РОХИ АБРЕШИМ ВА РОБИТАХОИ БАЙНИФАРҲАНГИИ АВРУОСИЁ

ШЕЛКОВЫЙ ПУТЬ И ЕВРАЗИЙСКИЕ МЕЖКУЛЬТУРНЫЕ ОТНОШЕНИЯ

SILK ROAD AND EURASIAN TRANSCULTURAL RELATIONS

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

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There is a group of people who identify themselves as *Eroni* ‘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 Cypenka 1976 and Komatsu 1978 for the maps and descriptions of the districts.) These districts are known for having a concentrated Eroni population rep

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

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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', /soχ/'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', /soχ/'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)
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.

References


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Female, born 1967</th>
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<th>Female, born 1975</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>$F_2$</td>
<td>$F_3$</td>
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<td>$F_1$</td>
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<td>2545.714</td>
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<td>829.7716</td>
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</table>
Abstract

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

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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.
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