



THE INFLUENCE OF SPOKEN LANGUAGE ON LINGUISTIC CHANGE
(a comparative analysis of English and Uzbek)

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Abstract: *This study presents a comparative analysis of the role of spoken language as a driving force of linguistic change in English and Uzbek. The research employs sociolinguistic, pragmatic, and discourse-analytical approaches to examine processes such as phonetic reduction, neologism formation, grammatical simplification, and the emergence of new discourse markers in informal speech.. The findings demonstrate that spoken language is not merely a derivative of the standard language but a fundamental mechanism contributing to the evolution of linguistic systems and social communication.*

Key words: *spoken language, linguistic change, colloquial speech, bilingualism, globalisation, English, Uzbek*

Language is not a static system; it evolves continuously under the influence of social, cultural, and communicative factors. Among these factors, spoken language occupies a central position, as it represents the most natural and immediate form of linguistic interaction. Unlike written language, which is often regulated by normative rules, spoken language allows greater flexibility, creativity, and spontaneity. As a result, many linguistic changes originate in oral communication before becoming conventionalised in the standard language. The present article aims to investigate how spoken language contributes to linguistic change through a comparative analysis of English and Uzbek. These languages differ typologically and historically; however, both demonstrate similar tendencies in colloquial usage. The research seeks to identify common patterns and language-specific features of change caused by everyday speech.

Theoretical Background. Linguistic change has long been a subject of interest in historical linguistics and sociolinguistics. Scholars such as Saussure, Labov, and Trudgill emphasised that language variation and change are closely connected to social interaction. Spoken language, in particular, functions as a laboratory of innovation, where new forms are tested and spread within speech communities.

From a sociolinguistic perspective, spoken language reflects the speaker's identity, age, social group, and communicative intent. Informal contexts encourage reduction, simplification, borrowing, and expressive usage. Over time, these features may stabilise and enter the standard language, influencing its structure and vocabulary.



Phonetic and Morphological Reduction in Spoken Language. One of the most visible effects of spoken language on linguistic change is phonetic and morphological reduction. In both English and Uzbek, speakers tend to economise articulatory effort in rapid, informal speech. In Uzbek colloquial usage, forms such as *kelyapman* are often reduced to *kevoman* or *kevom*, while *boraylik* may become *borlik*⁸. These reductions reflect a tendency toward simplification and fluency in oral communication. Although such forms are considered non-standard, they are widely used and understood within speech communities. Similarly, English demonstrates extensive reduction in spoken discourse. Examples include going to → *gonna*, want to → *wanna*, and did you → *dju*. Over time, some reduced forms become socially accepted and even appear in written representations of speech, indicating their stabilisation within the language.

Borrowing, Code-Mixing, and Bilingualism. Spoken language is also a primary channel for lexical borrowing and code-mixing, especially in bilingual or multilingual societies. Uzbek colloquial speech frequently incorporates Russian and English loanwords, such as *doklad qilish*, *ok bo'ladi*, and *like bosdim*⁹. These expressions illustrate how foreign elements are adapted to Uzbek grammatical patterns. Such phenomena provide evidence of historical bilingualism (Uzbek–Russian) and contemporary global bilingualism influenced by English. English, in turn, absorbs loanwords through spoken interaction, particularly from languages associated with culture, technology, and migration. The spread of borrowed elements through spoken language reflects both local contact and globalisation processes.

Youth Slang and Expressive Lexicon. Youth slang represents another significant source of linguistic change originating in spoken language. Informal expressions such as *zo'r* and *gap yo'q* in Uzbek, or awesome and no way in English, function as markers of group identity and emotional expressiveness.

Youth speech is characterised by creativity, exaggeration, and rapid innovation. While many slang expressions remain temporary, some gain wider acceptance and enter general usage. Spoken interaction within peer groups thus plays a crucial role in shaping the expressive resources of a language.

Comparative Analysis of English and Uzbek. Despite typological differences between English and Uzbek, both languages exhibit parallel mechanisms of change driven by spoken language. Phonetic reduction, borrowing, slang formation, and expressive vocabulary emerge under similar communicative pressures. However, the degree of acceptance and standardisation of these features varies according to cultural norms and language policies.

In English, colloquial forms often transition more rapidly into semi-standard usage, especially through media and digital communication. In Uzbek, normative boundaries between spoken and written language remain more distinct, yet spoken innovations increasingly influence informal written genres such as social media.

⁸ Kadirova, N. (2019). O'zbek tilida so'zlashuv nutqining zamonaviy tendensiyalari. *Filologiya Masalalari*, 2, 55–63.

⁹ Hakimova, M. K. (2020). O'zbek tilida so'z boyligining yangilanish jarayonlari. *Til va Adabiyot*, 3, 25–40.



The analysis confirms that spoken language plays a decisive role in linguistic change in both English and Uzbek. Informal speech serves as a space for innovation, where phonetic simplification, lexical borrowing, and expressive forms develop. Although the paths of standardisation differ, the underlying processes are universal.

Understanding the influence of spoken language on linguistic change is essential for linguistic theory, language teaching, and the description of modern language use. Further research may focus on corpus-based analysis of spoken data and the impact of digital communication on contemporary linguistic change.

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