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The Russification Legacy of Historical Monuments of Uzbekistan

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***Abstract*---**This article illustrates the naming convention of historical monuments by the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union in Uzbekistan. The Russification is a form of cultural assimilation during which the non-Russian communities whether voluntary or involuntary gave up their culture or statehood or language in favor of the Russian culture. Undeniably, the Russification in the naming convention of Uzbekistan's historical monuments still bears its legacy. For instance, the names of archaeological finding on the territories of Selengur—Kulbulak and Teshiktash—pronounced in the Russian phonetics rather than Uzbek. Rather, Kulbulak is ought to be spelled Qulbuloq; and, Teshiktash—Teshiktosh.

***Keywords*---**historical monuments, naming convention, pronunciation, Russian language, spelling.

Introduction

Reviewing the lecture notes of the Historical Monuments of Uzbekistan Course reminded that our country has been part of the Soviet Union (1917s through 1991). Despite gaining independence, its legacy remains in the naming of our historical monuments. Therefore, it is important to revisit the issue and point out the original names of the historical monuments of Uzbekistan. The naming convention is a convention to generally agreed scheme for naming things. Moreover, the names of historical places due to their unique identity must remain intact in their spelling and pronunciation. Albeit, the Russian Empire in the early 1900s and then the Soviet Union architectural historians and scientist did not follow the principle of naming convention. These experts did not possess the native language skills in Uzbek or Tajik and their native language was Russian. There is a great difference in phonetics between Russian and Uzbek languages. The Russian alphabet does not have the letters q, dj, g', o', therefore, the naming of the historical monuments were done through the Russian phonetic pronunciation. For instance, Kashkadarya is spelled Qashqadaryo as it is

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pronounced. However, since the Russian native speakers spelled it Kashkadarya as they would pronounce it (Leopold et al., 2013; Santanam et al., 2012).

Argument

Since gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Uzbekistan has made successful progress towards Sovereign Democratic country. There are continuous improvements in the economic, cultural and educational fields and numerous initiatives are launched yearly. As the dean of the English Faculty 2, I detect ongoing educational progress and reforms (Yulianti, 2016; Latupeirissa et al., 2019). Therefore, one of the remarkable inferences I came across is the naming convention of historical monuments of Central Asia that was generally practiced during the Soviet Union. The main official language of the Soviet Union was Russian in addition to the native language of each republic under the United Soviet Socialistic Republics (USSR.) For instance, the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic had Uzbek language as its native and Russian language as being of part the USSR (Török & Přikryl, 2010; Del Monte et al., 1987).

Literature review
Legacy of Russification of the historical monuments of Uzbekistan

The available research does not examine the russification of the historical monuments but rather focuses on the geographical, political and the governance spheres influenced by the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union. There is only one article that sites the influence of the Soviet Union and how it russified the preservation history. The article is written by Craig Benjamin and published on July 20, 2018 and titled "Soviet Central Asia and the Preservation of History" (Benjamin, 2018). This article examines on how the Soviet Union focused on preservation history and in doing so inevitably resulted in its russification. It does not touch the issue of russification in the naming of these historical monuments. One other available research examines the political side of Russification and the influence of the Soviet Union on the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Government—"Redefining National Identity in Uzbekistan: Symbolic Tensions in Tashkent's Official Public Landscape" (Bell, 1999). However, this article only examines the political side of the country after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Obviously, the issue of russification has never been researched before because it has not been an issue. I believe that it was due to being part of the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union for over 70 years. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that we take a leading role in restoring our deep cultural, geographical, and customary traditions in our history (Seidenberg et al., 1984; Fischer et al., 1985).

Results and Findings

The lecture notes from the faculty course titled "Historical Monuments of Uzbekistan" clearly illustrate the issue of russification. Here are names that must be revised.

- Allakulikhan-Aliqulikhon
- Afrasiab-Afrosiyob
- Ak-Mosque-Oq Mosque

- Ak-Saray-Oq-Saroy
- Amudarya-Amudaryo
- Amudarya-Amudaryo
- Bogodur-Bahodir
- Buhara/Bukhara-Bukhoro
- Chimkurgan-Chimqo'rg'on
- Chirchik-Chirchiq
- Coy Krylgan-Kala-Qoy Qrilgan Qala
- Dashti-Qipchaq –Dashti-Qipchoq
- Er-Kurgan-Yer Qurg'on
- Fergana-Farg'ona
- Karshi –Qarshi
- Khorezm-Horazm
- Kipchak-Qipchoq
- Kitab-Kitob
- Kokand-Quqon
- Kumushkurgan-Kumushqo'rg'on
- Kushkurgan-Qushqo'rg'on
- Kuvasay-Quvasoy
- Kyzyltepa-Qiziltepa
- Mangishlak-Manqishloq
- Marakand-Maroqand
- Maverannakhr-Mowarounnahr
- Quran-Qur'on
- Shakhrisyabz-Shahrisabz
- Shash-Shosh
- Syrdarya-Syrdaryo
- Tazabag-Tozabog'
- Tillya-kori –Tillo-Kori
- Toprak-kala-Tuproq Qala
- Turkestan-Turkiston
- Zarafshan-Zarafshon

Additionally, I recommend creating a commission consisting of linguistic, cultural, architectural, and tourism experts to discuss and decided on the standardized procedure of conventional naming of our historical monuments in Uzbekistan (Shevchuk et al., 2015; Fesenko et al., 2011).

Summary

Since gaining our independence from the Soviet Union, we have achieved significant progress in educational, cultural and economic sectors. Teaching at the educational institution provides me with a plenty of opportunities to not only experience but also oversee these changes, particularly educational reforms. Whether we like it or not, Uzbekistan was a part of the Soviet Union for over 70 years including the Russian Tsarist Empire. Undeniably, this lengthy period leaves strong mark in every fabric of social, economical, cultural and political spheres. Therefore, it is of no wonder that we have the remaining issue of

Russification in the naming of our historical monuments in Uzbekistan (Thomson & Goswami, 2008; De Houwer et al., 2001).

Take the name of the famous architectural ensemble Lyabi-Hauz in Bukhara. The word 'lyabi' does neither exist in Russian, Uzbek or Tajik languages. There is a word 'lab-i' in Uzbek and Tajik languages with the literal meaning 'lip.' And, the same applies to the word 'hauz.' There is a word 'hawuz' or 'howuz' in Uzbek and Tajik languages meaning pond. Therefore, 'Lyabi-Hauz' must be spelled 'Lab-i Hawuz or Howuz' depending on generally agreed naming convention. This article examines the lecture notes of the Historical Monuments of Uzbekistan taught at our faculty. It has plenty of evidence of the russification legacy. Here are some examples. Badakhshan, Darya, Kashkadarya, Kulbulak, Pendjikent, Selengur, Surkhan, Teshiktash, Zamanbaba, and Zarafshan. In fact, the names of these cities and regions are spelled and pronounced as follows. Bodokhshon, Daryo, Qashqadaryo, Qulbuloq, Pandjakent, Sulung'ur, Surkhon, Teshiktosh, Zamonbobo, and Zarafshon (Garnov et al., 2021; Rinartha et al., 2018).

Conclusion and Recommendation

Evidently, the names of our historical monuments ought to be correctly spelled and pronounced otherwise, they do not represent our culture, customs and traditions. Therefore, I recommend revisiting the naming convention of the historical monuments of Uzbekistan in order to correct the spelling and the pronunciation. Moreover, based on the findings, I recommend establishing a national committee and a commission consisting of experts in tourism, linguistics, architecture, history, geography and cultural studies to come up with the standardized naming convention. Nowadays, more than ever, we need to revive and reclaim our national identity in the world stage. Uzbekistan is rich in history and the only way to celebrate it is through the proclamation of our linguistic pronunciation and spelling (Probyshevichy, 2021; Garnov et al., 2021).

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