

**SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE ARABIC AND UZBEK
LANGUAGES**

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Annotation: This article analyzes the similarities and differences between the Arabic and Uzbek languages from a linguistic perspective. Although Arabic belongs to the Semitic language family and Uzbek to the Turkic family, historical, religious, and cultural connections have created lexical and cultural affinities between them. The study examines phonetic, grammatical, lexical, and script-related similarities and differences.

Keywords: Arabic language, Uzbek language, lexicon, phonetics, grammar, cultural relations.

Introduction

The historical relations between the Arab and Uzbek peoples have developed over many centuries. With the spread of Islam in Central Asia, the Arabic language became significant in religious, scientific, and cultural spheres. Consequently, many Arabic words entered the Uzbek language — for example, kitob (book), ilm (knowledge), maktab (school), sabr (patience), hikmat (wisdom).

However, Arabic and Uzbek do not belong to the same language family. Arabic is a Semitic language, while Uzbek belongs to the Turkic family. This fundamental difference has led to notable distinctions in grammar, pronunciation, and writing systems. The following sections discuss these similarities and differences in detail.

1. Genealogical Difference

Arabic is a member of the Semitic language family, while Uzbek belongs to the Turkic family. Therefore, their grammar, word formation, and sentence structure differ fundamentally. Arabic is a fusional language (words change form to express meaning), whereas Uzbek is agglutinative (new meanings are created by adding suffixes).

2. Phonetic Features

Arabic has a rich phonetic system, including sounds that do not exist in Uzbek, such as ‘ayn (ع), ghayn (غ), and kh (خ). In Uzbek, these sounds are usually simplified or omitted in pronunciation.

For example, the Arabic word ‘ilm is pronounced as ilm in Uzbek.

In addition, stress in Arabic can change the meaning of a word, while in Uzbek it rarely affects meaning. Uzbek has more vowel sounds, whereas Arabic relies more heavily on consonants.

3. Grammatical Features

Arabic grammar is known for its complexity. Nouns have gender (masculine and feminine), and verbs change according to tense, person, and gender. Uzbek has no grammatical gender, and its tense system is relatively simple.

Examples:

Arabic: kataba — “he wrote”, katabat — “she wrote”.

Uzbek: u yozdi — “he/she wrote” (no gender distinction).

Arabic also has several plural patterns — regular and broken plurals:

kitāb – kutub (book – books), rajul – rijāl (man – men).

In Uzbek, plural is expressed only by the suffix -lar: kitob – kitoblar.

4. Lexical Aspect

Thousands of Arabic words have entered the Uzbek language, especially in religious, scientific, philosophical, and cultural domains.

Examples:

Religious: Alloh, namoz, ro‘za, duo, imon, taqvo.

Scientific: fan, adab, tarix, falsafa, mantiq.

Moral and spiritual: sabr, adolat, hikmat, rahmat.

Despite this influence, Uzbek has preserved its Turkic roots: ona (mother), ota (father), yurak (heart), suv (water), tog‘ (mountain), bola (child).

Thus, the Uzbek vocabulary is based on two layers — native Turkic roots and borrowed Arabic elements.

5. Writing Systems

Arabic uses the Arabic script, written from right to left. Uzbek, however, has changed its writing system several times: from Arabic script to Latin, then Cyrillic, and currently back to Latin. This has created significant differences between the two languages in terms of writing and orthography.

6. Cultural and Religious Influence

Arabic entered Uzbek culture mainly through Islam. Since the Qur’an was revealed in Arabic, Muslim nations, including Uzbeks, have traditionally respected and studied this language. Many religious terms are preserved in their Arabic form within Uzbek. Moreover, Arabic has played a significant role in shaping Uzbek literary and scholarly traditions.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Arabic and Uzbek are not genealogically related, but their long-standing historical, cultural, and religious ties have produced many lexical similarities. Arabic has significantly enriched Uzbek vocabulary, while Uzbek has retained its Turkic grammatical structure. Today, Arabic remains vital for understanding religious and scientific heritage.

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