



revitalització
de llengües indígenes
i minoritzades

PRIMER CONGRÉS INTERNACIONAL BARCELONA · VIC 2017

PRIMER CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL SOBRE REVITALIZACIÓN DE LENGUAS INDÍGENAS Y MINORIZADAS
FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON REVITALIZATION OF INDIGENOUS AND MINORITIZED LANGUAGES

CONGRÉS DE REVITALITZACIÓ DE LLENGÜES INDÍGENES I MINORITZADES

LLIBRE DE RESUMS / ABSTRACT BOOK / LIBRO DE RESÚMENES

**A "state language" based on a minority language in a neighbouring state
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This paper contrasts the phonology/phonetics of two different varieties of Tajik, namely Bukharan Tajik, which is a minority language in Uzbekistan, and the standardized Tajik language as it is used in the media of Tajikistan.

Standard Tajik is unusual among many standardized languages in that its phonology and phonetics are based on those of a variety spoken outside the territory of the country in which it has an official status. In the beginning of the 1930s, when the Tajik language was in the process of standardization, Bukharan Tajik served as a primary basis of its phonological norms because it carried prestige as the variety spoken in Bukhara, which was a paramount cultural and economic centre.

However, this should not necessarily mean that the two varieties today are phonologically/phonetically indistinguishable. After all, more than eight decades have passed since the standardization of Tajik took place (in most part) in the 1930s, and Bukhara has now long been a provincial Uzbek city remotely situated from Tajikistan at the western-most edge of the Tajik-speaking area, where the presence of standard Tajik is very limited and Uzbek is the main language of education and administration. While Russian has exerted influence on both standard Tajik and Bukharan Tajik, Uzbek influence has been more profound on the latter. In addition, speakers of southern dialects, which differ in many respects, including phonology, from Bukharan Tajik, have dominated Tajik political life after the civil war. This paper attempts to identify and explain the phonological and phonetic differences, or lack thereof, between Bukharan Tajik and standard Tajik. A preliminary analysis of the data collected in Bukhara and Dushanbe shows that minor differences do exist between the phonologies/phonetics of the two varieties, and accordingly an analysis is also presented in this paper of how the differences came about.