

The Contrastive Evaluation On Modern Chinese and Uzbek Vowels

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Abstract:-This paper adopts the four steps of “comparative analysis”. First of all, it summarizes the language of Chinese and Uzbek and its Vowels. Chinese belongs to the “Sino-Tibetan language family” and is an isolated language. The Uzbek language belongs to the “Altaic language family” and is an adhesive language. There are 10 single vowels and 13 diphthongs in Chinese language. There are 7 single vowels in Uzbek language, and one syllable contains one vowel, that is to say, several vowels have several syllables. Generally speaking, there are 4 diphthongs in Uzbek language. Secondly, the single vowels in Chinese and Uzbek pronunciation are selected for comparative analysis. Then, the single vowels of Chinese and Uzbek are compared and analyzed from the aspects of “pronunciation part”, “tongue position” and “lip shape”. Finally, based on the similarities and differences between the two vowels, the errors that Uzbek learners may have in Chinese vowels acquisition are predicted, and propose relevant teaching suggestions.

Key words: Chinese language; Uzbek language; phonetics; Vowels ; comparative analysis

I. INTRODUCTION

The so-called “contrast analysis” refers to a method of linguistic analysis that compares the systems of the two languages to reveal their similarities and differences. In 1957, Lado pointed out in the book *Intercultural Linguistics* that projects that are similar to the learner's mother tongue are easier for them, and it is difficult to learn from their different mother tongue projects (See: Liu Xun. *Introduction to Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language*. M, 2000. 185-187p). Therefore, a systematic comparison of the two languages can predict where the learner may or may not have difficulty in learning the target language, thus adopting more effective second language teaching measures in the teaching. The process of comparative analysis generally has four steps:

First, description. The target language and the learner's first language are described in detail and in detail as the basis for comparison. In this paper, the modern Chinese Vowels and Uzbek Vowels are described in detail.

Second, selection. Choose some meaningful language projects or structures to compare between the two languages. This paper selects the Vowels in Chinese and Uzbek for comparative analysis.

Third, comparison. Compare the selected language items or language structures in the two languages to find the same points and differences between the two languages. Through the comparative analysis of Vowels in Chinese and Uzbek , this paper aims to find out the similarities and differences of Vowels in the two languages.

Fourth, prediction. On the basis of comparison, predict the difficulties and errors that may occur in the learning of second language learners (See: Liu Xun. *Introduction to Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language*. M, 2000. 185-187p). This paper is based on the similarities and differences between the two languages of Chinese and Uzbek in the Vowels, and predicts the problems that Uzbek learners may have in their Chinese Vowels learning, and proposes relevant teaching suggestions.

At present, there are few studies on Uzbek phonetics in China, especially Uzbek vowels. This paper is the first to make a comparative study of Chinese and Uzbek Vowels. Since there is no such thing as “Yun Mu” in the Uzbek alphabet, the international common “vowel” is used to classify the phonetic alphabets of the two languages in this paper. In addition, the “International Phonetic Alphabet” is used for the phonetic analysis of the two languages.

II. OVERVIEW OF CHINESE AND UZBEK VOWELS

2.1 Overview of Chinese and its Vowels

Chinese, also known as Mandarin, belongs to the Sino-Tibetan language family. The earliest markers of Chinese pronunciation were “direct method” and “anti-tangential method”, followed by “phonetic notation”. Since the promulgation of the “Chinese Pinyin Scheme” in 1958, Latin letters have been used to mark Chinese pronunciation. The Chinese Vowels discussed in this paper are based on the phonetic alphabets in the Chinese Pinyin Scheme.

The vowel, also known as “Mu Yin”, is opposite to the consonant. The vowel is a phoneme that is unimpeded by airflow through the mouth and pharynx during the pronunciation process (See: Huang Borong, Liao Xudong. *Modern Chinese*. M, 2011. 20p). There are 23 vowels in Chinese Pinyin, of which there are 10 single vowels and 13 diphthongs. In addition, there are 16 special sounds for the combination of vowels and nasal vowels. As shown in the following table:

Revised Manuscript Received on 16 September, 2019.

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Table 2-1: International Phonetic Alphabet of Vowels of Pinyin

No.	Vowel letter	International phonetic transcript	No.	Vowel letter	International phonetic transcript
single vowels					
1	a	[A]	6	u	[u]
2	o	[ɔ]	7	ü	[y]
3	e	[ɤ]or[ə]	8	-i (front)	[ɿ]
4	ê	[ɛ]	9	-i (back)	[ʮ]
5	i	[i]	10	er	[ər]
diphthongs					
11	ai	[ai̯]	18	iou	[iəu̯]
12	ei	[ei̯]	19	ua	[uä]
13	ao	[au̯]	20	uo	[uə]
14	ou	[ou̯]	21	uai	[uäi̯]
15	ia	[iä]	22	uei	[uei̯]
16	ie	[ie̯]	23	üe	[y̥e̯]
17	iao	[iäɔ̯]			

The vowels in Chinese Pinyin have the following classifications:

(1) The vowels in Chinese Pinyin can be divided into tongue vowels, apical vowels and curly vowels. There are 7 tongue vowels: a[A], o[ɔ], e[ɤ], ê[ɛ], i[i], u [u], ü [y]; 2 apical vowels: -i[ɿ] (pre-tongue of the tongue), -i[ʮ] (post-tongue of the tongue); curly vowels: er[ər].

(2) According to the tongue position is front or back when pronunciation, it can be divided into: front vowel, central vowel, and back vowel. When the front vowel is pronounced, the tongue is naturally flat, and the tip of the tongue touches the lower teeth, such as i[i], ü[y], ê[ɛ]. When the central vowel is pronounced, the middle of the tongue is

raised and slightly nervous, and then the airflow flows out from the mouth, such as a[A], er[ər]. When the back vowel is pronounced, the root of the tongue is swelled into the soft palate for pronunciation, such as e[ɤ], u[u], o[ɔ].

(3) According to the roundness of the lip shape when pronounced, it can be divided into: rounded lip vowel and unrounded lip vowel. When the rounded vowel is pronounced, the lordosis of the lips is round, such as o[ɔ], u[u], ü[y]. When the vowel is unrounded, the shape of the lips is natural and flat, such as a[A], e[ɤ], ê[ɛ], i[i], er[ər].

(4) According to the level of tongue in pronunciation, it can be divided into: high vowels: i[i], u[u], ü[y]; mid-high vowel: e[ɤ]; mid vowels: o[ɔ], ê[ɛ],er[ər]; low vowel: a[A].

Table 2-2: Single vowels of Chinese

	APICAL VOWELS		TONGUE VOWELS				CURLY VOWELS
	FRONT	BACK	FRONT		CENTRAL	BACK	CENTRAL
	UNROUNDED	UNROUNDED	UNROUNDED	ROUNDED	UNROUNDED	ROUNDED	UNROUNDED
<u>HIGH</u>	-i[ɿ]	-i[ʮ]	i[i]	ü[y]		u[u]	
<u>MID-HIGH</u>					e[ɤ]		
MID			ê[ɛ]			o[ɔ]	er[ər]
MID-LOW							
<u>LOW</u>					a[A]		

There is a special combination of vowels and nasal Vowels in Chinese (called the Nasal vowels in Chinese Pinyin), which can be divided into front nasal and post nasal. Front nasal: an, en, in, un, ün, uan, uen, ian, in, ün; post nasal: ang, eng, ing, ong, uang, ueng, iang, iong.

Table 2-3: International Phonetic Alphabet of “vowels+ nasal vowels”

No.	vowels+ nasal Vowels	International phonetic transcript	No.	vowels+ nasal Vowels	International phonetic transcript
1	an	[an]	9	uan	[uan]
2	en	[ən]	10	uen	[uən]
3	ang	[aŋ]	11	uang	[uaŋ]
4	eng	[eŋ]	12	ueng	[ueŋ]
5	ian	[iæn]	13	ong	[oŋ]
6	in	[in]	14	üan	[yən]
7	iang	[iɑŋ]	15	ün	[yn]
8	ing	[iŋ]	16	iong	[iʏoŋ]

2.2 Overview of Uzbek and its Vowels

2.2.1 Overview of Uzbek language

Uzbek (Latin letter O'zbektili , Cyrillic: Ўзбекили) belongs to the Altaic language and is the national and official language of Uzbekistan. Uzbek language has a history of more than 1,200 years of use. Ancient Uzbek is used in the Sogdian, Daxia and Huazizi models. Since the 8th century, Uzbek has been written in Arabic letters.(See : Polivanov E.D. Uzbekskayadialektologiya i uzbekskiy literaturniyazik. T, 1933.- 14p). In 1927, as a part of literacy programs to educate and politically influence people of Central Asia, Chagatai alphabet was replaced by Latin alphabet (called Yanalif). Since 1940, the Cyrillic alphabet was adopted due to the influence of the former Soviet Union. In 1993, Uzbek was officially translated into the Latin alphabet. However, unlike Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, Soviet-style Cyrillic continues to be used even at the official level, coexisting with the Latin alphabet. Moreover, the Uzbek Latin alphabet adopted in 1995 is actually a transliteration of the Cyrillic alphabet, which

differs from all other Turkic Latin scripts. Among the Uzbeks of Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and China, the Arabic alphabet prevails.(See : <http://fayllar.org/uzbek-language-by-zumrad-ahmedjanova.html>).The Uzbek language discussed in this article is written and marked in Latin.

2.2.2 Overview of Uzbek Vowels

In Cyrillic alphabet there are 11 vowel letters, but there are only 6 vowel letters in the Latin alphabet. Generally speaking, Uzbek has seven major vowel sounds, each with their own variations. The combination of syllables in Uzbek is generally: “vowel+consonant”, or “consonant+vowel”, one syllable contains one vowel, and that is to say, several vowels have several syllables. For example, “O'zbekiston” has four vowels, that is to say, it has four syllables O'z-be-kis-ton. (See: Abdurazizov A.A. Uzbek tilfonologiyasi va morfologiyasi. -36 p). The specific Uzbek vowels are shown in the following table:

Table 2-4: Single Vowels of Uzbek

	TONGUE VOWELS			
	FRONT		CENTRAL	BACK
	UNROUNDED	ROUNDED	UNROUNDED	ROUNDED
<u>HIGH</u>	i[i]		i[ɨ]	u[u]
<u>MID-HIGH</u>				
MID	e[e/ɛ]			o[o]
MID-LOW				o[ɔ]
<u>LOW</u>			a[a]	

Front high unrounded vowel -i[i]
Examples : [tiqmoq]-to stab, [ism]- name , [istak]-wish
Central high unrounded vowel - i[ɨ]
Examples : [qɨz]- a girl , [tɔqɨz] –nine

Front mid unrounded vowel -e[e/ɛ]. [e] and [ɛ], were seen to have measurements landing them in the same part of the vowel space. For this reason they are treated as the same

vowel(See:Glynis MacMillan, Descriptive Phonetics of Uzbek, University of Massachusetts at Amherst,2015).

Examples : [ɛjak]-donkey, [beɨ]-five, [ɛtmoq]- to say
Mid back rounded vowels - o[o].

Examples : [box]- garden , [to] mountain , [kok]- blue , [kop]- many

Central low unrounded vowel-a[a]

Examples :[pat]-feather, [gap]-sentence,[xat]- letter ,[ota]-father

High back vowel-u[u]

Examples: [utʃ]-three,[utʃmoq]-to fly

High back vowel-o[ɔ]

Examples:[bɔʃ]-head,[qɔʃiq]-spoon,[qɔʃ]- eyebrow

The author classified the vowels in Uzbek as follows according to the classification of Chinese Pinyin vowels:

(1) The vowels in Uzbek are all tongue vowels:[a], [e/ɛ], [i],[ɨ], [u],[o], [ɔ].

(2) According to the tongue position is front or back when pronounced, it can be divided into: front vowels:[e/ɛ], [i]; central vowels:[a], [i] ; back vowels: [u],[o], [ɔ].

(3) According to the roundness of the lip shape when pronounced, it can be divided into: rounded lip vowels: [u],[o],[ɔ],and unrounded lip vowels:[a], [e/ɛ], [i],[ɨ].

(4)According to the height of the tongue when pronounced, it can be divided into: high vowels:[i],[ɨ], [u]; mid vowels: [e/ɛ],[o]; mid-low vowel:[ɔ]; and low vowel: [a].

Generally speaking, there are four diphthongs in Uzbek: ay[ai],uy[ui],oy[oi],yo[io].Such as: [haivon]-animal,[ui]-house,[boi]-rich, [dario]-river. Some diphthongs are borrowed from foreign words. Among them, diphthongs of two vowels are the same: aa[a:], ii[i:], such as [man fa:t]-profit, [badi:y] -artistic ; diphthongs of two vowels are different: ao[ao],oa[oa], such as [aorta]-aorta , [jamoot]-community. (See:N.Turniyozov, A. Rahimov, O'zbek Tili,2006,M,-57p).

III. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF CHINESE AND UZBEK VOWELS& RESULTS

There are 10 single vowels and 13 diphthongs in Chinese,but 7 single vowels in Uzbek. Generally speaking, the diphthongs in Uzbek is only four,and some are borrowed from foreign words. Therefore, this paper only compares the single vowels of the two languages.

According to the author's research, there are 2 vowels with the same letter and the same pronunciation: i[i] and u[u]. 2 vowels with different letter but the same pronunciation: o[o] and ê[ɛ] in Chinese is the same as the e[ɛ]and o'[o]in Uzbek. a[A] in Chinese and a[a] in Uzbek is similar in pronunciation. There are no e[ɻ], ü[y], -i[ɿ] , -i [ɯ] and er[ər] in Uzbek. The details are as follows:

Table 2-5: Comparison of Uzbek and Chinese Vowels

No.	Uzbek vowels	International phonetic transcript	Chinese Vowels	Remarks
Same pronunciation				
1	i	[i]	i	Same letters
2	u	[u]	u	
3	o'	[o]	o	Different letters
4	e	[ɛ]	ê	
Similar pronunciation				
5	a	[a]	a	Same letters
6	o	[ɔ]	o (mid-low)	
Different pronunciation				
7	No	[ɻ/ə]	e	Same letters
8	No	[y]	ü	Different letters
9	No	[ɿ]	-i (front)	
10	No	[ɯ]	-i (back)	
11	No	[ər]	er	

From the pronunciation part, there are 7 vowels in Uzbek,and the vowels in Uzbek are all tongue vowels. But there are 10 vowels in Chinese, and tongue vowels e[ɻ],ü [y], apical vowels -i[ɿ], -i[ɯ] and curly tongue vowels er[ər]in Uzbek is not.

From the perspective of the lip shape, the vowels of the two languages are basically similar. Both can be divided into rounded lip vowels and unrounded lip vowels.

From the perspective of the pronunciation of the tongue, the vowels are basically similar in low vowels and high vowels, but there is a mid-high vowel e[ɻ]in Uzbek.

IV. PREDICTION AND SUGGESTIONS OF CHINESE VOWELS TEACHING

Based on the contrastive analysis of vowels between Chinese and Uzbek, the following pronunciation teaching predictions and suggestions are put forward for Chinese language learners whose mother tongue is Uzbek:



The vowels “i[i] and u[u]” with the same letter and the same pronunciation are the easiest to teach, and students generally do not have errors.

It is easy to teach “a[A] and o[o]” with the same letters and similar pronunciation, but it needs to be pointed out that the opening degree of a[A] in Chinese is higher and larger than that of a[A] in Uzbek. Teacher can make students open their mouths as much as possible when they teach a[A] sound. We know that there are four tones in Chinese. If we make a[A] sound, the opening is not large enough, then we can't pronounce the four tones of a[A] very standard. For o[o], teacher should point out that the pronunciation of o[o] is the same as that o'[o] in Uzbek, not the o[ɔ] of Uzbek.

The teaching difficulty is the teaching of “ê, e, ü, -i (front), -i (back), er”. There are no vowels “e[ɣ], ü[y], -i[ɿ], -i[ɿ], er[ər]” in Uzbek, and Uzbek students are unconsciously influenced by their mother tongue when they learn Chinese vowels. The specific teaching measures of the above teaching difficulties are as follows:

CONCLUSION

Chinese ê[ɛ] and Uzbek e[ɛ] have the same pronunciation, and students may easily confuse the pronunciation of Chinese “e[ɣ]” with Chinese “ê[ɛ]” or Uzbek “e[ɛ]”, resulting in bias. The teacher needs to emphasize with students that the Uzbek “e[ɛ]” is the front-vowel, the tongue is naturally flat when the pronunciation is pronounced, the tip of the tongue touches the lower teeth, and the pronunciation is shorter. The Chinese “e[ɣ]” is the central-vowel, the tip of the tongue does not touch the lower teeth when the pronunciation is pronounced, but the root of the tongue is swelled into the soft palate for pronunciation. Teacher can use two hands to demonstrate the position of the tongue when pronouncing.

Since there is no ü[y] in Uzbek, students may not be able to pronounce this sound at first, and it is easy to confuse u[u] and ü[y]. Teacher can teach “u” together with “ü”, and it is necessary to emphasize with students that ü[y] is the front-vowel, and u[u] is the back-vowel. During the teaching, the teacher can first demonstrate the lip shape on the basis of the “u[u]” sound and send out the “ü[y]” sound through the mouth, and then let the students imitate and practice.

Since the students do not fully grasp the two pronunciations of Chinese “-i[ɿ], -i[ɿ]”, it is easy to pronounce these two sounds into i[i], which results in negative transfer of knowledge of the target language. In teaching, teacher can teach together with “z[ts], c[ts^h], s[s], zh[tʂ], ch [tʂ^h], sh[ʂ]”, and explain to the students that -i[ɿ] is the sound that is pronounced after spelling with “z, c, s”, and -i[ɿ] is the sound that is pronounced after spelling with “zh, ch, sh”.

Since there is no rolled-tongue vowel in Uzbek language, it may be difficult for students to pronounce er[ər] at the beginning. Therefore, the teacher can teach “er” together with “e”, and on the basis of “e[ɣ]”, the “er[ər]” sound is pronounced by rolling their tongues. In addition, the teacher can show the action of the tongue rolling up with his hands while pronouncing, so that the students can feel the pronunciation method of “er[ər]”.

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