

**VOWEL SYSTEMS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK: QUANTITATIVE  
AND QUALITATIVE DIFFERENCES**

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**Abstract.** *This article demonstrates a comparative analysis of the vowel phonemes in English and Uzbek. This research serves as identification of quantitative indicators and qualitative features of vowels in both languages. As a result of comparative-typological method, the study focuses on the contrast between the complex system of 20 vowel phonemes and the stable 6 vowel system of modern Uzbek language.*

**Key words:** *articulation, comparative analysis, vowel phonemes, monophthong, diphthong, qualitative difference.*

The phonological structure of a language is regarded as its foundation, and vowels form the core of syllable construction. English and Uzbek belong to entirely diverse language families—Indo-European and Turkic, respectively. This genetic difference generates significant contrasts in their vowel systems. Although the English vowel system is known with its complexity, length distinctions, and diphthongs, the Uzbek vowel system is classified by its stability and lack of phonemic length. The quantitative aspect primarily includes length of vowels, duration of phonemes` meaning. The qualitative aspect denotes the articulatory and acoustic properties of vowels, as well as tongue position, lip rounding and tenseness.

### **Methods**

This study is conducted using several manners in order to implement. The analysis deploys a comparative-typological method. The following frameworks

were analyzed:

Quantitative analysis: Computing the number of vowel phonemes, including monophthongs and diphthongs.

Qualitative analysis: Studying the articulation and the role of vowel length.

Acoustic Phonetics: Contrasting the vowel charts of both languages to visualize the “vowel space”.

### **Results**

During this research, several resources are mastered. For example, “English Phonetics and Phonology: A practical course” by Peter Roach can be empirical guide for English learners and researchers for dissecting English Phonology and Phonetics.

Through this study, these following deductive facts ensue:

#### **Quantitative Distinction**

The most magnificent contrast has to do with sheer number of vowel sounds.

In modern English, there are 20 vowel phonemes. This consist of 12 monophthongs and 8 diphthongs.

In the modern literary Uzbek language, there are 6 vowel phonemes: /a/, /o /, /i/, /u/, /e/, and /y/. It does not have diphthongs as independent phonemes.

#### **Qualitative Distinction**

English vowels tend to be “unstable”. A speaker's tongue often moves from on position to another within a single syllable, like /aɪ/ in buy. Uzbek vowels are regarded as strictly monophthongs; they are "stable" and do not glide.

Vowel Duration: According to English language, vowel length is phonemic. The difference between /i:/ (long) and /ɪ/ (short) can convert the meaning of a word, for example, sheep and ship. In Uzbek, vowel duration is not phonemic. While a vowel might be slightly longer in speech, it cannot alter the word's meaning.

### **Discussion**

The complexity of the English vowel system erects a high “density” in the vowel space, in that English has so many vowels, the acoustic distance between them is small. Accordingly, English learners often strive to distinguish between /æ/

(bat) and /e/ (bet). The system depends heavily on qualitative features and quantitative features.

Conversely, the Uzbek vowel system is “spacious”. An account of only six vowels, the acoustic boundaries are wider. However, an unusual qualitative challenge in Uzbek is the "o`" /o/ and "o" /ɔ/ distinction, which is often complicated for foreigners. Historically, Uzbek owned vowel harmony, a qualitative rule where vowels in a word must be all front or all back. Whereas literary Uzbek has largely lost this, it remains a qualitative ghost in various dialects.

Another major qualitative distinction is the Schwa sound (/ə/). In English, almost any unstressed vowel has tendency to turn into a schwa. Uzbek vowels maintain their attribute more consistently even in unstressed positions.

The first part of diphthongs is much longer and stronger than the second part. Foreign learners, therefore, always remember that the last part of English diphthongs must not be made too strongly. [29 page, 2]

### **Conclusion**

The vowel systems of English and Uzbek reveal two different phonological strategies. English utilizes a high quantity of vowels with intricate qualitative nuances like length and gliding to generate meaning. Uzbek employs a minimal, stable set of vowels. For a student of English Philology, understanding that English is “vowel-heavy” while Uzbek is “vowel-stable” is the first step toward acquiring perfect pronunciation and eluding the “phonological interference” of the mother tongue.

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