

# Study on Sound Changes in the Qaratal Dialect of in Modern Uyghur\*

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**Abstract**—Aksu Qaratal dialect occupies a unique position in the central dialect of Uyghur language. It differs from Uyghur written language in pronunciation and vocabulary. This paper mainly introduces the phonetic and lexical characteristics of Aksu Qaratal dialect, and compares it with Uyghur written language.

**Keywords**—*Qaratal dialect; phonetic change; abscission*

## I. INTRODUCTION

In the long course of historical development, modern Uyghur language has form a distinct dialect differences; modern Uyghur dialects are divided into central dialect, Hotæn dialect and Lopnur dialect, with the main differences among the three dialects being in phonetics. The standard language of central dialect, Hotæn dialect and Lopnur dialect is based on the central dialect, which is typical adherent languages, with the pronunciation of Kulja, Turpan and Urumqi as the standard pronunciation. The supplementary elements of word-formation and configuration are very abundant.<sup>1</sup>

Local dialect is an important constituent part of dialect that includes local dialect. I think that if we imagine that the three dialects of Uyghur are three mothers, and then we set all kinds of local dialect as several children of three mothers. Because the Uyghur language we use is currently the three major dialects that are most widely spoken, the original sounds widely distributed in the three dialects, each of which has its own local dialect. I think that this likes the same principle that several children of three mothers have multiple characteristics. For example, "qaraŋ" is called "qarsinǝzza" in

Turpan dialect, "qararæ" in Kulja area, and "qajlaŋ" in Kashgar area, and "qalaŋ" in Aksu and Qaratal town in Aksu city.

The town of Qaratal/Qartal (originally translated as "Halata") is located in the south-central part of Aksu city, which borders the township of Toqaj in the East and township of Gule Avati, Onus County, Toqaj Township in the south, faces Avati County in the west that is bounded by Aksu New River, and Baishi Tugman Township in the north. The total area of the town is 11,028 square kilometers. It has a total population of 451,000 and 7623 households that is composed of Uyghur, Han and Hui nationalities. It has 28 administrative villages, 101 villagers' groups, 3 directly affiliated farms and 22 Stations (places), with the total area of cultivated land being 320,000 mu.<sup>2</sup>

The phonetic change in Qaratal dialect. Qaratal dialect also belongs to central dialect, which in fact is different from the central dialect. This paper is closely related to the phonetic change that refers to the phonetic change of vowels and consonants in some syllables due to the influence of adjacent phonemes of adjacent syllables. We call it phonetic change.

Sound change is the phonetic change. When people speak, they do not produce syllables independently, and then syllables form a "flowing speech". The main forms of flowing speech refer to weakening, abscission, alienation, assimilation, transposition and inflexion and epenthesis.

## II. WEAKENING

Weakening refers to the change of tone quality caused by the weakening of voice volume when speech. The weakening phenomenon that is most commonly and widely used in the Qaratal dialect is as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> Modern Uyghur Language written by Tulap Kasimu Youliqi et al.

<sup>2</sup> Aksu Municipal People's Government Network.

### A. Vowel Weakening

#### 1. The situation of "e" weakens to "a"

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
eghizi	His (her) mouth	aghzi

#### 2. The situation of "e" weakens to "i"

mehman	Guest	miman
kem	Who	kim

#### 3. The situation of "a" changes to "æ"

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
qart	Playing cards	qært
adæm	People	ædæm

#### 4. The situation of "a" changes to "o"

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
atam	My father	otam
apam	My mother	opam

The case where "a" is changed to "o" when the first person pronoun is added after the noun of "ata/apa" above, but this phenomenon is not present when the second and third person pronouns are added.

#### 5. The situation of "æ" changes to "a"

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
kæm	Lack	kam
jænæ	Besides	hina

#### 6. The situation of "u" changes to "a"

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
mundaq	In this way	mandax
qumlug	Desert	qumlaq

#### 7. The situation of "u" changes to "i"

juqurlap	Up	juqirlap
qarighu	Hazy people	qarghi

#### 8. The situation of "ø" changes to "y"

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
toj-tøkyn	Wedding	toj-tykyn
øyk	Kneeboot	ytyk
kømyr	Charcoal	kymæ
øyk	Death for breathing one's last	lyk
øchürmæk	Delete, expunge/ eliminate	üchæmæk

#### 9. The situation of "y" changes to "æ"

Such case happens in the post syllable section. Such as:

### Literary language

### Qaratal dialect

Kømür	Charcoal	kümæ
øchmæk	Delete, expunge/ eliminate	üchæmæk
symyrmæk	Absorb	syæmæk

#### 10. The situation of "y" changes to "i"

Such case happens on the second syllable. Such as :

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
tætýr	Contrary	tætír
øjkyr	Cave	øjkir
jytyrvætæk	Be lost	jítirvætæk

#### 11. The situation of "o" changes to "u"

Such case sometimes happens on the front syllable, sometimes in the post syllable part. Such as:

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
oti	grass of ...	uti
qorsiqim	My stomach	qususum
qolug	Your hands	qulug

### B. Weakening of Consonants

#### 1. The situation of "j" changes to "h"

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
yoshurun	Confidential	hushrun

2. The situation of "b" changes to "v" or "p", such case can only appear in the sentence, there is no such phenomenon when it is alone.

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
nægæ bardijiz	Where go	næ vadijiz
kirip baq	You come in here	kirip paq
qilip beræj	Do it for you	qipperæj

#### 3. The situation of "ŋ" changes to "n"

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
zæŋgi	Negro/ black skin	zængi
zæŋgær	Dark blue	zængær

### III. ABSCISSION

#### A. Voice Abscission

The main reason is that some tones of unstressed syllables lose their pronunciation due to the rapid flow of speech or the weakening of the intonation of the last syllable. Such as:

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
mæhsulat	Output	mæsulat
mæhællæ	Population center	mællæ
hærqafan	Moment	hæqafan
ornida	Substitution	onida
Qaratal	Qaratal	qartal

#### 1. Abscission of vowels

Abscission refers to the fact that some of the sounds in the flowing speech pronounce or disappear due to the contraction and other reasons in the process of continuous pronunciation. This phenomenon is called abscission, also known as sound attenuating. Such as:

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
qarighu	Hazy people	qarghi
chirayini	Put your face	chiriyini
xapa saldi	Make angry	xap saldi
nemæ	What	nim/nem
kechæ kyndyz	The whole day	kich kyndyz

In the above examples, the lost vowels are "i, a, and æ", etc.

#### 2. Abscission of consonants

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
orni	His position	oni
alkan	Bought	akan
qærzdar	Balance due to	qæzda
alsa	If buy	asa
mehman	Guest	miman
qajrimaq	Look	qa:rimaq

### B. Abscission of Syllables

Such phenomenon exists in Uyghur literary language, and it is not uncommon in local dialect. Some phenomena in the dialects of Southern Xinjiang are cited to elucidate this problem. Such as:

#### 1. Abscission of syllables in vowels

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
barattij	Want to go	bartij
nimandaq	What	nimdaq
urus	Russian	rus

In the above examples, the most frequently dropped syllable is "at, an", etc.

#### 2. Abscission of syllables in consonants

Abscission: The lost phenomenon of most commonly used consonants in Qaratal dialect is as follows:

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
selip	In bags	sep
mavu	This	ma
inissititut	College	inistut
døjlyk	Hilly area	døj
qumluq	Sand	qum

The most commonly used lost syllables here are "si, li, yk, luq", etc.

### C. Phonetic Abscission in Combined Words

Because of the transfer of stress or the natural harmony of a word consisting of two words, some pronunciation in the middle is often lost. Such as:

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
toxti aka	Tuohe Tige	toxtaka
qara ræŋ	Black	qar ræŋ
char saqal	White mustache	cha saqal
sarixan acha	Shaerhan aunt	sarixacha

### D. Phonetic Abscission in Flowing Speech

Sometimes the speaker speaks very fast, and some pronunciations are omitted or left out, which not only does not affect communication, but also makes the language succinct and clear. Such as:

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
qilvalsam	If can do it	qivasam
kylvalsam	If I could laugh	kylvasam
Selvalsam	Let you do	sevasam

### E. Syllable Reduction in Flowing Speech

qiilip beræy	Do for you	qipperæy
tepip beræy	Help you look for	teppiræy

The most commonly used lost syllable here is "ip".

### F. Natural Abscission of Phonetics in Context

Such phenomenon often occurs in sentences or phylum when the speaker speaks very fast sometimes, but there is no lost phenomenon when the word is pronounced alone or separately. Such as:

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
bu bashqilarnij sovghiti		bu bashqilarnij soghiti
It is a gift of someone else		
dadam maŋa velispit elip bærđi		dadam maŋa vespit eppæđi
Father bought a bike for me		

u axsham mæn bilæn kælgæn      u axʃam mæn bilæn  
kægæn

He came with me last night.

The most commonly used lost syllable is "li" and the lost consonant is "r, v".

#### G. The Phenomenon of Consonant Abscission in Words with Complex Phonetic Changes

1. Vowels and consonants are lost at the same time:

Literary language	Qaratal dialect	
nægæ bardinjiz	Where have you been	næ vadinjiz
mæsliahæt	Discussion	mæslæt

The above is the phenomenon of vowel abscission firstly and then the consonant abscission.

Literary language	Qaratal dialect	
qorsiqim	My stomach	qusqum
dærja	River	dej
ajropilan	Plane	arpilan

The above is the phenomenon of the consonant abscission firstly and then the vowel abscission. There will also be the following situation in the Qaratal dialect.

Literary language	Qaratal dialect	
yoshurun	Confidential	hushrun

The main phenomenon happened of the above examples is: the consonant "j" changes to "h", the vowel "o" changes to "u", and the vowel "u" is lost.

Literary language	Qaratal dialect	
qurbanliq	Livestock	qurvanliq
japalarni tartqan	Hard	japalini tatqan
zænjir	Necklace	zenngi
bir	One	bi

What happens here is that "b" changes to "v", vowel "a" weakens to "i", and two "r" is lost, and that vowel "æ" weakens to "e" and the consonant "r" is lost. The "r" in the word "zændjir" can only be found in Kashgar area and Qaratal dialect. But the word "r" in "bir" can only be found in Qaratal dialect. Such as: bu nimæ qilkanlri amdi bi ixqa tutuf qivatsam.

Literary language	Qaratal dialect	
tashlivitidu	He will throw away	tashvitidu
qilip biræj	Do it for you	qip piræj

ichkym kilip kætti    How I want to drink    ishkim kip  
kætti

The above examples show that besides the abscission of syllable "li" and pronunciation "i", vowel "b" weakens to "p".

Literary language	Qaratal dialect
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qajrimaq      Lift up      qa:rimaq

From the above examples, it can be seen that the vowel "a" pronunciation in two places changes to the long vowel "a:" and the consonant "j" is lost in Qaratal dialect.

Literary language	Qaratal dialect	
kirip baq	You come in here	kirip paq
chiqip baq	First go up here	chiqip paq
kylyp baq	Please smile first	kylyp paq

From the above examples, it can be seen that in Qaratal dialect, when the verb ending with "p" is followed by the word beginning with "b", the first consonant "b" in the word beginning with "b" changes to "p".

In "nægæ bardinjiz", "æ" is lost, the phenomenon that the consonant "b" changes to "v", and the consonant "r" is lost is occurred.

In the case of "ichkim" in the example of "ishym kilip kætti", the vowel "y" weakens to "i", the "ch" becomes to "sh", and the syllable "li" is lost. And the word "qorsiqim" (my stomach) in literature is "qusqum" in Qaratal dialect. Examples here show that vowel "o" weakens to "u", consonant "q" changes to "pu", and consonant "r" is lost again.

#### IV. ALIENATION

This phenomenon is not common in written language, only in some local dialects in southern Xinjiang. Such as:

Literary language	Variable pronunciation	
ap`aq	White	up`paq
tokur	Cripple	toka
vapasiz	Hilly area	gopasiz
uvalchiliq		ugalʃiliq

A hidden grievance that cannot be disclosed

#### V. ASSIMILATION

As for two different pronunciation, one of which is influenced by the second. When one or more features become identical or similar to it, the change in the flowing speech is called assimilation. According to the direction of assimilation, assimilation can be divided into progressive assimilation and reverse assimilation.

The reverse assimilation in Qaratal dialect belongs to the local dialect, mostly in the harmony of consonant pronunciation position or pronunciation method. There are both total assimilation and partial assimilation. Such as:

### A. Total Assimilation

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
jazsa	If you write	jassa
onjættæ	Reading as	ojjættæ
qandaq	What	qandax
kynlyk	By date	kylyk
ynlyk	High(sound)	yllyk
jujvætsæ	If deleted	jjvæssæ
aprivætsijiz	You sent	aprivessijiz

The changes here are: the consonant "j" changes to "z", the vowel "æ" changes to "e", the vowel "u" changes to "y", and the consonant "t" changes to "s" and so on. In "aprivætsijiz", the phenomenon of "æ" weakens to "e" and "t" changes to "s" is occurred.

### B. Partial Assimilation

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
onbir	Eleven	ombir
jangha	For life	jangha

### C. Reverse Assimilation

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
yaghachchi	Wood	yaghashchi

In the most common assimilation and alienation process in Qaratal we use at present, there are also weakening and abscission phenomena. Detailed examples are as follows:

(1)The Phenomenon of Phonetic Change Such as Weakening and Abscission When Alienation

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
yil	Year	jil
yip	Line	jip
yighip	Incision	yighip
yijne	Needle	jijne
yigirmæ	Twenty	jigim
yurt	Township	jut
yuqi	Trace	juqi
yulup	Come across	julup
yolun	Spinal cord	julun
yumran	Tender	jumran

The examples above include the following: the process of "y" changes to "j", which has become a habit of local people. The "j" here is the lingual surface-hard palate sound, which is blocked by the airflow near the middle of the lingual surface-hard palate when you pronounce this type of sound.

"z" is a front lingual surface-hard palate sound, which is blocked by airflow near the front-lingual surface hard palate when you pronounce this type of sound.

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
qorsiqim	My stomach	qusghum
pachiqi	His feet	pashighi
tajiqi	Be disobedient	tajixi
jatiqu	His dormitory	jatighi

In the Qaratal dialect, "q" changes to "κ". The "q" here refers to the root of tongue - the uvular sound. When pronouncing this sound, it is blocked by the airflow near the root of tongue and the uvula.

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
vaqti	His time	vaxti
hæqsiz	Free of	hæxsiz

The "x" here also belongs to the root of tongue - the uvular sound, which is blocked by the airflow near the root of tongue and the uvula.

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
aprivætsijiz	Please send it	aprivessijiz

In this example, "t" changes to "s". The "t" here is the apical - gingiva sound. When pronouncing such a sound, airflow near the gum bed through the tongue tip is blocked. "S" is the apical- tooth sound. When pronouncing this sound, airflow is blocked between the apical and the upper teeth.

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
qarap	Look	qalap
qarighili	Watching	qalighili

The word "qalap" here is one of the common words used by people in and around Qaratal County. Here "r" and "l" are both apical- gingival sounds. When pronouncing such sounds, airflow near the gum bed through the apical is blocked.

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
balam	My children	valam
jiq bermejli	Don't give too much	jiq vemejleæ
qurbanliq	Slaughter	quvanliq

The "b" in the above example is a bilabial. When speaking, the airflow is blocked on the bilabial. "V" is a labiodental. When speaking, airflow is blocked between the upper teeth and the lower lip.

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
hisab	Cast accounts	jisap

The "h" here is a laryngeal sound. When speaking, the airflow from the lungs rubs out between the throats. "J" is a lingual surface-hard palate sound. When pronouncing such



sounds, airflow near the middle of the lingual surface-hard palate is blocked.

## VI. TRANSPOSITION

This phenomenon is more common in ancient Uyghur language, which is seldom used in modern Uyghur literary language. But transposition still exists in local dialect. Such as:

Literary language		Qaratal dialect
tækshür ish	Check	tæshkür ish
uyghur	Uygur	urghuy
chirajini	Put your face	chirijni

## VII. INFLEXION AND EPENTHESIS

### A. Epenthesis at the End of Sentence

Such phonetic change phenomenon is not uncommon in Uyghur. Sometimes the whole sentence needs to be harmonious, sometimes the tone needs to be strengthened and the voice naturally increases.

Literary language	Qaratal dialect
u axsham kiliptikæn	u axšam kiptikænqum
I heard that he came back last night.	
u shundaq daptikænduq	u fundaq daptikænqum
I heard that's what he said.	

The - Qum and - tiqum at the end of the above sentences are all additional voices.

### B. Inflexion at the End of Sentence

Such phenomenon often occurs when someone else voice or surprise. Such as:

Literary language	Qaratal dialect
uningha bæk uval boluptu	uniŋša bæk ugal boptu
He's really pathetic	
u yaxshi ish qiliptu	u yaxfi iŋ qiptu
To torture for nothing	

## VIII. CONCLUSION

According to the phonetic change in modern Uyghur Qaratal pronunciation, it is analyzed that the main manifestations of phonetic change in Qaratal dialect are weakening and abscission. By comparing Qaratal dialect with modern Uyghur, we can summarize the following basic characteristics of Qaratal dialect and its similarities and differences with modern Uyghur.

- The phenomenon of phonetic change exists in both Uyghur dialect and written language. Because Qaratal dialect has different characteristics from written

language, the phenomenon of phonetic change is more and more common.

- Although Qaratal dialect is not so standardized, this is caused by historical and geographical factors, so the phenomenon of phonetic change in Qaratal dialect is also in line with the law of linguistic development.
- In the phenomenon of weakening, we can see that adding the first personal pronoun after the noun of "ata/apa" is "a" to "o". Such phenomenon is not uncommon in other dialects and local dialects, but this phenomenon is particularly natural and common in Qaratal dialect, which does not affect communication. But this phenomenon does not appear with the second, the third person pronoun.
- The abscission of voice in the flowing speech of Qaratal dialects is sometimes due to the speaker is speaking fast, the omission of some consonants or vowels or syllables, which not only does not affect communication, but also makes the language succinct and lively.
- The phenomenon of epenthesis at the end of sentence is not uncommon in Uyghur. Sometimes the whole sentence is in harmony that sometimes the tone needs to be strengthened to naturally add some pronunciation. However, this phenomenon is particularly natural and common in Qaratal dialects. It is better to say that the words "qum" and "tiqum" mentioned above are all added voices.
- Qaratal dialect also has a kind of natural inertia, so through this article we can also see that Qaratal dialect requires the use of less labor-saving or more universal linguistic units in language activities in order to reduce the phenomenon of power consumption.

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