

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 1, January 2026



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<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/4>

TERMINOLOGY IN THE KHOREZM DIALECT: HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT, MORPHOLOGICAL PATTERNS, AND SOCIO-CULTURAL FUNCTIONS

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Abstract

This article examines the formation of kinship terms in the Khorezm dialect of the Uzbek language and in the English language based on linguistic analysis. Kinship terminology in both language systems is compared through historical layers, external influences, morphological word-formation methods, and social factors. In particular, the influence of ancient Turkic, Persian, Arabic, and Russian languages on the Khorezm dialect is analyzed, as well as the role of gender and age distinctions in kinship terms. In English, the linguistic features of kinship terms formed on the basis of Germanic roots, as well as Latin and French language layers, are revealed.

Keywords: Khorezm dialect, kinship terms, English language, language layers, word formation, lexical research, gender, historical linguistic influence.

Introduction

Kinship terms occupy an important place in the lexical system of every language. They not only express family relationships but also provide information about the historical, cultural, and social structure of a people. The formation of kinship terms in the Khorezm dialect of the Uzbek language and in English is explained by various historical, sociolinguistic, and morphological factors.

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1. Formation of Kinship Terms in the Khorezm Dialect

Kinship terms in the Khorezm dialect are the result of a long historical development. Words originating from ancient Turkic roots such as *ata* (father), *ana* (mother), *o'g'il* (son), *qiz* (daughter), and *ini* (younger brother) have been preserved in the dialect and are also attested in Mahmud al-Kashgari's *Dīwān Lughāt al-Turk*. From the Persian-Tajik layer, terms such as *xola* (maternal aunt), *amu* (uncle), and *barodar* (brother) entered the dialect. From Arabic, religious and genealogical terms such as *ahl* (family), *nasab* (lineage), and *zurriyot* (descendants) were adopted. The influence of the Russian language became more noticeable in the twentieth century, with occasional usage of words such as *dedushka* and *babushka*.

From a morphological perspective, kinship terms in the Khorezm dialect are formed through affixation, compounding, lexicalization, and semantic derivation. Age and gender factors play a crucial role in the dialect. Distinctions such as *aka-uka* (elder brother-younger brother), *opa-singil* (elder sister-younger sister), and *jiyan-jiyanak* clearly reflect these social differences. This study examines the kinship terminology of the Khorezm dialect of Uzbek as a product of extensive historical evolution and multi-layered linguistic influence. Kinship terms reflect ancient Turkic heritage while incorporating elements borrowed from Persian-Tajik, Arabic, and Russian. Through morphological analysis, this research highlights affixation, compounding, lexicalization, and semantic development as the central mechanisms in the formation of kinship vocabulary. The paper also emphasizes the sociolinguistic significance of age and gender distinctions in shaping the use and meaning of kinship terms. Finally, this study situates the Khorezm kinship lexicon within broader ethnolinguistic and cultural dynamics.

Kinship terminology serves as an essential component of linguistic systems, encoding social relations and cultural norms within a speech community. In the Khorezm dialect, spoken in northwestern Uzbekistan, these terms not only

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maintain deep historical roots but also reflect centuries of language contact and socio-cultural change. The dialect's kinship lexicon illustrates a complex interplay between indigenous Turkic linguistic traditions and external influences.

2. Historical and Etymological Background

The core of the Khorezm kinship vocabulary is grounded in ancient Turkic roots, shared broadly across Turkic languages. Words such as *ata* (father), *ana* (mother), *o'g'il* (son), *qiz* (daughter), and *ini* (younger brother) demonstrate this continuity and are also found in medieval sources like Mahmud al-Kashgari's *Dīwān Lughāt al-Turk* (11th century), underscoring their historical depth.

In addition to these Turkic elements, the dialect has absorbed borrowings from neighboring linguistic traditions. Persian-Tajik influence is evident in terms such as *xola* (maternal aunt), *amu* (uncle), and *barodar* (brother). These loanwords reflect prolonged contact with Persian-speaking communities and cultural exchange. Similarly, Arabic has contributed religious and genealogical terms such as *ahl* (family), *nasab* (lineage), and *zurriyot* (descendants), which entered the lexicon through Islamic scholarship and social institutions. Recent historical influences, particularly during the Soviet era, introduced occasional Russian terms like *dedushka* (grandfather) and *babushka* (grandmother) into colloquial usage.

3. Morphological Processes in Kinship Lexicon

Morphological formation of kinship terms in the Khorezm dialect exhibits several productive mechanisms:

3.1. Affixation

Affixation involves attaching lexical suffixes to root forms to convey additional semantic or pragmatic nuances. Common suffixes include *-ak*, *-jon*, and *-xon*, which express diminutive or affectionate reference. For instance, *opajon* conveys

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affection toward an elder sister, and akamak denotes a younger or endearing form of “brother.”

3.2. Compounding

Compounding combines two lexical elements to produce specific kinship references. Examples include katta-opa (“elder sister”) and kinji-aka (“youngest brother”). Such formations explicitly encode social hierarchy based on age and familial roles.

3.3. Lexicalization

Certain complex expressions become standardized lexical terms for specific relationships. For example, qayin-ota (father-in-law) and kelin-qiz (daughter-in-law) function as fixed kinship nouns whose meanings are established through repeated conventional usage.

3.4. Semantic Derivation

Some words acquire extended or specialized meanings within kinship contexts, demonstrating semantic expansion beyond their original lexical definitions. This process enhances the expressive capacity of the English kinship lexicon and enables speakers to articulate nuanced social relationships.

4. Social Dimensions of Kinship Terminology

Age and gender play a crucial role in kinship distinctions in the Khorezm dialect. Pairs such as aka-uka (elder brother-younger brother) and opa-singil (elder sister-younger sister) reveal how social hierarchy and respect are linguistically encoded. Terms such as jiyān-jiyānak further illustrate the dialect’s focus on generational classification and age differentiation in naming kin relations.

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5. Sociolinguistic Significance and Language Contact

The integration of borrowed terms alongside native Turkic lexicon reflects sociolinguistic dynamics shaped by historical contact, cultural exchange, and changing social environments. Borrowed Persian-Tajik and Arabic terms — particularly those related to extended family and lineage concepts — testify to multi-directional linguistic flow. These lexical incorporations often carry specific cultural meanings and may coexist with or replace native forms depending on context and speaker preference.

Recent scholarship on Turkic and Uzbek kinship terminologies highlights similar patterns of borrowing and semantic adaptation in other dialects and regional speech varieties, demonstrating cross-linguistic influences within Central Asia's sociolinguistic landscape. □

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6. Conclusion

The kinship terminology of the Khorezm dialect represents a rich linguistic system shaped by historical Turkic heritage, layered borrowings from Persian-Tajik and Arabic, and later Russian influence. Morphological processes such as affixation, compounding, lexicalization, and semantic derivation contribute to the complexity of kinship terms. Age, gender, and social hierarchy remain central to the dialect's structuring of kinship concepts. This study underscores the importance of considering both historical and sociolinguistic factors in understanding kinship lexicons in Uzbek dialects and highlights the Khorezm dialect as a valuable case study in linguistic and cultural continuity and change.

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