

# Overall Review of Vocabulary of Nakhchivan Dialect

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**Abstract:** *The vocabulary of Nakhchivan dialects and patois forming a large group in the system of dialects and patois of Azerbaijan language has been involved in research in this paper. Here, during investigation of vocabulary content of the patois existing in the territory of Nakhchivan, its ancient history, ways of its study and enrichment is drawn the conclusion that Nakhchivan dialect and patois reflect in itself the ancient history of the Azerbaijan language. At the vocabulary of this dialect are preserved lexical units which we can come across at ancient written monuments; and this fact shows how large is the role of dialect and patois in the development and preservation of a language. Though at the vocabulary of the Nakhchivan dialect occur a certain amount of loan lexical units belonging to the other languages, the lexicon of Turkish origin is dominant here. Research once again shows that the vocabulary of the Nakhchivan dialect is very rich and is the product of many years. There are plenty of words and phrases here which reflect the way of national historical development, the people's life and daily round. The Nakhchivan dialect has an influence on the literary language and is one of the important sources of its enriching. At the same time the words falling out from the literary language as archaisms remain in this dialect. Therefore, the study of dialects and patois is of great importance for the study of the past, present and future of our language.*

**Keywords:** dialects and patois of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, lexicon, vocabulary, terminological vocabulary, words without term character.

## 1. Introduction

The study of dialects and patois of the Azerbaijan language which started in the middle of the XIX century is continuing and developing also today. As comprehensive study of dialects and patois always has had a wide place in our linguistics as one of the most topical questions. Dialectology of the Azerbaijan language as an area of Azerbaijan linguistics has passed through the great development path since the last centuries. This time the Nakhchivan group of dialects and patois has been studied both by means of expeditions and by means of individuals.

After Azerbaijan had gained independence at the second time wide horizons opened for the study of our dialect and patois as our national-cultural and inexhaustible treasury. New, comprehensive and profound research of the Nakhchivan group of dialects and patois was one of the most urgent problems facing the Azerbaijan linguistics at all times, including this period. The fact that the Azerbaijan language including our dialect and patois has common vocabulary and grammatical structure with the other Turkic languages specifies descending of Turkic languages from a single origin, than their formation as independent languages as a result of gradual division, fragmentation because of certain historical reasons, development in different geographical environment but in various contacts and relationships.

Dialects and patois of the Turkic peoples have been already present in the seventh century; this fact is confirmed by many scientific facts and sources. In the later history certain resettlements had occurred, little by little as a result of foreign influence the path of development had been passed and also with the effect of geographical factors patois evidently differing from each other in their language features formed approximately in the eleventh century. Preliminary

information about the dialects and patois of the Azerbaijan language we meet at the work of MirzaKazimbey named "The grammar of Turkish-Tatar language" which was published as early as 1839 in Kazan (Shiraliyev 2008, p. 15).

One brunch of modern dialectology of the Azerbaijani language is presented by local dialect and patois limited in the determined area. This specific grammatical feature exists in spoken language or dialect of any city and district. In general, the concept of dialects and patois in terms of linguistic is the people's live spoken language which has regional character and grammatical and lexical features distinguishing it from the literary language.

Nakhchivan dialects and patois cover the territory of Nakhchivan AR of Azerbaijan Republic and consolidate in itself the southern group of dialect and patois of the Azerbaijan language. Here are two dialects Nakhchivan and Ordubad, three patois – Julfa, Sharur and Shahbuz (Dialects and patois of the Nakhchivan group of the Azerbaijan language 1962, p. 5). Nakhchivan dialect and patois differ in a number of specific lexical features; these features distinguish them both from the literary language and from the other dialects and patois. This group has very rich lexicon; here we come across a lot of words and colloquialisms which are unusable at the literary language. At the mentioned different patois phonetic variants of these phrases are used in such a way that the same object or concept is expressed in other words. This rich dialect vocabulary hasn't been formed suddenly, but occurred as a result of the long-term historical development of the Azerbaijan language.

Words from the vocabulary of the Nakhchivan group of dialects and patois can be divided into two groups, as well as the words in vocabularies of the other our patois: 1) words of terminology character; 2) words without terminology character (Dialects and patois of the Nakhchivan group of

the Azerbaijan language 1962, p. 337). All aforesaid can relate to the words from the both groups.

In the Azerbaijani language, as in any other, the concept of dialects and patois in terms of linguistic is the people's live spoken language which has regional character and grammatical and lexical features distinguishing it from the literary language. The literary language is closely connected with dialects and patois and at their expense certain part of new words enters to the literary language. However, in spite of the fact that literary language is basically formed at the expense of local patois, dialects in modern period do not affect the literary language too much. At the same time dialects play an important role especially in enriching of the literary language, especially of its vocabulary.

In the past local dialects possessed great independence. However in connection to the enforce of compulsory education, as a result of universal literacy and rapid increase in general cultural level of all people the local dialects began to lose their properties. In spite of that these patois still play an important role in enriching of the literary language. Certain part of the literary language vocabulary is constantly growing at the expense of the local dialects. It is necessary to take from the local patois the words which enrich it and increase the beauty of the literary language (Jafarov 2007, p. 71).

Dialects and patois are gradually losing their properties, and this fact updates their involvement in the serious study just now. Because gradually erasing of phonetic and lexical differences between the literary language and patois poses problems in their study. From this point of view the study of the Nakhchivan dialect vocabulary is one of the most important and urgent questions standing in front of our linguistics.

Unique words form the basis in vocabulary of each language. The vocabulary basis of the Azerbaijan language, including our dialects and patois, consist from words of Turkic origin. But our dialects and patois reflect past relations of our peoples, communication between different nations. That is here we meet loan lexical units belonging to other languages. In general, though the Azerbaijan language belongs to the system of the Turkic language family, this language has been connected with a number of Caucasian and other languages in all periods since ancient times and mixed with them both in cultural and everyday matters. As a result, some changes have taken place in the vocabulary of our literary language and also in our dialect and patois. Therefore, though words of the Turkic origin take the main place, there are also words from other languages here. Without such words can not develop the vocabulary of any language or dialect. This process arises from the natural needs of a language and has started at very ancient times with creating relations between the people. In addition to that, the dialect vocabulary plays an important role in the enrichment of a language lexicon. As a result of the historical development of the language one part of our dialects loses its local properties and is included in the vocabulary of the literary language. The study of our dialect and patois vocabulary is of great importance from this point of view. Science, technological development and a lot of

terms created in this development process often don't have any equivalent at the language; there is the necessity to turn to the other languages. However, our dialects and patois possess rich vocabulary materials in various fields that give a chance to create names for new concepts coming to the language on the national language basis.

One of the most important sources of cultural presence of the Turkic people is their language and folklore. A rich cultural heritage of these people can be revealed by the study of dialects and patois at the approach from this point of view. Investigation of patois as a basis language source is very important for studying language history.

A large part of the vocabulary of dialects and patois in Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic is formed by terms associated with the region's economy, mode of life, customs and traditions. It is well known how important are dialects and patois of a language in the study of each language, especially of the language history. Considering the vocabulary of dialects and patois we can see that there is a number of words here which are used repeatedly and found in the oldest written monuments; these words are today active in certain Turkic languages, in the others they remain at the level of dialects and patois, there are also languages where these words have dropped out completely, disappeared during centuries. These words belong to different parts of speech. The terminology forms a special layer in the vocabulary of the Nakhchivan dialects and patois, the same way as in the structure of each other dialect and patois. Traces of the people's history, customs and traditions, national mentality remain alive at these lexical units. Though the part of these words drops out of the vocabulary in connection to the social development, changes in everyday people's life, some of these words are kept in the people's language as live witnesses of the history.

## 2. Results

In general, ancient words and ancient meanings of words are more protected in our dialect and patois, in the folklore than in the literary language, it happens in relation to the everyday life of people. These examples completely reflect in it the changes which occur in the people's life. In the vocabulary of the Nakhchivan dialect we meet such words that were used in the pats, at ancient written monuments, then became archaic for the literary language, but preserved in the dialectal vocabulary. This fact shows both the antiquity of the given lexical unit and its historically belonging to the Azerbaijan language. Now the usage of every such word from dialects and patois in the ancient written monuments shows the fact that the same word was used also in dialects and patois of the period when were created these monuments.

From the foresaid it is clear that the Nakhchivan dialectal vocabulary is very rich and represents the result of long centuries. Here we meet a lot of ancient words and expressions associated with the development path made by the language of our people, their life, traditions etc., such words reflect the history of our language. The study of dialects and patois is of great importance in this respect. There are particularly many features here both similar and

different with the literary language and the other groups of dialects and patois. Therefore, just under the influence of the literary language the development in the direction of this linguistic field is going on; dialects and patois vocabulary is enriching at the expense of the literary language. At the same time the literary language benefiting from the dialects enriches its lexicon.

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