

# **AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC**

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## **ABSTRACT**

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

### **PROBLEMS OF PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY IN AZERBAIJANI LINGUISTICS: HISTORY OF FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Specialty: 5704.01 – “Language Theory”

Field of science: Philology

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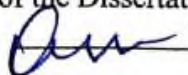
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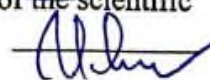
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## **GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WORK**

### **Relevance and degree of development of the topic.**

Globalization, one of the main indicators of today's world, is undoubtedly also fundamentally affecting the languages of different peoples. As the world changes and develops, new words and expressions are constantly emerging in languages, and it is phonetics that determines the rules of pronunciation of these words. In the conditions of rapid integration, there is a serious need for constant study of phonetics in terms of the fact that the rules of spelling and orthoepy of countries and peoples have improved over time and partially changed..

The president of the Republic of Azerbaijan signed a decree “On Development of the State Program on the use of Azerbaijani language in accordance with the requirements of time in the conditions of globalization and the development of linguistics in the country” dated May 23, 2012. The same order emphasizes that research in the field of Azerbaijani linguistics must meet the requirements of the time and occupy one of the leading places in the system of developing world Sciences. Undoubtedly, the requirements arising from this order must also be taken into account in research in the direction of phonetics and Phonology. The study of the level of development of phonetics and Phonology issues in Azerbaijani linguistics is already a requirement of the time.

The quality and quantity of research conducted in the field of phonetics and Phonology in different periods of Azerbaijani linguistics was not the same. To determine the level of problem solving, it is necessary to reveal the quality and quantity of research. In this area, there are problems that are superficially covered, which are left out of study and do not have a single description, and the choice of this topic for their identification is due to the requirements of today in terms of relevance.

To identify the main problems in the field of phonetics and Phonology, first of all, it becomes necessary to study the history of the study of these problems. In addition, in order to keep up with world linguistics, the history of phonetics and Phonology in Azerbaijani

linguistics must be studied, and this history must be periodized. When we approach from this point of view, the dissertation is a research work devoted to a rather topical topic.

There are many researches are carried out in the field of phonology and phonetics in Azerbaijani linguistics from time to time. Although the content and history of these studies are mentioned to a certain extent in the literature on the problems of phonetics and Phonology, in the works devoted to the history of Azerbaijani linguistics, it has not been a separate research topic, its monographic study has not been carried out.

Since there is no special scientific literature on the history of the study of problems of phonetics and Phonology in Azerbaijani linguistics, its periodization, statistical analysis of the work done in this area, the work is the first systematic research work in the field of sequentially researching the history of the study of problems of phonetics and Phonology in Azerbaijani linguistics.

**Object and subject of research.** Articles, textbooks and teaching aids, dissertations, monographs, existing scientific and methodological works devoted to the problems of phonetics and Phonology in Azerbaijani and world linguistics, as well as the opinions of linguists on the problems, the results obtained constitute the object of research. The history of the study of phonetics and Phonology problems in Azerbaijani linguistics, theoretical issues, linguistic approaches in relation to this problem are the subject of the study.

**The goals and objectives of the research.** The main goal of the study is to periodize the history of the study of problems of phonetics and phonology in Azerbaijani linguistics, as well as to determine the level of development of these problems. To achieve the main goal in the work, the following tasks were set:

- To consistently trace the history of the study of the problems of phonetics and Phonology in Azerbaijani linguistics, to periodize this history;

- To analyze the problems of phonetics reflected in the works of Azerbaijani scientists and thinkers until the 1920s, to clarify the compliance of the obtained results with modern scientific criteria;

– To clarify the positions of the main figures of Azerbaijani linguistics in the Soviet period on the problems, to provide information on the content of the work done at that time, especially during the years of H.Aliyev's reign;

– To give a description of the research carried out in the field of phonetics and Phonology in modern times, to give a comprehensive impression of the quality and quantity of the work done, to give a scientific picture of the polemics of contemporary researchers;

– To analyze the research on phoneme problem, systematization of phonemes, classification, which is one of the main problems in Azerbaijani linguistics, in the context of comparison, to identify problems that have not been fully described;

– To clarify important issues related to the phoneme system of the Azerbaijani language that need Re-study. To evaluate the achievements of Azerbaijani scientists on the problem of geminates, long vowels, diphthongs;

– To analyze the results obtained in connection with the study of the law of harmony, phonetic substitutions in Azerbaijani linguistics, to clarify the issues that have been studied and which still remain a problem;

– To study the law of harmony, phonetic substitutions, syllabic, accent, intonation in Azerbaijani linguistics.

**Research methods.** In order to solve the problem, the path of phonetics and Phonology, one of the important areas of Azerbaijani linguistics, was traced in the dissertation, and the results were compared and described. The main methods and techniques used during the study are: description in the synchronous aspect, systematization, analysis and synthesis, observation, etc.

**The main provisions of the defense.** The main provisions defended in the dissertation are as follows:

1. Until the 1920s, works devoted to grammar were written in Europe, while vocabulary was more developed in Azerbaijan, as in the Middle East. Starting from the 19th century, grammar-related literature began to appear in Azerbaijan. Phonetics issues can be found in almost the vast majority of compiled dictionaries, as well as in grammar books. In those works, the writing of letters was mainly

discussed. The difference between sound and letter was not fully defined, therefore the number of sounds was equal to the number of letters in the graphics. Depending on the Arabic script used, the number of vowels was indicated as two or three.

2. The 1920-90s, that is, the Soviet period, should be divided into two stages. In the 1920-70s, the first works in the practical field were notable, later many scientific literatures related to the phoneme problem, especially phonetics, appeared. The coming to power of national leader Heydar Aliyev in 1969 also played an distinguished role in the development of Azerbaijani linguistics. Also, in the field of phonetics, phonology, systematic researches were carried out at the level of World linguistics, and the number of linguistic personnel increased.

3. After Azerbaijan gained state independence, a new period began for Azerbaijani linguistics. In this period, as in the history and literary studies of Azerbaijan, researches in linguistics should be conducted on the basis of the ideology of Azerbaijaniism. Thus, new ideas and literature were born.

4. Although it is studied by many researchers in Azerbaijani linguistics, geminates, long vowels, diphthongs are not perceived by everyone as phonemes.

5. There is no single classification in the composition of the phoneme system, the number of phonemes of the Azerbaijani language. There are disagreements among linguists in classifications regarding vowel and consonant phonemes.

6. There are controversial opinions regarding phonetic substitutions and phonetic laws. When dividing the law of harmony into types, most researchers have obtained various conclusions.

7. In Azerbaijani linguistics, emphasis from phonosemantic problems, especially syllabic accent, and intonation has been involved in research at the academic level. The problem of intonation was studied mainly within the framework of “sentence phonetics.”

**Scientific novelty of the research.** In the dissertation, the history of the formation and development of the problems of phonetics and Phonology was approached as a system, and the research carried out in this area was periodized and monographically analyzed and

studied. For the first time in the dissertation, the study of phonetics and phonology problems is divided into historical stages. The period from ancient times to the 1920s belongs to the first stage, the Soviet period to the second stage, and the period of independence to the third stage.

**Theoretical and practical importance of work.** As a result of the analysis carried out the reasoning and provisions put forward in the dissertation will theoretically enrich linguistic science.

This study will give the necessary facts in writing new scientific works on the history of linguistics, especially in the field of phonetics and Phonology, in describing and formulating the phonetics of languages, in particular the system of phonemes, will be a necessary source for students of philological faculties of Universities, conducting special courses, preparing textbooks, conducting lessons on the history of phonetics and Linguistics.

**Approbation and application of the work.** The subject of the research was approved on December 15, 2008 in the Presidium of the Nakhchivan branch of ANAS, on June 03, 2009, it was approved by the Linguistics Problem Council of the Council for the organization and Coordination of scientific research of the Republic. The main content of the dissertation work is reflected in 27 scientific articles, conference materials and theses published in local and foreign scientific journals in different languages (Azerbaijani, English, Russian), as well as in 2 programs.

**The organization where the dissertation work is carried out.** The dissertation was completed at the "Linguistics" department of the Institute of Art, Language and Literature of the Nakhchivan Branch of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.

**The structure and scope of the dissertation.** The dissertation work consists of "Introduction", three chapters covering eleven paragraphs, "conclusion" and a list of used literature.

"Introduction" consists of 5 pages, Chapter I of 37, Chapter II of 39, Chapter III of 40, "Conclusion" of 3, the list of used literature of 14 pages. The dissertation consists of 242708 characters, 141 pages in total.

## THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

The **“Introduction”** section of the dissertation contains the information on the subject's relevance, the level of development, the object and subject of the research, goals and tasks, scientific innovation, theoretical and practical importance, information about the approbation, the name of the organization in which the dissertation is performed, its volume is indicated.

The first chapter of the dissertation is entitled **“Research stages of phonetics and phonology in Azerbaijani linguistics”**. In the paragraph 1 of the chapter entitled **“Phonetics issues in the work of Azerbaijani scientists and thinkers until the 1920s”**, it is pointed out, that until the 1920s, the spelling and pronunciation of letters were mentioned, as phonetics issues were practical in Azerbaijani linguistics. The number of vowels in the Azerbaijani language is not specified in the scientific literature as nine as it is now. We know that vowels in the Arabic alphabet consist of three literal signs. So, at that time, phonetics issues were written under the influence of the Arabic alphabet, and the authors also talked about the existence of two or three vowels in the Azerbaijani language. In addition, in those days, letters and sounds were often treated the same, they were not distinguished. Thus, the number of letters and the number of sounds are indicated the same.

Since the XIX century, many intellectuals have developed the idea that the Arabic alphabet is not suitable for the Azerbaijani language. The struggle for the reform of the alphabet in Azerbaijan began with Mirza Fatali Akhundov, which was later continued by many.

Until the 1920s, we did not find a special scientific source dedicated to phonetics in Azerbaijani linguistics. Some phonetics issues are also listed in appendices in vocabulary and grammar books. During this period, the activities of mainly representatives of literature, and not researchers in the field of linguistics, attract attention.

Paragraph 2 of Chapter I entitled **“Research period of phonetics and phonology in the 1920s-90s”** consists of 2



subparagraphs. In Paragraph 1 entitled **“The state of the study of problems of phonetics and Phonology in Azerbaijan in the 1920-70s”** it is stated that in the 1920s, that is, at the beginning of the establishment of Soviet power, theoretical linguistics was less developed than Applied Linguistics. Due to the absence of scientific specialists, more practical work took a key place in Azerbaijani linguistics. In the 1920s and 1930s, phonetics and phonology were studied for the purpose of teaching and learning, and were mostly studied at the level of school grammars and scientific-methodical works. Basic research in this field began in the 50s of the 20th century. The articles of G.Alakbarli and F.Kazimov are particularly noteworthy. In addition, G. Alekbarli wrote and defended his candidate's thesis entitled "Emphasis in Azerbaijani and Russian languages" (1946).

A.Damirchizade wrote his first monumental research work on phonetics. In addition, B.Chobanzade, M.Huseynzade, A.Efendizade, T.Hidayatzade, Z.Kh.Tagizade, A.Gurbanov and others are among the main authors of the study of theoretical problems of phonetics. And phonological problems are reflected, in particular, in small scientific studies.

In Paragraph 2 entitled **“The study of phonetics and Phonology problems in Azerbaijani linguistics in 1970-1990”** it was noted that since the 1970s, the number of works carried out in the field of phonetics and Phonology at the academic level has increased and new research works have been created.

During this period, the system of phonemes of the Azerbaijani language was studied in a fundamental way. A.Akhundov wrote two books in this direction.

Since the 1970s, work in the field of experimental phonetics has continued successfully. The dissertation works of M.Garayeva entiteled **“Intonation, grammatical features of intermediate sentences in different systemic languages”** (1976) and of A.Jafarov **“Intonation structure of complex sentences without interjection-contradiction in English and Azerbaijani”** (1975) are examples of this. During this period, Z.Kh.Taghizade's **“Introduction to experimental phonetics”** (1970), F.Agayeva's **“Syntax of oral speech”** (1975), **“Intonation of**

the Azerbaijani language” (1978), F.Veysalli's “Experimental phonetics” (1980, 1981) in 2 volumes written together with Z.Verdiyeva and F.Agayeva were published.

F.Jalilov's book “Morphonology of the Azerbaijani language” (1988) is one of the interesting works published during this period.

In the 1980s, the term contraceptive phonetics began to be used frequently. T.Hidayatzade's “Sonorous consonants in English and Azerbaijani” (1986), S.Tagiyeva's “Syllabification and the structure of language” (1986), F.Veysalli's works such as “Syntagm in German and Azerbaijani languages” (1980), “On the problems of contrasting phonology” (1986) are related to researches in this direction.

Looking at the history of the study of the problems of phonetics and Phonology, we see that the research in this period is quite numerous and diverse. With the coming to power of national leader Heydar Aliyev, linguistics, like other fields, experienced a period of development in Azerbaijan. The problems of phonology and phonetics were also among the main areas of research as an integral part of Azerbaijani linguistics. During this period, language sounds began to be studied from a different aspect, in relation to different levels, new directions of research arose in phonetics. Syntagmatic phonetics, simple sentence phonetics, complex sentence phonetics, morphonology and others have become new objects of study. In particular, large-scale works devoted to phonological problems, as well as dissertations were created, and the number of linguistic personnel in this area also increased.

Paragraph 3 of the first chapter is entitled **“Study of phonetics and Phonology problems in Azerbaijani linguistics in the period of Independence”**. During the period of independence, attention is paid to the development of Azerbaijani linguistics at the state level. This also has an impact on research in the direction of phonetics and Phonology.

In modern period the merits of such scientists as H.Hasanov, F.Veysalli, M.Yusifov, G.Mashadiyev, B.Khalilov, I.Kazimov and others should be especially noted.

In F.Veysalli's work “Phonetics and Phonology issues” (1993), the phonetic structure and phonological system of the language were

consistently interpreted on the basis of materials of different languages. The first volume of the work “Fundamentals of structural linguistics” (2005), written by the scientist in three volumes, deals with the issues of phonology as a whole. F.Veysalli translated N.S.Trubeskoy's “Fundamentals of phonology” into Azerbaijani and published it in 2001.

In modern Azerbaijani linguistics, along with orthoepy, the term orthophony is also used. F.Veysalli's “Orthophony (spelling) Dictionary of the Azerbaijani language” (2016) with a large working group was a novelty for Azerbaijani linguistics.

In the work “Fundamentals of phonetics of the Azerbaijani language” (2012), M.Yusifov spoke about problems such as phoneme and its functionality, types of phonetics, importance, system and structure of phonemes, phonetic units, evolution of phonemes, phonomorphology of vowels and consonants, transitions related to vowels and consonants, phonetic balance, phonetic phenomena, phonetic word creation, syllabic and rhythmic division, emphasis, phonetic actualization.

Recently, the most voluminous work devoted to phonetics and Phonology was prepared and published by the Institute of Linguistics named after Nasimi of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan “Modern Azerbaijani language. Volume I (Phonetics and Phonology)” (2019)

Looking at the latest achievements of Azerbaijani linguistics, we see that research in the field of phonetics and Phonology is of particular importance. In many of the studies carried out, the results were also obtained experimentally. In modern times, K.Alirzayeva, F.Aslanov, S.Zeynalova, L.Gurbanova, N.Hajiyeva, S.Cumayeva and others are among the scientists conducting research in this area. In particular, S.Zeynalova is one of the rare linguists engaged in research in Azerbaijan, as well as outside the country. Both Zeynalova's dissertation submitted for the Doctor of Philosophy degree and the dissertation submitted for the Doctor of Science degree are considered successful studies in the field of phonetics and phonology.

The second chapter of the dissertation is called **“Phonology issues in Azerbaijani linguistics”**. In Paragraph 1 of the chapter

entitled **“The main phonological problems of Azerbaijani linguistics”** it is revealed that in Soviet times, many Azerbaijani linguists studied phonology issues under the influence of Russian linguistics. Representatives of Azerbaijani linguistics such as F.Kazimov, S.Sadigov, A.Akhundov, G.Alakbarli conducted research under the leadership of Russian scientists, in particular S.I.Bernstein and L.R.Zinder. In the study of phonology, Russian linguistics was divided into two poles, the Leningrad phonological school and the Moscow phonological school. There were serious disagreements between the representatives of these schools. Followers of the Leningrad phonological school believe that to determine the phoneme composition, it is necessary to use both borrowed and national words. Representatives of the Moscow phonological school, on the other hand, believed that the phoneme composition should be determined only on the basis of the words of the Russian language itself. Azerbaijani linguistics is based on the functional theory of these schools due to the possibilities of the phonetic composition of the Azerbaijani language. In other words, Azerbaijani linguistics preferred to take into account the features of the Azerbaijani language during phonological research.

The main object of study of phonology is the phoneme. Here the phonological system of the language is examined. G.Kazimov writes that in phonology, the functional aspect of spoken sounds, phonetic units are studied in the form of systems.<sup>1</sup> According to F.Veysalli, phonetics and Phonology are different aspects of a single science: *“phonetics gives acoustic, articulatory and perceptive studies to phonology, revealing the exact facts after analysis with the help of modern electro-acoustic equipment and methods, and Phonology, based on them, gives them a linguistic interpretation in order to determine the phonological system of the language. These are the*

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<sup>1</sup> Modern Azerbaijani language (Phonetics and Phonology). Vol. I / M.Z.Naghisoylu, F.Y.Veysalli, I.B.Kazimov [etc.]. – Baku: Elm, – 2019. – p. 32.

*double wings of a science.*”<sup>2</sup> As we can see, F.Veysalli did not accept the separation of phonetics from phonology in a strict sense.

As in world linguistics, in Azerbaijani linguistics it is considered that the phoneme should be studied in two directions (phonetic and phonological). At the same time, they studied the problems of phonology in Azerbaijani linguistics without further separation from phonetics. In Azerbaijani linguistics, a phonological analysis and a physiological analysis of any spoken sound are given together. While phonology studies the functional quality of the spoken sound, phonetics also studies the acoustic, articulatory properties.

The state of scientific work in the field of functional phonetics does not satisfy F.Veysalli. F.Veysalli still believes that the phonetic form and phonological system of the Azerbaijani language have not yet been studied at the proper level from the point of view of universal linguistic methods and theories, and, in his opinion, the criteria used to determine the composition of phonemes are unsatisfactory.

Problems with the phoneme in Azerbaijani linguistics begin with differences in the content of the definitions given to the phoneme. The difference of the phoneme from the spoken sound, its distinctive features, the definition of the composition of the phoneme system of the Azerbaijani language were the actual problems.

Paragraph 2 of Chapter II is called **“Classification of vowel phonemes”**. In the 1920s and 30s, ideas about funds were given in accordance with the norms of textbook rules. In these textbooks it was shown that there are nine vowel sounds in the Azerbaijani language, they are divided into types such as thick-thin, rounded and unrounded, and classification according to the vertical position of the tongue is not mentioned. Open and closed types of vowels were mentioned only in textbooks published after the 1940s. Vowels were discussed extensively for the first time in Demirchizade's work “Sovtiyyat” (1947). Here he classified the vowels of the Azerbaijani language on four principles, studied the problem of long vowels and

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<sup>2</sup> Veyselli, F.Y. Functional grammar of the Azerbaijani language: phonemics and morphemics. Vol. I. / F.Y.Veysally. – Baku: “Prestige printing house ” – 2014. – p. 153.

short vowels. F.Kazimov also studied vowel sounds in terms of functionality in his article "The system of vowel phonemes of the Azerbaijani language", published in 1952. A.Akhundov also studied vowels in the phonological direction, as well as gave their statistical analysis. From his phonological analysis it can be deduced that the vowel phonemes of the Azerbaijani language have the following distinctive features: a) openness - closedness, b) front-restricted - back-restricted, c) rounded - unrounded, d) shortness - length, e) singularity - pairwise.

Paragraph 3 of Chapter II is called "**Classification of consonant phonemes**". This paragraph lists the classifications of consonants obtained by scientists in chronological order. Consonant phonemes have been classified both phonologically, physiologically-acoustically and statistically. Consonants in Azerbaijani linguistics were involved in research by A.Demirchizade, F.Kazimov, A.Akhundov, M.Yusifov and others.

A.Demirchizade believes that many consonants are formed on the basis of noise, and a certain part-on the basis of noise and harmony.

In his article "Comparative study of Azerbaijani and English consonant phonemes" (1961), T.Hidayatzade classified the consonant phonemes of the Azerbaijani language based on five principles. Those principles are: due to the participation of active conversational members; according to the place of formation; according to the method of formation; according to the condition of the soft palate; according to whether or not the vocal cords are involved.

A.Akhundov's physiological-acoustic classification of consonant phonemes according to the general tradition of phonetics according to the participation of the active part of speech (lip consonants, tongue consonants, pharyngeal consonants) is given in the current order.

Analyzing the consonant phonemes statistically, A.Akhundov obtained the following results: 1) for Azerbaijani consonants, the most important position is the middle of the word; 2) the sounds ğ and nı are not processed at the beginning of the word, and the processing of consonants at the end of the word is limited; 3) the beginning and the

middle of the word in the Azerbaijani language are more typical for tongue, slurring, jingling, noisy and mouth consonants; 4) sonorous consonants are used more frequently at the end of the word; 5) sonorous consonants are often used in suffixes compared to word roots.

In his research on phonological analysis of consonants, A.Akhundov came to the conclusion that, as in any language, there are distinctive signs of consonant phonemes of the Azerbaijani language. These distinctive signs are: according to the place of formation (lipiness, tip of the tongue, middle of the tongue, back of the tongue, pharynx), according to the method of formation (shaping, rasping, vibration, rasping-shaping, rasping-filtering, single-pass, double-pass), according to the participation of the vocal cords (deafness, tinnitus), according to the condition of the soft palate (nasal, oral).

In the 4th paragraph of the II Chapter entitiled **“Controversial issues related to the system of phonemes of the Azerbaijani language”**, problems that remain relevant in modern Azerbaijani linguistics related to phonemes are involved in the study. In studies, the number of phonemes from time to time was indicated differently. M.Huseynzade noted that there are 23 consonant phonemes in the Azerbaijani language, A.Demirchizade and T.Hidayatzade 25, F.Kazimov 39. In the book “The system of phonemes of the Azerbaijani language” Akhundov spoke about 18 vowels, 26 consonants, in a word, 44 phonemes in modern Azerbaijani. The scientist wrote in the book “Phonetics of the Azerbaijani language” that there are 40 independent phonemes (15 vowels, 25 consonants) in the phoneme composition of the Azerbaijani language. He did not talk for the second time about the diphthongs "ou", "öü", which he mentioned in his previous book, "closed vowel" and "open vowel", "mixed consonant" phonemes, which he noted are used only in suffixes. He explains this by saying that since these phonemes did not have an independent sound volume, he removed them from the list of independent phonemes. There is also a  $n_1$  consonant in Akhundov's list. The  $n_1$  sound was removed from the alphabet as a result of changes in the Latin-based alphabet in the 1930s and 1940s..

The following problems related to phonemes in Azerbaijani linguistics remain relevant and cause controversy:

- 1) The problem of considering long vowels as phonemes in the Azerbaijani language;
- 2) The problem of considering diphthongs as phonemes in the Azerbaijani language;
- 3) The problem of considering geminates as phonemes in the Azerbaijani language.

M.Huseynzade, A.Demirchizade, as well as F.Veysalli long vowels were not called phonemes. According to A.Demirchizade, there are no long and short vowels in the Azerbaijani literary language that have fully stabilized and acquired phoneme quality. Both scholars (M.Huseynzade, A.Demirchizade) claimed that extension is a characteristic feature of dialects.

According to the opinion of some scholars, long vowels can be considered phonemes because they cause meaning differentiation. G.Alakbarli, F.Kazimov and A.Akhundov called long vowels independent phonemes. G.Alakbarli considered only three of the vowels (ə, e, ö) to be long. According to F.Kazimov, there are 15 vowel phonemes in the Azerbaijani language, nine of which are short and six are long. A.Akhundov expressed his strong objection to the opinion of linguists who did not see them among the phonemes of the Azerbaijani language, citing the derivation of long vowels: *"Firstly, the issue of origin is not important in determining the phoneme, and secondly, even if it is important, long vowel phonemes in the Azerbaijani language are used in borrowed words, despite , is a product of the phonetic structure of the Azerbaijani language"*.<sup>3</sup> From the scientist's general explanation, we can come to the conclusion that, according to the requirements of modern phonology, the phoneme of a vowel should be explained not by its origin, but by the role it plays in the modern state of the language.

There are also disagreements among linguists on the issue of diphthongs. While F.Kazimov, M.Shiraliyev and A.Akhundov

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<sup>3</sup> Akhundov, A.A. The system of phonemes of the Azerbaijani language / A.A.Akhundov. – Baku: Maarif, – 1973. – p. 71.



recognized the existence of diphthong in the Azerbaijani language, A.Demirchizade, F.Veysalli, B.Khalilov and others called all sounds in the Azerbaijani language takavaz. Demirchizadeh divided the vowels into two parts, takavaz (monophthong), jutavaz (diphthong) due to denominator stability, and explained double-vowel as a feature of dialects. N.Mammadov came to the conclusion that although there is no diphthong in the Azerbaijani literary language, there is a diphthongization in dialects and dialects.

According to A.Akhundov, diphthongs appear in only 113 words in the Azerbaijani language. These gave 57 words processed with the diphthong "öü" (dülat, kürek, köuser, köşan, nöüba, töüba, etc.), 56 words with the phoneme "ou" (ouqat, ousana, gouga, douga, doushan, nowruz, etc.).<sup>4</sup>

Although F.Kazimov considers geminat (doubled consonant) phonemes in the Azerbaijani language as independent phonemes, A.Akhundov, A.Alekperov and F.Veysalli do not agree with this. Like A.Akhundov, A.Alekperov believes that no geminate can be an independent phoneme according to phonomorphological criteria. Calling geminates long consonants, F.Veyselli did not accept their existence as phonemes: *“The words we said above about long vowels can also be attributed here. it is strictly incorrect to compare the words /əmək/ and /əm+mək/. The first of them is a noun, and the second is a verb. The first is not divided into constituent parts, and the second structurally consists of two morphemes: /əm/+/mək/”*.<sup>5</sup> F.Veyselin's opinion is absolutely true. It is wrong to consider geminate as a phoneme by comparing words of the type əmmək-əmək, addım-adım, sallaq-salaq. Because there is a morphological border here, and geminate consonants in the Azerbaijani language cannot be an indicator of a morpheme.

The III Chapter of the dissertation is called **“The level of research of phonetics problems in Azerbaijani linguistics”**. In

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<sup>4</sup> The same with above. — p. 138-139.

<sup>5</sup> Modern Azerbaijan language (Phonetics and Phonology). Vol. I / M.Z.Nagisoylu, F.Y.Veyselli, I.B.Kazimov [and b.]. — Baku: Science, — 2019. — p. 236-237.

Paragraph 1 of Chapter III entitled **“Relation to the law of harmony in Azerbaijani linguistics”** it is noted that the most studied phenomenon in Azerbaijani linguistics is the law of harmony. In many scientific literature, the law of harmony was also called syngarmonism, harmonization, harmony, numbness. B.Chobanzade objected to calling it the “law of harmony”. The author spoke about replacing the term law of harmony with another, but he did not express a specific idea. The author does not explain the reason for this, indicating that the name does not comply with the event. M.Yusifov, on the other hand, considers it more correct to call the law of harmony in Azerbaijani linguistics, adopted by everyone in the same name, phonetic balance – sequence of vowels.

Although the law of harmony is occasionally involved in research in Azerbaijani linguistics, it is still not possible to find its universally accepted scientific description. In particular, there is no consensus on the types of this law. A.Demirchizade and M.Huseynzade talked about three types of harmony law (harmony of vowels, harmony of vowels and consonants, harmony of consonants), A.Akhundov did not accept the harmony of consonants and talked about two types (harmony of vowels, harmony of vowels and consonants). In the later period, we observe that the majority of scientists refer to A.Demirchizade in solving the mentioned problem. Both H.Hasanov and B.Khalilov divided the law of harmony into three types like A.Demirchizade. M.Yusifov and F.Jalilov accepted only the harmony of vowels.

Paragraph 2 of the Chapter III is called **“Phonetic phenomenon and substitutions”**. In Azerbaijani linguistics, the term “event” is used more often than the word “law”. There are such changes in the phonetic shell of the words in the language that they have not yet taken the form of a law and remain a phonetic phenomenon.

At present, the phonetic phenomena traditionally accepted by everyone are: assimilation, sound differentiation (dissimilation), rise, fall, displacement of sounds. A.Akhundov refers to breathing, sonification, sonorization, diphthongization, closure and "Gottol stop" to the phonetic phenomena used in a limited circle. The scientist

writes that he observed the last phenomenon in closed monosyllabic words in the Azerbaijani language. He could not give the equivalent of the "Gottol stop" event, which is also called by the term pharyngalization, in the Azerbaijani language. We do not find such a problem in the linguistic literature before and after him. In Volume I of the book "Modern Azerbaijani language" published by Institute of Linguistics named after Nasimi of ANAS, A.Akhundov worked on the section called phonetic phenomena and substitutions. The scientist does not mention the "Gottol stop" phenomena in this book.

In general, determining which of the phonetic events and laws is a law and which is an event in Azerbaijani linguistics is one of the controversial problems. A.Akhundov attributed lipization, thickening, thinning, shortening, loss of lipization (delabialization), deafening to phonetic phenomena associated with syllables. The scientist spoke in the section on the harmony of consonants with vowels as forms of manifestation of the law of harmony without lipization, thickening and thinning, therefore he did not need reinterpretation, but simply gave an explanation of the phenomena of shortening, loss of lipalization and deafening. F.Jalilov called deafening a phonetic law. M.Yusifov considered assimilation, sound adding, sound loss as a law, displacement and dissimilation as underdeveloped phenomena in full law.

If a difference in meaning occurs when phonemes in the language replace each other, then this phonematic substitution occurs, and if a difference in meaning does not occur, then phonetic substitution occurs. Studies show that phonetic substitutions are characteristic of the Azerbaijani language.

In general linguistics, there are two types of variations of sounds (spontaneous variations and combinatorial variations). *"From those mentioned, we come to the conclusion that phonetic phenomena in the Azerbaijani language belong to combinatorial changes."*<sup>6</sup> So,

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<sup>6</sup> Hajizade Kh.T. About the history of the study of phonetic phenomena in Azerbaijani linguistics (in 1920 – 60s) // – Nakhchivan : "Nakhchivan" University, – 2018. №3, – p. 133-139.

although the form of the word changes during phonetic substitutions in the Azerbaijani language, the meaning remains unchanged.

Paragraph 3 of the Chapter III is called **“Description of syllable in Azerbaijani linguistics”**. The issues of solving the syllabic problem in Azerbaijani linguistics are reflected here.

In world linguistics there are many theories about syllables. These include the theory of muscle tension, the theory of exhalation and the theory of sonority of syllables. According to the expiratory theory, a syllable is formed during exhalation. Vowels must be present in the spelling. In Azerbaijani linguistics, expiratory theory is used to determine a syllable. In most languages of the world, including Azerbaijani, a syllable is formed by a vowel phoneme.

Research related to syllables in our linguistic science was carried out on materials of the Azerbaijani language, mainly the syllabic features of this language were studied. It has been established that the concept of a syllable and the concept of syllable formation are not the same thing. Just as the morphological structures of the languages of the world are different, the sound composition of languages differs from each other. Therefore, the principles of spelling languages are unique. The concept of syllables can be found in all languages, but the types and kinds of these syllables are completely different.

The main problems associated with syllables include such issues as types and kinds of syllables, the role of vowels and consonants in syllabic types, syllabic triangles, syllabic types according to the power range of sounds, criteria for the syllabification of the speech flow.

In Azerbaijani linguistics we observe unanimity regarding the types of syllables. Thus, although the types of syllables are denoted by different terms, in Azerbaijani linguistics these types are defined depending on what sound the syllable begins and ends with. Syllable types are determined based on the phonemes included in its composition.

The fourth paragraph of Chapter III of the dissertation is called **“Main phonosemantic problems (accent and intonation) in Azerbaijani linguistics”**. This paragraph combines two paragraphs

called **“The Problem of Stress”** and **“Spheres of intonation research”**.

In the section **“The Problem of Stress”** it is noted that character traits, indicators and other features of accent were studied in the studies devoted to the issue of accent in Azerbaijani linguistics. In written studies, the stress has been interpreted, especially within Turkic languages. Thus, speaking about the stress and its indicators in a particular language belonging to the Turkic language family, the general and characteristic features of the Turkic languages are revealed. were also taken into account. The nature of the stress is discussed, especially its expiratory (strong) character, characteristic of the Azerbaijani and Turkic languages.

Speaking about the types of stress in Azerbaijani linguistics, here we mean syllabic stress at the end of a word and expiratory, that is, strong stress. In the written scientific literature and existing studies, when considering stress in words, phrases, compound words, as well as sentences, the characteristic features of the final syllable and expiratory stress are interpreted. In addition to them, suffixes that do not receive stress were mentioned, which is very important for explaining that the stress does not fall on the last syllable.

In general, in studies carried out using the traditional method, there is a lack of consensus on the place of stress in complex words and phrases. Here, too, there remains disagreement about whether these units have one or two accents. Sometimes the components of compound words are shown with a single stress, and sometimes they are explained in terms of “main stress”, “combining stress”, “primary stress”, “secondary stress”.

In the section **“Spheres of intonation research”** it is clear that intonation in Azerbaijani linguistics was studied mainly by F.Aghayeva, N.Mehdiyev, J.Akhundov, A.Akhundov. A.Akhundov spoke about the problem in “Syntagmatic Phonetics”. In general, according to Azerbaijani linguists, this phenomenon is related to supply. Therefore, intonation was studied as one of the problems of “sentence phonetics”. Experimental results were also obtained when studying intonation.

Currently, intonation is studied in various directions along with other areas of linguistics. The article by D.Yunusov entitled “On some features of intonation” (2017) examines the intonation features of a simple sentence. F.Veysalli studied the phonology of sentences, N.Hajiyeva studied phonosemantics, and I.Kazimov studied problems associated with intonation in phonosyntax. In Azerbaijani linguistics, intonation is considered as a phonogrammatic means, a syntactic and phonetic phenomenon.

**Based on the research and analysis, the following results were obtained:**

1. The history of the study of phonetics and Phonology problems in Azerbaijani linguistics should be divided into three periods, the period from ancient times to the 1920s should be attributed to the first stage, the Soviet period to the second, and the period of independence to the third.

2. Until the 1920s, phonetics in Azerbaijani linguistics was practical, so it was mainly about the spelling and pronunciation of letters, but they could not explain the main essence of the letter by sound. During this period, we do not find a special scientific work devoted to phonetics in Azerbaijani linguistics. Some phonetic phenomena are also listed in appendices in vocabulary and grammar books. The study shows that the applied field arose before the theoretical one and developed more widely.

3. In the 1920s, that is, at the very beginning of the establishment of Soviet power, nevertheless, theoretical linguistics has been little studied compared to Applied Linguistics. The initial reason for this was the lack of a scientific reference base and a shortage of scientific specialists. At that time, Azerbaijani linguists were engaged in more practical work in the field of phonetics. More phonetics issues were involved in the research, although the first small-scale scientific works in the field of phonology were created in the 1940s and 50s, serious researches belong to a slightly later period. In these years, the main researches in the field of phonetics belong to A.Demirchizade.

4. In the 1970s, research on phonetics and Phonology attracts with its academic level. Phonemes of the Azerbaijani language have been studied systematically. New topics such as “Syntagmatic

phonetics”, “simple sentence phonetics”, “complex sentence phonetics” have been created for Azerbaijani linguistics, and language materials have been investigated comparatively and experimentally. During this period, the basis of the morphonology of the Azerbaijani language was laid, the sounds of the language were studied in different aspects, in connection with different levels. The number of linguists conducting research in the direction of phonetics and Phonology has increased.

5. After the 1990s, a new period for phonetics and Phonology began in Azerbaijani linguistics, which was freed from the influence of Soviet ideology. We see that during the period of independence, attention was paid to the development of Azerbaijani linguistics at the state level. During this period, studies on the comparison of Azerbaijani language materials with other languages predominate. In addition to traditional phonetics, functional grammar, phonosemantics, phonology, phonosyntaxis were involved in the research, and experimental studies were carried out both in the country and outside the country. In the direction of phonetics and Phonology, translations were made from World linguistics into Azerbaijani, for the first time the “Orthophony Dictionary of the Azerbaijani language” (2016) was published.

6. The problems of phonology in Azerbaijan have been studied without further separation from phonetics, and the phonological analysis and physiological analysis of any speech sound have been given together. In Azerbaijani linguistics, the influence of Russian linguistics can be felt in the approach to the phoneme problem.

7. Both vowel and consonant phonemes are classified in Azerbaijani linguistics. Phonemes have been studied more physiologically. There are different opinions on the number and classification of phonemes of the Azerbaijani language. Considering geminates, long vowels and diphthongs as phonemes is one of the most controversial issues and the problem has not been resolved.

8. It is impossible to find a universally accepted scientific description of the law of harmony in Azerbaijani linguistics. In particular, there is no unified opinion on the types of this law. Which

of the phonetic substitutions is a phonetic phenomenon and which is a law is a controversial problem in Azerbaijani linguistics.

9. Refers to basic research on syllables, especially the study of types and kinds of syllables. In Azerbaijani linguistics, syllable types are determined depending on which sound the syllable begins and ends with.

10. In Azerbaijani linguistics, the types and nature of accent, especially the determination of the place of syllable stress, have been among the main researched problems related to accent.

11. In Azerbaijani linguistics, intonation was treated as a phonogrammatic tool, a syntactic and phonetic event, and was studied mostly within "syntagmatic phonetics" and "sentence phonetics".

12. A new spelling and accent dictionary should be compiled.

**The main content of the dissertation is published below reflected in scientific works:**

1. From the history of the study of the phonetics of the Azerbaijani language // "Heydar Aliyev 87". Materials of the scientific-practical conference. Nakhchivan Teacher's Institute, – Nakhchivan: Maktab, – May 5, – 2010, – p. 57-60.

2. On the study of the law of harmony // – Nakhchivan: Scientific works of Nakhchivan State University, – 2010. №2, – p. 157-160.

3. On the issues of accent research in Azerbaijani linguistics // Materials of the Republican Scientific Conference on "Development strategy of Azerbaijan and actual scientific problems" (Part I). – Lankaran: Lankaran State University, – 2011, – p. 146-148.

4. From the history of the classification of vowel sounds // – Baku: Scientific works of Baku Slavic University, – 2011. №2, – p.74-78.

5. About vowel substitutions // – Nakhchivan: Scientific works of Nakhchivan State University. – 2011. №2, – p.180-185.

6. Comparative phonetics problems of non-related languages in Azerbaijani linguistics // – Baku: Language and literature, – 2011. №4 (80), – p. 93-96.



7. History of the phonetics of the Azerbaijani language / – Nakhchivan: Nakhchivan Private University, program, – 2011. – p. 6.
8. Phoneme problem in Azerbaijani linguistics // – Nakhchivan: News of the Nakhchivan Department of ANAS. – 2012. №1, – p. 166-171.
9. On the researches of A. Demirchizade on the phonetics of the Azerbaijani language // – Baku: Philology problems, – 2012. №8, – p. 32-36.
10. On the history of the study of phonetics and phonology of the Azerbaijani language (from 1920 to 1960s) // – Nakhchivan: Scientific works of Nakhchivan State University, – 2012. №1, – p. 128-132.
11. Phonetics and phonology issues in Azerbaijani linguistics in the second half of the 20th century // – Nakhchivan: News of the Nakhchivan Branch of ANAS, – 2012. №3, – p. 146-153.
12. The role of A. Akhundov in the emergence of phonology in Azerbaijani linguistics // – Baku: Philology issues, – 2012. №7, – p. 29-34.
13. On researches of B.Chobanzade on the phonetics of the Azerbaijani language // Actual problems of Azerbaijan studies. Proceedings of the III International scientific conference. Baku Slavic University: – May 2-5, – 2012, – p. 240-244.
14. On the study of prosodic problems // – Nakhchivan: Scientific works of Nakhchivan State University, – 2014. №5, – p. 128-132.
15. On the issues of the study of consonant sounds of the Azerbaijani language // – Pavlodar: Bulletin of the Innovative Eurasian University, – 2014. №1, – p.119-123.
16. Some controversial issues related to the phoneme system of the Azerbaijani language // – Nakhchivan: Scientific works of Nakhchivan State University, – 2016. №6, – p. 45-50.
17. On F.Veysalli's researches in solving phonetic and phonological problems // – Nakhchivan: Scientific works of Nakhchivan State University, – 2018. №1, – p. 154-160.

18. On the history of the study of phonetic phenomena in Azerbaijani linguistics (1920-60 years) // – Nakhchivan: Scientific works of "Nakhchivan" University, – 2018. №3, – p. 133-139.

19. History of the phonology of the Azerbaijani language / – Nakhchivan: "Nakhchivan" University. Program, – 2018. – 12 p.

20. Investigation of issues of phonetics until the beginning of the 20th century in Azerbaijani language // "Language and culture of the nations of Russia and the world". International scientific conference. – Makhachkala: ALEF, – 19-21 September, – 2019, – p. 149-154.

21. The role of Afad Gurbanov in the history of the phonetics of the Azerbaijani language // Actual problems of modern linguistics. Materials of the international conference, – Baku: ASPU, – June 6-7, – 2019, – p. 66-68.

22. About phonosemantics of the text // – Drohobych: Humanities science current issues: Interuniversity collection of Drohobych Ivan Franko State Pedagogical University Young Scientists Research Papers, – 2020. Volume I, – p. 77-81.

23. On the teaching of phonetics // Curriculum reforms in general education: results and perspectives – 2020. Materials of the Republican scientific-practical conference. – Nakhchivan: School, – May 21, – 2020, – p. 216-219.

24. About the researches of phonetics problems of Nakhchivan linguists // Nakhchivan: "The meeting place of cultures", Proceedings of the international scientific conference. – Nakhchivan: Ajami, – October 22-23, – 2020, – p. 339-344.

25. The role of the phoneme in the semantics of the word / – Nakhchivan: Scientific works of "Nakhchivan" University, – 2022. №4, – p. 87-93.

26. Actual problems of the phonology of the Azerbaijani language // Materials of the III Republican scientific conference "Actual problems of the contemporary Azerbaijani language". – Nakhchivan: NSU publishing house, – March 30, – 2023, – p.116-120.

27. The level of development of Azerbaijani phonetics and phonology during the reign of national leader Heydar Aliyev //

"Heydar Aliyev and issues of national statehood". Materials of the republican conference. – Nakhchivan: "Nakhchivan" University, – May 25-26, – 2023, – p. 69-73.

28. Phonetic balance in the poems of Hasan Mirza // Materials of the international festival-congress "Return to Western Azerbaijan". – Nakhchivan: NSU publishing house, – November 23-24, 2023, – 2024, – p. 483-487.

29. Phonetic substitution in Islam Safarli's poems // – Nakhchivan: Scientific works of "Nakhchivan" University, – 2024. №1, – p. 124-128.

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