

USAGE OF ACUTE DIACRITIC IN THE NEW LATIN GRAPHIC BASED KAZAKH ALPHABET

Anarkul Bekmyrzakyyzy Salkynbay

Doctor of philological sciences, Professor, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University

Ulzhan Usenkyzy Anarbekova

Doctoral student, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University

Abstract

The Republic of Kazakhstan gained its independence in 1991, and in 1993, the President of the International Kazakh Language Society, Academician Abduali Kaidar, after discussions with Kazakh scholars, wrote a letter to the President with proposals to change the Kazakh script to Latin graphics. This topic has been on the agenda for some time since the answer was: "This is a question worth thinking about, let the experts do it and come up with a concrete proposal." At the XII session of the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan on October 24, 2006 in Astana, the President said that it was necessary to return to the issue of changing the Kazakh alphabet into Latin. In 2012, in the strategy "Kazakhstan-2050" he stated that "from 2025 we will begin the transition to the Latin alphabet." In 2013, it was announced that a national commission on the transition to Latin script will be established. The National Commission for the translation of the Kazakh alphabet into Latin script was established on November 14, 2017 and approved by № 153 orders.

On February 19, 2018, the new alphabet was approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The approved alphabet is called the acute alphabet among users. At the request of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, this alphabet still needs to be improved. The article discusses the use of the acute sign in the new Kazakh alphabet. In each of the world's languages, the acute diacritic has a specific function due to the accent, the length of the sound, the expansion of the letter, the pitch. The study focuses on the function of the acute and the validity of its use in the Kazakh alphabet. The use of acute accent in other languages is analyzed, and it investigates how useful and easy it could be for Kazakhs and foreigners learning to read and understand the Kazakh script, or, conversely, how confusing it can be. Articles on this topic will be analyzed. The article objectively considers and evaluates the use of acute diacritics in the new Latin graphic based Kazakh alphabet.

Keywords: Writing, Kazakh script, alphabet, diacritic, acute accent

INTRODUCTION

Writing has been a part of human life for thousands of years and plays a vital role today. Naturally, there was a time when mankind could not write. Scientists called the ancient carvings petroglyphs. They were mostly pictures of people and animals. However, these images are not subject to writing. Gelb (1963: 27) shows that just as speech developed through the imitation of sounds, so did writing develop through the imitation of real objects and phenomena. The scientist says that all the inscriptions are based on pictures. This is evidenced not only by the fact that all modern primitive writings were like pictures, but that all the great orientation systems, such as Sumerian, Egyptian, Hittite, Chinese, were originally real picture writings. The scientist warns that there is a difference between a picture drawn for art and a diagram drawn for communication (1963: 56).

Since the beginning of the study of human history, various definitions have been given to the concept of writing. One of the oldest known definitions of writing is probably the words

of the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle. The second part of Peri Hermeneias' work on logic begins with a basic understanding of objects, concepts, and symbols. Before discussing nouns and verbs that can be true or false as part of a sentence, Aristotle discusses how these linguistic concepts relate to the objects and ideas of the material world: "Spoken words are a symbol of the influence and desire of the soul; written words are symbols of spoken words. Just as the letters are not the same for all people, so are the sounds, but just as the things that are the images of these effects are the same, the desires expressed directly through these representations are the same for all people (1938: 115).

What Aristotle meant here has nothing to do with writing. Its purpose was to identify readers as a prerequisite for the development of logical thinking, the complex connection between objects, ideas and words. The reason why Aristotle speaks of writing here is that words come in two different forms, the sounds and the letters that come from the human voice. The explanation of the relationship between the two is probably to preserve the terminological order, as the following sections of the treatise do not pay much attention to these concepts. However, this had a profound effect on Western thinking about writing a small message. Many works have been written on this topic. Aristotle's word "symbolon" here means "symbol" in English, "sign" when translated from the Greek. According to Aristotle, writing is the sign that conveys the signs of speech. Writing is lower than speech, it is secondary and depends on speech. Therefore, writing can be studied only as a tool for speech analysis. Such ideas about writing are widespread in the Western world. The role of writing was considered low and for a long time was not considered as a separate branch of science.

The most common definition of writing is a system of delivery of human thoughts through symbols and signs, a clearly marked form of speech. The study of writing as a branch of science was first proposed by the Polish-American scholar Igneys Gelb in his work "A Study of Writing", published in 1952 and 1963. In this work, he noted that the field of study of writing deserves the name of grammar. In this work, he spoke about the pictures and symbols that were the preconditions for writing. He gave specific examples.

When we talk about the writing of a language, we are talking about the alphabet, graphics, spelling, punctuation, meaning. In fact, it should be called writing only when the meaning goes hand in hand with writing. Meaningless writing is no different from pictures.

The transition of the Kazakh script from the Cyrillic alphabet to Latin script is not new for Kazakhstan. In 1929, the Kazakh script was transferred from Arabic to Latin. This situation became a big controversy at that time. This is because the Enlightenment group was divided into those who considered the transition from Arabic to Latin script unreasonable and unnecessary, and those who supported this change. Both sides defended and proved their positions as much as possible. This topic was the most topical at the All-Union Conference in Baku in 1929. Even though the Enlightenment was divided, scientifically substantiating their claims, it was decided "from above" that the graphics of the Kazakh script changed from Arabic to Latin. As a result of the controversy, it was believed that the Latin supporters won.

MAIN PART

The Republic of Kazakhstan gained its independence in 1991. In 1993, the then President of the International Kazakh Language Society, Academician Abduali Kaidar, after discussions with Kazakh journalists and scholars, wrote an open letter to the President with proposals on the transition of the Kazakh script to Latin script. Ever since they received the answer, "This is a question worth thinking about, let the experts do it and come up with a concrete proposal for me," the issue of changing the alphabet has been constantly discussed. The National

Commission for the translation of the Kazakh alphabet into Latin script was established on November 14, 2017, and various alphabet projects were submitted for consideration. However, the exact version of the alphabet has not yet been approved.

At the XII session of the Assembly of Peoples of Kazakhstan on October 24, 2006, in Astana, the President said that it was necessary to return to the issue of translating the Kazakh alphabet into Latin. In 2012, he stated in the Strategy “Kazakhstan-2050” that “from 2025 we will begin the transition to the Latin alphabet” (2017). The National Commission for the transition of the Kazakh alphabet into Latin script was established on November 14, 2017, and approved by № 153 orders.

On February 19, 2018, a new alphabet was approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. At the request of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, this alphabet still needs to be improved.

It is necessary to know the reason for the first suggestion of a new national alphabet. Usually, if the existing alphabet has a shortcoming, the alphabet is replaced if it does not give the sounds of the language well. And what made the Kazakh people make this decision?

The initial answer to this question was given in an open letter of academician Abduali Kaidar to the first President of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 1993. The academician asks and answers important questions. The scientist says, that the following question is always asked first: “Why to replace the Cyrillic alphabet, which has been in use for half a century, with the Latin alphabet?” He says that it is not easy to answer this question in one word and that this topic is not only related to language policy, but also the country's economy, demographic situation, social and democratic processes. «*First of all, when other related Turkic peoples moved to the Latin script, the Kazakhs were separated from them and left alone with the old script - the alienation from the whole Turkic community, from*

their spiritual and cultural life» (1993) he writes, and ая Second, although the Cyrillic script has been the basis for the development of national culture and science for the past fifty years, it has failed to unite the Turkic peoples and ethnic groups of the world, let alone the Turkic peoples of the former USSR. Due to some “features”, they could not read and understand each other's writings. The academician says that this question is also asked many times: “What are the personal shortcomings of the Cyrillic script for the Kazakh and other Turkic languages?” He points out three main shortcomings:

✓ “*Kazakh and other Turkic languages could not freely develop their own natural features (sound composition, syllable system, consonant law, etc.) through this writing; As a result, there is a huge gap between the norms of oral (orthoepic) and written spelling of our language; Although there are many educated people, there are few literate people.*” All of this suggests that not only the nature of the language, but also the future of the younger generation who speak it, is being seriously affected, and that one of the manifestations of the ecological phenomenon in language is related to this.

✓ «*It is difficult for Kazakh children to learn and use the Cyrillic alphabet, which consists of 42 characters instead of the 26-28 letters required for the Kazakh language. And adding of so many superfluous symbols was born from the fact that from the very beginning it was in the interests of the national languages, and in any case to bring the Kazakhs closer to the Russian language*» writes the scientist.

✓ «*Since the Kazakh language was facing difficulties in marking the 9 phonemes typical of the Kazakh language - (ə, ɵ, ʏ, ʝ, i, κ, ʙ, ɢ, h), the use of so many extra redundant characters as (Б), (Ә), (Ү), (Ф), (Х), (И), (Ү), (Ш), (Т), (Ь), (Ә), (Ю), (J) – complicated the writing system. This is only one side of the issue. There is another side to it: Other related Turkic languages,*

such as Kazakh, have come up with the phoneme 8-9 (“Turkish”) in different ways, using it in different ways and it might be the result of the policy called “Divide and rule.” He leaves this aspect of the problem in history and says that it is a historic moment that will radically decide the fate of our promising and long-lasting national writing. He says that if we do not solve it together with the Turkic community today, it will be too late tomorrow and it will get worse over time.

In this open letter, the academician offers 28 characters of the Kazakh alphabet from the 34 letter alphabet common to the Turkic people. «*Although we have included two of these letters in the alphabet project, proving the need for consonant (Ww) for the Kazakh language, which is found in words such as taw, jaw, suw, buw, puw, juwan, duwman, and (Əə). It is on the same principle they could not accept (Əə)*» by writing this, he believes the commission will be able to resolve such issues. At the same time, the scientist states that the fate of any alphabet, its function in the language, is directly related to the spelling of the alphabet, and at the same time it is necessary to prepare the orthographic rules of spelling for the Kazakh language. «*After all, the soul, the life, all the possibilities of the alphabet are determined only by orthography. One of the main features of the Latin alphabet is that it corresponds to the phonetic principle of spelling and can more fully reflect the peculiarities of our spoken language. This is also an important issue to consider*» he concludes his speech about spelling. The academician deeply understands the importance of creating the Kazakh state national writing and suggests that this script should be based on modern Latin script.

DISCUSSION

There are many languages in the world that use the Latin alphabet. The Latin alphabet does well enough in representing the phonological system of Latin but faces a problem whenever it is to be used for a language whose phonetics involves sounds that Latin does not have. In such cases using diacritics is one of the possible ways of repairing the inadequacies of the Latin alphabet and thus solving this problem. Some techniques have been devised to cope when the ordinary alphabet is not enough:

- ✓ Combining two letters: digraph
- ✓ Inventing a new letter
- ✓ Inventing a diacritic
- ✓ The apostrophe

A digraph is a special combination of two letters which make one sound. Kazakh scholars used this technique as the first project while creating a new Kazakh alphabet. But it didn't find any support from people and linguists as well. After that, another technique which is called apostrophe was used. However, this version of the Latin graphic-based Kazakh alphabet was confusing for learning and space-taking. So it had failed as well. After that, they decided to use diacritics.

A diacritic is a mark placed above, through or below a letter, to indicate a sound different from that indicated by the letter without the diacritic. Many western languages contain words with letters whose sound is determined by these accents and diacritical marks. The effects are different depending on the language. Here are the names and examples of the more common marks:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| • é - accent acute | • ç - cedilla |
| • è - accent grave | • ñ - tilde |
| • ê - circumflex | • ø - streg |
| • ë - umlaut or diaeresis | • ð - eth (capital form Ð) |

- å - bolle
- æ - ligature
- œ - ligature
- ē - macron
- ě - háček
- ũ - crescent

Each of the diacritics has its own functions. We will focus on the acute accent since this diacritic mark has chosen for the present Kazakh alphabet. Acute accent a diacritical mark (´) that can be placed above several letters in many languages of the Latin, Greek and Cyrillic writing systems. In the following table, the main functions of the acute accent are given.

Acute accent usage Languages	Pitch	Stress	Height	Length	Palatalization	Emphasis	Letter extension	Tone	Disambiguation
	Ancient Greek	Russian Bulgarian	French élève	Long vowels Classical Latin	Polish	Danish dér	Hungarian	Rising tone: Vietnamese	Catalan Més - mes
		Catalan Ukrainian	Catalan	Arabic Persian	Serbo-Croatian	Dutch ónze	Icelandic	Cantonese	Danish
		Dutch vóórko men – voorkóm en	Bislama	Czech	Macedonian	Armenian	Faraose	Mandarin Chinese	Dutch
		Italian Portuguese	Portuguese	Hungarian	Belarusian		Turkmen	Hopi	Modern Greek
		Spanish	Occitan	Irish	Sorbian			Bopomofo	Leonese
		Modern Greek	Scottish Gaelic	Old Norse				High tone: African, Athabaskan languages	Norwegian
		Norwegian Welsh casáu		Slovak				Yoruba Nobiin	Russian Зámok замóк
		Swedish		Ligurian-short vowels				Ekotii Navajo	Spanish

Table – 1. Types of functions acute accent do in different languages.

As you can see from the table the acute accent is used mostly to indicate stress, height, tone, length of vowel sounds and palatalization of consonants. It is also used to disambiguate certain words which would otherwise be homographs in some languages. If we look at the last approved Kazakh alphabet, the acute accent has four functions.

Alphabet of the Kazakh language based on the Latin graphics, 2018

№	Жазылуы	Дыбысталуы	№	Жазылуы	Дыбысталуы
1	A a	[a]	17	Ń ń	[ɲ]
2	Á á	[ə]	18	O o	[o]
3	B b	[b]	19	Ó ó	[e]
4	D d	[d]	20	P p	[p]
5	E e	[e]	21	Q q	[k]
6	F f	[f]	22	R r	[r]
7	G g	[g]	23	S s	[s]
8	Ĝ ĝ	[ɣ]	24	T t	[t]
9	H h	[x], [h]	25	U u	[y]
10	I i	[i]	26	Ú ú	[y]
11	İ i	[ɪ], [i]	27	V v	[v]
12	J j	[ʒ]	28	Y y	[ɣ]
13	K k	[k]	29	Ý ý	[y]
14	L l	[l]	30	Z z	[z]
15	M m	[m]	31	Sh sh	[ʃ]
16	N n	[n]	32	Ch ch	[tʃ]

Picture-1. Letters with acute accent in the new Latin graphic- based Kazakh alphabet:

Áá, Óó, Úú - Indicates soft vowels;

Ĝĝ - Denotes voiced consonant;

Ńń - Indicates voiced velar nasal consonant;

Ýý - Indicates hard vowel.

Scientists suggest using other diacritics for denoting soft vowels. Because using the acute accent for many functions might confuse the learners. So here what they suggest:

Əə=Áá=Ää, Өө=Óó=Öö, Yγ=Úú=Üü - Indicates soft vowels;

Ff=Ĝĝ=Ğğ - Denotes voiced consonant

Hh=Ńń=Ɖɟ - Indicates voiced velar nasal consonant

Yy=Ýý=Ww - Indicates hard vowel/consonant

Other Turkic countries such as Turkey, Azerbaijan use this diacritic to show soft vowels. Using it would be more useful for the Kazakh Alphabet as well.

CONCLUSION

This article deals with the formation of the Kazakh state national writing. It analyzes the way of creation of the first Kazakh national script. The study focuses on the function of the acute and the validity of its use in the Kazakh alphabet. The use of acute accent in other languages is analyzed, and it investigates how useful and easy it could be for Kazakhs and foreigners learning to read and understand the Kazakh script, or, conversely, how confusing it can be. The article objectively considers the use of acute diacritics in the new Latin graphic based Kazakh alphabet.

The issue raised in both centuries is the formation of the Kazakh national script. To do this, firstly, it is important to fully understand the shortcomings of the existing alphabet. Secondly, it is important to adjust the order of writing: to mark the Kazakh sounds correctly, that is, to create an alphabet. Get rid of redundant characters in the alphabet; Create appropriate orthography to determine if the spelling is correct or incorrect; As a result, to develop a textbook on the alphabet and spelling, following methods of Akhymet Baitursynuly's teaching This is a large-scale work that requires great responsibility and devotion to the Kazakh language. It is expected that the case initiated by Academician Abduali Kaidar following Akhymet Baitursynuly's way will be completed by linguists in a proper way. If the new Kazakh national alphabet will use proper diacritic marks, if it obeys the laws of the Kazakh language, the present and future of the Kazakh state as well as the Kazakh language will be bright.

REFERENCES

1. I.J.Gelb A study of writing, revised edition, the University of Chicago Press, 1963 – 343 p.
2. Strategy "Kazakhstan-2050" is a new political direction of the established state. President of the Republic of Kazakhstan NAZARBAYEV'S ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF KAZAKHSTAN, Astana, December 14, 2012
3. On measures to implement the instructions given by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Government on further improvement of the state language policy at the XII session of the Assembly of Peoples of Kazakhstan. Resolution by Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 1025 of October 28, 2006 Canceled by the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated September 28, 2015 № 800
4. On the transfer of the Kazakh alphabet from Cyrillic to Latin script. Президент 569 Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated October 26, 2017.
5. On amendments to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated October 26, 2017 № 569 "On the transfer of the Kazakh alphabet from Cyrillic to Latin script." 637 Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated February 19, 2018.
6. J.C.Wells Orthographic diacritics and multilingual computing *Language Problems and Language Planning*, 24.3 (2001).
7. Alvestrand, Harald Tveit, 1995. Characters and character sets for various languages. <http://www.alvestrand.no/ietf/lang-chars.txt>
8. Kaldybay Arystanbekovich Kydyrbayev It is necessary to use the Latin acute properly.