

FORMANT FREQUENCY VALUES OF VOWELS PRODUCED BY ‘IRANIANS’ IN BUKHARA

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There is a group of people who identify themselves as *Eronis* ‘Iranians’ in Bukhara, Uzbekistan. Despite the name, Eroni ancestry does not entirely originate from the area that comprises today’s Islamic Republic of Iran; indeed, the Eroni population within the former city walls of Bukhara has been thought of as consisting mostly of the descendants of the inhabitants of Merv deported to Bukhara at the end of the 18th century (see Bregel 2003: 80), hence their alternative name of *Marvi* (plural *Marviyon*) (Kimura 2012: 190). The present paper reports the results of a formant analysis of the Bukharan Tajik and Uzbek vowels produced by Eroni residents of Bukhara. Data collection for this study was carried out during fieldwork in 2013 in the western part of the city of Bukhara.

The formant data obtained for this paper come from three Eroni informants with a strong sense of identity as Eronis. All three of them have Bukharan Tajik as their first language and are bilingual in Bukharan Tajik and Uzbek. At the time of fieldwork, the female informants were both professionals; the male informant, who had graduated from a vocational college, was a labourer. The informant whose vowel formant data are presented in Figure 1 was born and raised in the area that corresponds with the IVth district of pre-modern Bukhara, while the other female informant and the male informant were born and raised in the areas corresponding with the pre-modern IIIrd and VIth districts, respectively. (See Cyxapeва 1976 and Komatsu 1978 for the maps and descriptions of the districts.) These districts are known for having a concentrated Eroni population³.

The method employed in this paper for obtaining formant data is the same as that used in Ido (2014: 91, 93).

³ Kimura (2016: 72) suspects that Eronis deported from Merv in the late 18th century were settled in these districts,

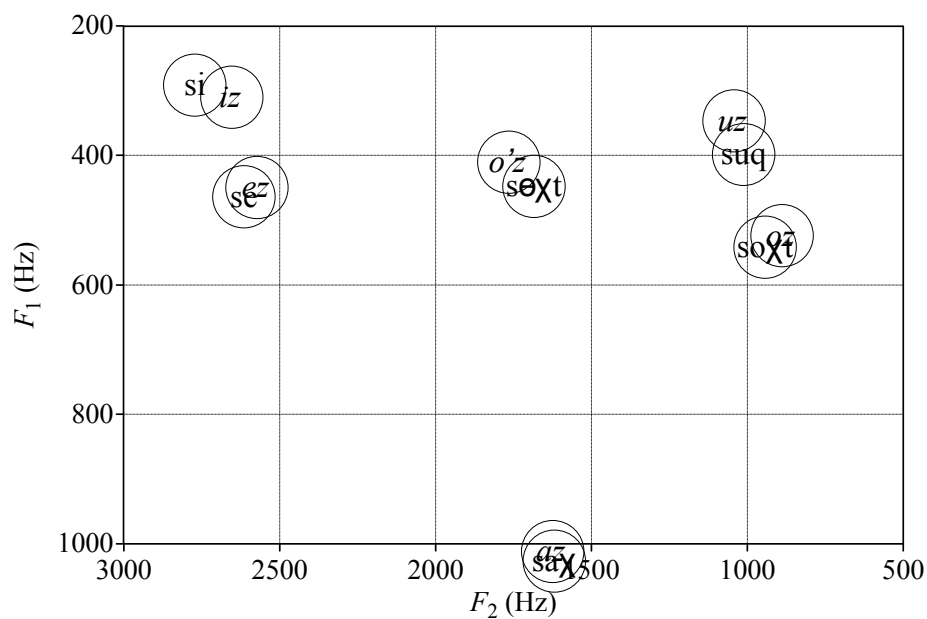


Figure 1. Mean F_1 and F_2 values of the Bukharan Tajik vowels in /saχ/ ‘hard’, /se/ ‘three’, /si/ ‘thirty’, /soχt/ ‘s/he made’, /soχt/ ‘s/he burnt’, /suq/ ‘evil eye’, and the Uzbek vowels in the /Vz/ context produced by an Eroni informant (female, born 1967)

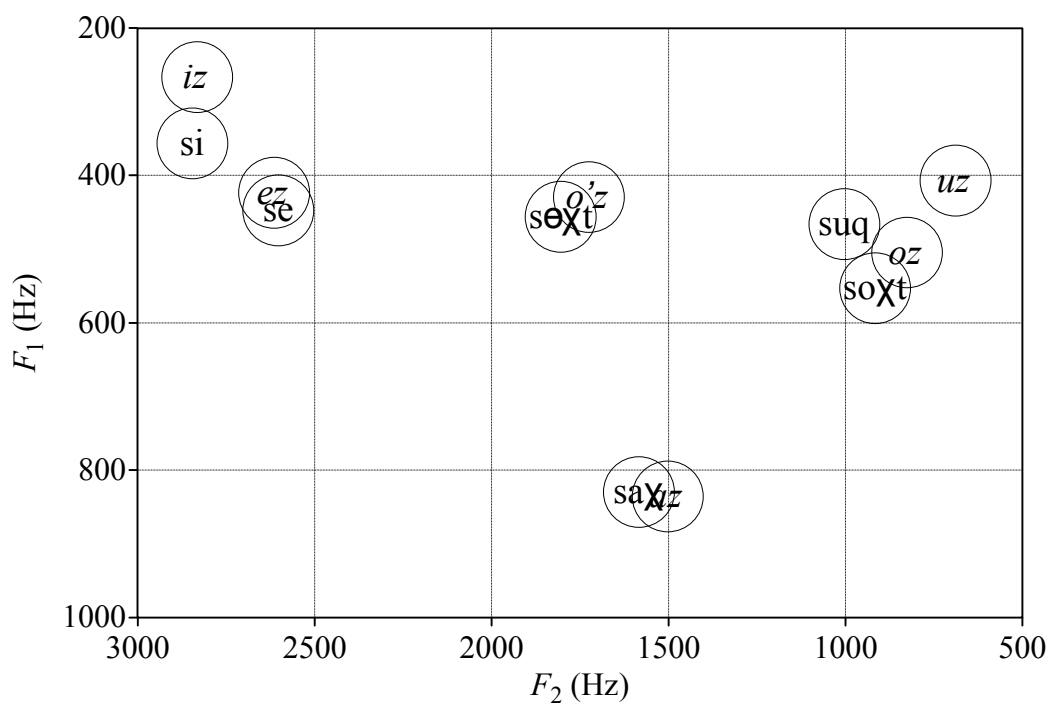


Figure 2. Mean F_1 and F_2 values of the Bukharan Tajik vowels in /saχ/ ‘hard’, /se/ ‘three’, /si/ ‘thirty’, /soχt/ ‘s/he made’, /soχt/ ‘s/he burnt’, /suq/ ‘evil eye’, and the Uzbek vowels in the /Vz/ context by an Eroni informant (female, born 1975)

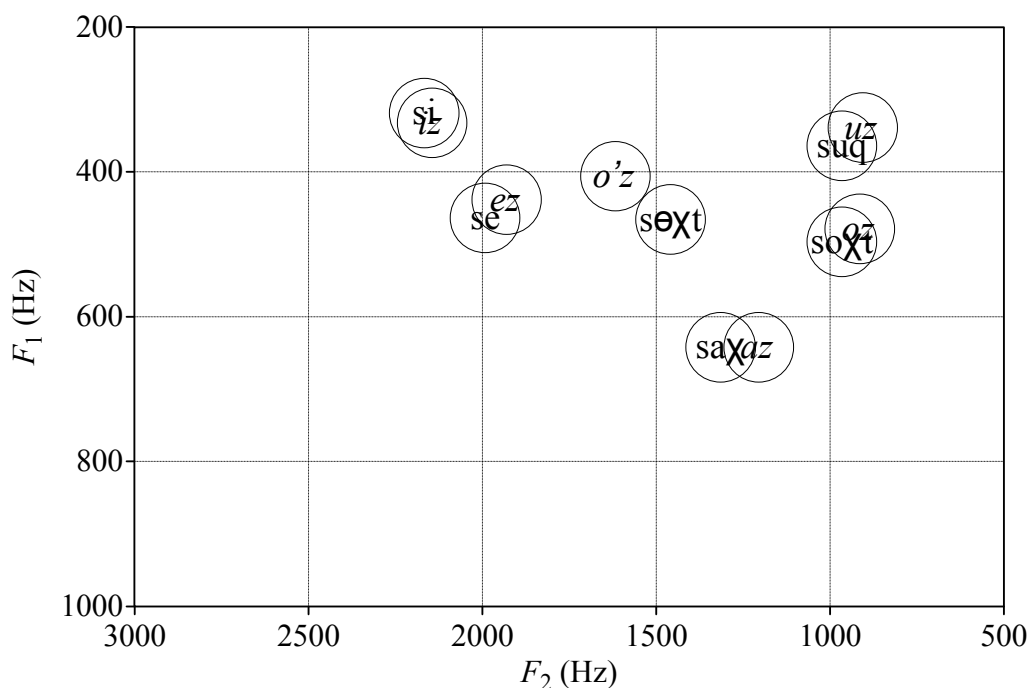


Figure 3. Mean F_1 and F_2 values of the Bukharan Tajik vowels in /saɣ/ ‘hard’, /se/ ‘three’, /si/ ‘thirty’, /soxt/ ‘s/he made’, /soxt/ ‘s/he burnt’, /suq/ ‘evil eye’, and the Uzbek vowels in the /Vz/ context by an Eroni informant (male, born 1994)

An observation of Figures 1 to 3 reveals that no sociolinguistic variation seems to exist (in terms of the F_1 and F_2 values) between the Eroni informants’ Bukharan Tajik vowel system and the Bukharan Tajik vowel system of the general (non-Eroni) population of Bukhara. (See Ido 2014: 94 for the F_1 and F_2 values of Bukharan Tajik vowels.) It also shows that there is an interlingual consistency between the informants’ Bukharan Tajik and Uzbek vowel systems, which is the case also with the Bukharan Tajik and Uzbek vowel systems used by Bukharan Tajik speakers in general (Ido 2014: 93-94).

Apparently, not only do the Eroni informants share the same Bukharan Tajik vowel system with their fellow (non-Eroni) townsmen, they also use the same vowel system for both Bukharan Tajik and Uzbek in the same way their fellow townspeople do.

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Appendix: Mean F_1 , F_2 , and F_3 values for each test word per speaker.

Female, born 1967							
Uzbek	F1	F2	F3	B.Tajik	F1	F2	F3
<i>iz</i>	310.1122	2653.23	3249.392	Si	291.4208	2771.602	3311.709
<i>ez</i>	449.5127	2572.302	3165.821	Se	463.8389	2614.249	3185.653
<i>az</i>	1012.047	1624.42	3365.423	Saɣ	1026.822	1618.985	3043.318
<i>oz</i>	523.9462	888.2487	3053.119	Soxt	541.7806	943.0348	2892.788
<i>o'z</i>	410.3734	1764.182	2727.596	Soxt	447.6789	1683.971	2779.025
<i>uz</i>	346.4886	1042.506	2795.61	Suq	398.5138	1011.486	2956.509
Female, born 1975							
Uzbek	F1	F2	F3	B.Tajik	F1	F2	F3
<i>iz</i>	266.3644	2831.665	3461.934	Si	356.6238	2845.469	3430.929
<i>ez</i>	423.5308	2614.474	3205.01	Se	447.2298	2602.396	3211.409
<i>az</i>	835.6161	1501.829	2545.714	Saɣ	829.7716	1583.665	2630.199

<i>oz</i>	504.5951	825.6627	3137.932	Soxt	552.8944	915.8934	2909.151
<i>o'z</i>	429.3804	1724.759	2951.187	Soxt	456.0686	1804.158	2923.354
<i>uz</i>	407.0554	688.6969	3228.415	Suq	466.0326	1002.761	3138.124
Male, born 1994							
Uzbek	F1	F2	F3	B.Tajik	F1	F2	F3
<i>iz</i>	332.0271	2144.153	2414.387	Si	318.6678	2166.52	2842.717
<i>ez</i>	438.0997	1929.797	2465.949	Se	463.4084	1991.538	2619.742
<i>az</i>	642.1272	1204.742	2864.066	Sax	642.0443	1314.256	2714.933
<i>oz</i>	478.7546	913.7141	2581.188	Soxt	496.5766	965.4723	2616.748
<i>o'z</i>	405.8459	1616.996	2333.53	Soxt	465.7129	1458.205	2434.412
<i>Uz</i>	338.7083	905.4289	2372.375	Suq	364.0165	965.3642	2485.26

Abstract

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The first three formant frequency (*F1*, *F2*, and *F3*) values of vowels produced by three Bukharan Eroni informants were measured. An analysis of the *F1* and *F2* values of the vowels indicated an apparent lack of sociolinguistic variation between the Eroni informants' Bukharan Tajik vowel system and the Bukharan Tajik vowel system of the general (non-Eroni) population of Bukhara. It also revealed an apparent interlingual consistency between the informants' Bukharan Tajik and Uzbek vowel systems.



МИНИСТЕРСТВО ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ И
СОЦИАЛЬНОЙ ЗАЩИТЫ НАСЕЛЕНИЯ
РЕСПУБЛИКИ ТАДЖИКИСТАН



ТАДЖИКСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ
МЕДИЦИНСКИЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ
им. АБУАЛИ ИБНИ СИНО



АССОЦИАЦИЯ КУЛЬТУРНЫХ
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РОҶИ АБРЕШИМ ВА РОБИТАҶОИ БАЙНИФАРҶАНГИИ АВРУОСИЁ

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SILK ROAD AND EURASIAN TRANSCULTURAL RELATIONS

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