On the Loss of Sound in Kazakh

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Abstract: The loss of sound in Kazakh can be divided into explicit and implicit forms. If the writing is matched with the pronunciation after the loss of sound, it is called explicit loss of sound. If the sound is lost when reading, but not expressed in the form, it is called implicit loss of sound.

Keywords: Kazakh; Loss of Sound

1. Introduction

The loss of sound is common in phonetic changes. The “loss of sound” refers to some sounds of words which are omitted in spoken or written language. It is also a kind of sound change. The sound change means that a phoneme may lay in different position in the flow affected by the adjacent sounds, or vary with the different speed, low or high voice and strength of speech in a continuous language flow. Common sound change includes assimilation, alienation, transposition, weakening, and loss. In Kazakh, the above-mentioned sound change all exist. Among them, the loss of sound is the most common and very popular.

At present, in the study of modern Kazakh pronunciation, the loss of sound is a popular issue in many papers, such as Geng Shimin, Ma Kan, Zhu Matai’s Modern Kazakh Language (Kazakh version), Xinjiang Language Committee’s Modern Kazakh Language (Kazakh version), one of the five series of national issues of the State Ethnic Affairs Commission—A series of Chinese minority languages, A Brief Record of Kazakh Language edited by Geng Shimin and Li Zengxiang. The language part of Kazakh Grammar, published in 2002 by Institute of Linguistics, Academy of Sciences of Kazakhstan, has made a detailed explanation and analysis on the sound change, but the content and goal is not clear enough for the issue of sound loss, and the research results have left much to be desired. In this paper, the categories and phenomena of loss of sound in Kazakh will be sorted out, and the basic structural framework will be built up.

2. The parts of Kazakh where the sound is lost

The contact part between words falls off. For example, “what do you do” in ne etesiŋ is pronounced netesiŋ, and the [-e] at the beginning of the last word falls off.

When individual nouns are added with personal additional elements, the last syllable falls off. Such as: orən (position) +əməz (first person plural) = ornəməz (our position), [-e] falls off in the last syllable of orən.

When the verb changes in tense, the additional elements of the first person appellation fall off at the end of the word. For example, bar (go)+[-a]+[-mən] is spoken as baram which means (I go); kør (see)+[-gen]+[-min] is read as kørgem which means (seen); biledi ekenmin (I know) is read as biledekem, [-ən], [-in] mən or min falls off.

3. Types of sound loss in Kazakh

3.1 Historical loss and modern loss

Historical loss. The loss is a common phonetic change in Kazakh language. The certain vocabulary and grammatical forms will lose the sound in the language development process. These words have evolved through history to form modern new nouns. Below, we cite several examples of sound loss that have undergone historical evolution.

Word formation falls off. It is mainly the loss of fusion compound words in the process of fusion, such as verb:

(1) aləp (take)+ kel (come)= ekel (take);
(2) aləp (take)+bar (go)= apar (send);
(3) aləp (take)+ket (go)= eket (take away);
(4) bulaj (do this)+ et (do)= hyj (to do this);
(5) Pronoun: sol (that)+ anaw (the)= sonaw (that);
(6) osə (this)+ anaw (that)= osənaw (so);
Modern loss. It refers to the temporary loss in voice flow which occurs in usual language. Below are several summarized modern loss phenomena.

(1) Continuous loss. For two adjacent words in a sentence, if the former word ends with a vowel and the latter begins with a vowel, the vowel at the end of the former word falls off when reading and speaking. Such as:

The qara ala (black and white) is pronounced as qarala. [-a] between qara and ala falls off; bile almado (he didn’t understand) is pronounced as bilelmada, the first sound [-a] in the middle of almado falls off; ol bilmedi me eken (Don’t he know?) is pronounced as ol bilmedi meken, and the [-e] in the middle of me eken falls off, bere almajmon (I can’t give it) is pronounced as beralmajmon, [-e] in the middle of beralmajmon falls off;

(2) Falling off like wax and wax. There are a group of words, when the vowel of the second syllable is/o,i/, and the end of the word is joined with the leading personal suffix of the same vowel, the vowel in this syllable falls off, such as: orn (position)+[-n] (first person singular)=ornom (my position) falling off in the last syllable of ornom; avol (village)+[-m] (first person plural)=awlomox (our village) [-e] falls off in awl; xalq (people)+[-miz] (first person plural)=xalqomox (our people) in [-ə] falls off.

(3) Pronouns fall off when they change case. Some pronouns fall off when declension occurs. For example, men (I)+[-en] is pronounced as menen (from me), and the last sound [-n] in men falls off; sen (you)+[-en] is read as senen (from you) and the last sound [-n] in sen falls off; men (I) +[-ni] is pronounced as meni (put me), and the last sound [-n] in men falls off; sen (you) +[-ni] is read as sensi (put you) and the last sound [-n] in sen falls off.

(4) Loss of additional elements and function words. Some additional language elements and function words in spoken language can be simplified and displayed in written language. For example.

a. The [-n] in the past tense-ùan-/-gen-/-qan/-ken sometimes falls off in spoken language after adding the first person address. Such as: kergemmin (I have seen) read as kergem; barùannom (I have been there) is pronounced barùam; Tartqanhez (We suffered) is read as tartqamaz;

b. When a new word is composed of individual words and additional words, the last syllable falls off. Such as: uru (thief)+[-law] = urlaw (stealing), the last sound [-a] falls off; tiri (lives)+[-lik]=tirlik (lives), and the last sound [-i] in tiri falls off;

c. Falling off of the first person singular and the third person in the present tense and the simple future tense. Such as: ...-am-...-am: baraman-baram (I will go); kelimin—kelem (I come); ...-ad-at: barada-barat (he goes); Keledi—kelet (he comes).

d. Falling off of the first person singular in the past tense. That is, ...-ùannom-...-ùam: barùanom-barùam (I have been there); kelgenmin—kelgem (I come)

e. Falling off of case auxiliary son. E.g.,...-ùannom son-...-ùan son: barùanom son—barùan son—barùason (having gone)

f. Loss of time auxiliaries edi. In spoken language or poetry, when the time auxiliaries edi is located after the -ùan verb, it may fall off. The falling off occurs in the singular forms of the first, second and third person of edi (edin,edini,edited), such as barùan edim—barùan-em (I have been there); kelgen edin—kelgen-ey (You have been here); barùan edi—barùan-da (He has been there).

(5) Some verbs ending in [-l], [-r] fall off when they change. E.g., efnaar qalmado (nothing left) is spoken like efnaar gamado, and [-l] falls off in qal.

3.2 Explicit and implicit loss

The explicit loss of sound. The loss of sound in Kazakh can be divided into explicit and implicit forms. If the writing is matched with the pronunciation after the loss of sound, it is called explicit loss of sound. E.g.

(1) Nouns: xalq (people)+[-a]=xalqa (his people), the pronunciation is matched with writing; erin (lips)+[-inj] (the second person called singular respect address neighbor)=ermix (your lips) [-i] fall off, the writing and pronunciation are matched in the same way.

(2) Verb: alap (take)+ket (go)=eket (take away).

(3) Pronoun: ol(he)+[-dani] (Ablative)=odan (from him); ol (he)+[-non]=onon (his).

(4) Adverbs: gaj (what, which)+[-fan] (time)=qafan (when).

Implicit loss of time. If the sound is lost when reading, but not expressed in the form, it is called implicit loss of sound.

(1) [-lap-p] type loss. Such as: alapta—apta (it is said that he took it); Kelapti—kepti (He is coming) falls off in pronunciation, but does not fall off in writing.

(2) Disyllabic vowels fall off in polysyllabic words. Such as: balalar—ballar (children); bara (go)+almadom (fail), which is usually read as baraladom (I failed to make it). The first note [-a] in almadom falls off, but it is not omitted in writing.

(3) The loss of words such as eki (two), osa (this) and sar (yellow). When reading other words continuously, the vowels of /-i,-a/ at the end often fall off. Such as: ekibala-ekbala (two children); ekikilo-ekkilo (two kilograms); osa+öer (place)-öfer (this
place); osə+a (aspect)-offa (aspect); sarə doršia—sarə doršia (yellow horse); sarə dojlaw—sarə dojlaw (beautiful summer pasture).

4. Conclusion

From the above description, the following summary can be made for the loss of sound in Kazakh:

The phenomenon of loss of sound mainly occurs in usual vocabulary. Such as pronouns: you, me, here, there; Verbs: come, go, come, go, do, be; adverbs: today, yesterday, this year, when, etc.

Only few phonemes occur falling off, such as [-a], [-e], [-], [-i] in vowels, [-n], [-m], [-l], [-r] in consonants.

The falling off mostly occurs when the form of words changes, that is, when verbs change and static words change case or personal additional elements are added.

The falling off generally occurs in spoken language, and many literary works in Kazak nationality are written in spoken language, so they also record the falling off phenomenon, which provides materials for studying the falling off phenomenon.

In Kazakh, [-l] falls off when pronouns such as bul, sol, ol etc. change, which is similar to falling off. But according to the study of ancient Turkic, these are the remains of ancient Turkic in modern Kazakh.

References