

Original Research Article

# 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 etesij* is pronounced *netesij*, 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); *kər* (see)+[-gen]+[-min] is read as *körgem* 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)=*əkəl* (take);
- (2) *aləp* (take)+*bar* (go)=*apar* (send);
- (3) *aləp* (take)+*ket* (go)=*əkət* (take away);
- (4) *bulaj* (do this)+*et* (do)=*byjt* (do this);
- (5) Pronoun: *sol* (that)+*anaw* (the)=*sonaw* (that);
- (6) *osə* (this)+*anaw* (that)=*osənanaw* (so);

- (7) Adverbs: *bul* (this)+*kyn* (day)=*bygin* (today);  
 (8) *bul* (this)+*ϕǵal* (year)=*buϕǵal* (this year);  
 (9) Noun: *bilek* (arm)+*ϕyzik* (circle)=*bilezik* (bracelet);

Grammaticalization stereotypes fall off. It is also common. For example, the process of Kazakh auxiliary suffix [-*men*] is: *bir* (one)+[-*læj*] (verb affixes) = *birlæ* (union, merger) +[-*n*] (Ancient Turkic auxiliary verb endings)+ *birlæn* (auxiliary verb form) virtualization into case auxiliary *birlæn*. Differentiate into the case particle *birlæn* and the connecting particle *birlæn* falling off to *bilæn* vowel narrowing to *bilen* changing the first syllable *menen* falling off again *men* becoming an additional component [-*men*] a variant-*men/-ben/-pen*. This type of shedding is a historical phenomenon and does not occur in real language.

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 almadā* (he didn't understand) is pronounced as *bilelmadā*, the first sound [-*a*] in the middle of *almadā* falls off; *ol bilmedi me eken* (Doesn't he know?) is pronounced as *ol bilmedi meken*, and the [-*e*] in the middle of *me eken* falls off; *bere almajmān* (I can't give it) is pronounced as *beralmajmān*, [-*e*] in the middle of *beralmajmān* falls off;

(2) Falling off likes wane and wax. There are a group of words, when the vowel of the second syllable is /ə,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: *orān* (position)+[-*m*] (first person singular)=*ornām* (my position) falling off in the last syllable of *ornām*; *awāl* (village)+[-*əmāz*] (first person plural)=*awlāmāz* (our village) [-*e*] falls off in *awl*; *xalq* (people)+[-*əmāz*] (first person plural)=*xalqāmāz* (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) +[-*nen*] is pronounced as *menen* (from me), and the last sound [-*n*] in *men* falls off; *sen* (you) +[-*nen*] 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 *seni* (put you) and the last sound [-*n*] in *sen* falls off.

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

a. The [-*n*] in the past tense-*ϕan/-gen/-qan/-ken* sometimes falls off in spoken language after adding the first person address. Such as: *körgenmin* (I have seen) read as *körgem*; *barϕanmān* (I have been there) is pronounced *barϕam*; *Tartqanbez* (We suffered) is read as *tartqamāz*;

b. When a new word is composed of individual words and additional words, the last syllable falls off. Such as: *urā* (thief)+[-*law*] = *urlaw* (stealing), the last sound [-*ə*] in *urā* 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: ...-*amān*-...*am*: *baramān-baram* (I will go); *kelemin—kelem* (I come); ...-*adā*-...-*at*: *baradā-barat* (he goes); *Keledi—kelet* (he comes).

d. Falling off of the first person singular in the past tense. That is, ...-*ϕanmen*-...-*ϕam*: *barϕanmān-barϕam* (I have been there); *kelgenmin—kelgem* (I come)

e. Falling off of case auxiliary *soj*. E.g. ...-*ϕannan soj*-...-*ϕan soj*: *barϕannān soj—barϕan soj—barϕasān* (having gone)

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

(5) Some verbs ending in [-*l*], [-*r*] fall off when they change. E.g., *efnærse qalmadā* (nothing left) is spoken like *efnærse qamadā*, 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: *xalāq* (people)+[-*ə*]=*xalāqā* (his people), the pronunciation is matched with writing; *erin* (lips)+[-*ijiz*] (the second person called singular respect address neighbor)=*ernijiz* (your lips) [-*i*] fall off, the writing and pronunciation are matched in the same way.

(2) Verb: *alāp* (take)+*ket* (go)=*aket* (take away).

(3) Pronoun: *ol*(he)+[-*dan*] (Ablative)=*odan* (from him); *ol* (he)+[-*nəñ*]=*onəñ* (his).

(4) Adverbs: *qaj* (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: *alāptā—aptā* (it is said that he took it); *Kelāpti—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)+*almadām* (fail), which is usually read as *baralmadām* (I failed to make it). The first note [-*a*] in *almadām* falls off, but it is not omitted in writing.

(3) The loss of words such as *eki* (two), *osā* (this) and *sarā* (yellow). When reading other words continuously, the vowels of /-i, -ə/at the end often fall off. Such as: *ekibala-ekbala* (two children); *ekikilo-ekkilo* (two kilograms); *osā+ϕer* (place)-*offer* (this

place); *osə+ǰaq* (aspect)-*offaq* (aspect); *sarə ǰorba*—*sarǰorba* (yellow horse); *sarə ǰajlaw*—*sarǰajlaw* (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 Kazakh 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.

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