has always been accepted alongside religion," writes N. Ilminsky; "Western Europe, the Latin Church, and Russians, for example, adopted the Cyrillic alphabet via the Church Slavonic. Tatars, Kazakhs, and other Turkic peoples, like Muslim countries, adopted the Arabic Alphabet alongside Islam. Arabic is an important factor in bringing Turkish people closer to Islam. As a result, if we abolish Turkish writing and replace it with the Cyrillic Alphabet, they will convert to Christianity and abandon Islam. In this manner, two birds are killed with one stone." [Jolseyitova, 2004] (Akgün, 2008)

On May 25, 1876, Nikolay Ilminsky proposed the application of the expanded Russian alphabet with various signs to separate dialects used by the Turks, and went further and put forward the idea that instead of a common Turkish language, its dialect should be accepted as the mother tongue for each tribe.

"Ilminsky, who influenced Kazakh and Tatar intellectuals, had them prepare alphabets, grammars, and dictionaries in their clan dialects. Beginning in 1864, he opened schools in Kazan and began teaching in their language, but in Cyrillic letters." (Yalçinkaya, 2012)

İbray Altınсарın (1841-1899), who was influenced by N. Ilminsky, also prepared the first Kazakh alphabet with the Russian alphabet (Kirgiziskaya Xrestomatiya, Orenburg, 1879) and gave text samples with this alphabet.

To effect change, the Russians have long planned to hold a Turkology congress on Turkish

languages and alphabets. This concept was first proposed in 1913 by Russian trichologist Aleksandr Samoylovich, but sufficient financial support could not be found. With the influence of political conditions, the idea of holding a Turkology congress resurfaced in 1922.

"Orientalists, including Aleksandr Samoylovich, debated this issue in depth at a meeting in Leningrad. Later, a commission was established in Moscow, chaired by Samoylovich. This commission created 27 different alphabets based on Latin letters, based on the dialect differences of various Turkish tribes." (Acer ve Oral, 2008)

The members of the Commission attempted to persuade the public to switch to the Latin alphabet before the Baku Turkology Congress. Members traveled to Turkish homelands such as Crimea, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan. The Soviet government's main goal was not to benefit the Turks. First and foremost, it was proposed that the Arabic alphabet be abolished. The Latin alphabet was raised as a prelude to a planned transition to the Cyrillic alphabet. On October 20, 1923, the Azerbaijani government adopted the new Turkish alphabet based on Latin origin.

"About two years before the Turkology convention in 1926, the Soviet Union government began propaganda for the transition to the Latin alphabet. The goal was to allow Turkish communities to use the Latin alphabet during the Turkology Congress." (Morkoç, 2001)

2. Baku Turkish Congress (1926)

Preparations for the Baku Turkic Congress began in April 1924, and an organizing committee was formed for this. At its meeting on 6 August 1925, the committee decided to convene the congress on 25 December 1925, made a program for this, and published it.

Attention was paid to the fact that the people invited to the congress were supporters of Latin letters. 92 of the 131 delegates were Turkish, 20 Russian, 3 German, and 1 Ukrainian; The German delegates were Thedor Menzel, Paul Wittek, and W.Radebold. Fuat Köprülü and Hüseyinzade Ali Bey, a representative from the Republic of Turkey, and Barthold, one of the foreign Turcologists who were in Istanbul at that time, also attended the meeting.

The main topic of the congress was the interaction of Turkish languages and the improvement of the Turkish alphabet. The majority of the discussions centered on the alphabet. Seven reports on the

alphabet issue, however, were negotiated. On the subject, forty delegates spoke. The report of Russian Professor Jirkof, who suggested that Turks should adopt Latin alphabets, was read. The appropriateness of changing the Arabic letters, and whether the Cyrillic alphabet, Latin alphabet, common alphabet, or separate alphabets will be suitable for all Russian Turks, has been discussed. After the negotiations on the letters were completed in five sessions, the conditions changed when the voting started. Because, in the words of the German Turcologist Menzel, "there was an iron curtain effect in the voting". The winners have openly declared this effect. After discussions and threats, the principle of transition to the Latin alphabet was accepted.

Alimcan Şeref Bey, one of the Kazan Turks who participated in the congress, objected to the acceptance of the Latin letters and defended the Arabic letters and said:

"More than 90 percent of Turkish tribes in the world have been using Arabic letters for centuries. Only 7-8 percent of Turks (Chuvash, Christian Kazan Turks, Yakuts, and some small Turkic tribes living in Siberia use the Russian alphabet). However, after the 1917 revolution, the Christian Kazan residents decided in their conferences and congresses to discard the Russian alphabet and started to use the Arabic-Turkish alphabet. As a linguist and economist, I say that changing the alphabet will not only help us to rise in civil and economic aspects, but it will also be a great obstacle to our progress in this field. The higher the marital level of this tribe and the more abundant it's marital values, the more difficult it will be for that tribe to change into elifba. This power arises not only from economic-financial reasons but also from social reasons."(Şeref,1993)

After the Baku Turkic Congress, the transition to the Latin alphabet accelerated. From 1923 to 1939, when the number of written languages in Soviet Russia was 72, 50 languages were converted to the Latin alphabet. This transition process started with the Muslims of the North Caucasus, the Volga region, and Central Asia, who used Arabic writing and then continued with the peoples of Siberia. The campaign for the transition to the Latin alphabet began to slow down/decrease in 1932-33. In 1935, Stalin's ideological changes and new "nationalist-Bolshevik" views began to be mentioned.

This was followed by the conversion of the newly Latinized languages to Cyrillic in 1936. One reason for this can be interpreted as the Soviet administration's fear of the possibility of a Turkish union through the common alphabet. In this sense,

the administration, which first acted with the thoughts of preventing a rapprochement through religion, started to worry that the Latin alphabet adopted by the Turkish people this time would contribute to the unity thoughts. The transition to the Cyrillic alphabet was made quickly. The main "philological aim" here was to differentiate the alphabets of peoples close to each other as much as possible, in line with the policy of divide and rule.

"This transition period was accompanied by the elimination of the regional national intellectuals who opposed it and the policy of Russification. As a result of Stalin's counter-reform movement, which was completed in 1940, 21 languages changed the alphabet twice, 13 languages changed the alphabet three times in 20 years in Soviet Russia, and 7 languages lost their written form. On the eve of the war, this reform was made hastily, sometimes taking only a few months. That's why some languages later switched to Cyrillic."(Can, 2022)

Azerbaijani poet and writer Bahtiyat Vahapzede said:

During the period of Tsarist Russia, the Arabic alphabet, which was the same for all Muslim peoples, was used. Since there are no vowel sounds such as "ä (é), i, ö, u, ü, o" in the Arabic alphabet, this alphabet united the Turkish people. For example, the word "gäl" was written with only the letters "g" and "l" without the letter "ä" "(é) being written. Azeri Turks call it "gal" (gel), some like "gel", Tatars and Bashkirs say "gil". They read and understood the same meaning. Therefore, Turks around the world could read and understand the "Tercüman" newspaper of the Crimean Turks, the "Molla Nasreddin" magazine of the Azeri Turks, and the newspapers published under various names by the Turks of Turkey. With this, the dialect difference was disappearing, the alphabet unity brought us to language unity. The Soviet empire, which did not want this union, separated us from each other by arranging a separate alphabet for each Turkish people the Cyrillic alphabet. (Yaman, 2005)

It should not be forgotten that Stalin and other Soviet statesmen, who convened the Baku Turkish Congress, had other secret ambitions. These people, who seemed to be helping Turkishness, were making plans to attack Turkishness.

"At that time, they wanted to learn the scientific and political thoughts of Turkish intellectuals about the Turkish world and to take countermeasures in the future. What is interesting is that the majority of Turcologists who were persecuted and imprisoned in the late 1920s and 30s were the participants of the

1926 First Baku Turcology Congress.” [1926 Bakü Türkoloji Kurultayı – Tutanaklar 2008]

3. Today's Studies on the Alphabet (1991-1993)

Today, Turks around the world use Cyrillic and Arabic alphabets, especially Latin. While Azerbaijan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan use Latin-based but different alphabets, autonomous Tatarstan, Dagestan, and Bashkortostan Republics use the Cyrillic alphabet in Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation, and the Uyghur Turks in Iran, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, and East Turkestan use the Arabic alphabet. In Ukraine, Crimean Turks use the Cyrillic alphabet, Greek Turks use Greek in their official transactions, Bulgarians, Macedonians, Kosovo, and Crimean Turks use Cyrillic letters.

First, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan decided to switch to the Latin alphabet in December 1991. On December 25, 1991, the Azerbaijan National Council decided to abandon the Cyrillic letters and replace the Latin alphabet. After gaining its independence in 1991, Azerbaijan became the first country to adopt the Latin alphabet again, and immediately published booklets teaching the new 32-letter alphabet.

The transition to the Latin alphabet in education and media in Azerbaijan was completed relatively quickly in 2000.

In Turkmenistan, the press began to use Latin letters extensively in 2000, on the orders of President Sapar Murat Turkmenbashi.

“In Uzbekistan, the spread of the transition process in education and training for many years

and the fact that the press and publications were not encouraged and supported, especially in the transition to the Latin alphabet made it difficult for this alphabet to be adopted by large masses. In Uzbekistan, some publications continue to be published in Cyrillic letters, especially the general web pages of newspapers and news agencies are prepared in Cyrillic letters” (Şahin,2003)

Later, in 1993 the Autonomous Republics of Gagauz, Crimea, and 1999 Tatarstan agreed to switch to the Latin alphabet. However, the transition to the Latin alphabet was terminated with the law enacted by the Russian Federation on November 15, 2002, on the "continuation of the Cyrillic alphabet by all peoples in the Russian Federation".

On October 24, 2006, Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, in his speech at the 12th session of the Assembly of the Peoples of Kazakhstan, stated that the alphabet change in Kazakhstan would be reconsidered and the Latin alphabet would be adopted. A short time ago, the Assembly of Kazakhstan also decided to switch to the Latin alphabet by 2025.

“When the Kazakhs switch to the Latin alphabet, it will be easier for the Kyrgyz people, who are of Kipchak descent and use Russian as the second official language, to accept the Latin alphabet. Because when the Kazakhs fully switch to the Latin alphabet, Kyrgyzstan will remain the only independent Turkish republic using the Cyrillic alphabet, which will encourage them to adopt the Latin alphabet.”(Kara, 2009)

Alphabets and letter numbers used in Turkish republics today are as follows:

Table 1 – Alphabets and Numbers of Letters Used in Turkish Republics

Countries	Alphabet	Number of Letters
Turkey, Cyprus	Latin	29
Azerbaijan	Latin	32
Uzbekistan	Latin	29
Turkmenistan	Latin	38
Kazakhstan	Cyrillic-Latin	42
Kyrgyzstan	Cyrillic	36

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, two important meetings were held in the Turkic world on the issue of alphabet unity. One of them is the "International Symposium on Contemporary Turkish Alphabets" at Marmara University and the other is the "Alphabet-Orthography" congress held in Ankara in 1992.

4. International "Contemporary Turkish Alphabets" Symposium(18-20 November 1991)

"International Contemporary Turkish Alphabets Symposium" was organized by Marmara University

Turkic Studies Institute on 18-20 November 1991. Representatives from Turkey, Turkic Republics, and all Turkish communities participated in the symposium.

The scientists participating in this Symposium agreed on the principle that the same letters in the Latin alphabet and the Latin alphabet show the same sounds. In the symposium, it was unanimously decided that the acceptance of Latin letters among other Turkish tribes is the most important factor in understanding each other and reinforcing cultural unity between Turkish tribes.

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