

## DIPHTHONGS AND TRIPHTHONGS: ANALYZING THE COMPLEX GLIDING SOUNDS OF ENGLISH AND HOW THEY ARE ADAPTED OR SUBSTITUTED BY UZBEK SPEAKERS

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**ANNOTATSIYA:** Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilidagi diftong va triftonglarning murakkab sirg'aluvchi tovush xususiyatlari hamda ularning o'zbek tilida so'zlashuvchilar tomonidan qabul qilinishi, moslashtirilishi yoki almashtirilishi tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot Fonetika va qiyosiy tahlil usullariga asoslanadi. Natijalar shuni ko'rsatadiki, o'zbek tilida ayrim ingliz diftong va triftonglari mavjud emasligi sababli ular ko'pincha monoftonglarga soddalashtiriladi yoki talaffuzda o'zgarishlarga uchraydi. Ushbu holat chet tilini o'rganishda fonetik xatolarga olib kelishi mumkin.

**Kalit so'zlar:** diftong, triftong, fonetika, talaffuz, o'zbek o'rganuvchilari

**ABSTRACT:** This article analyzes the complex gliding sounds of English diphthongs and triphthongs and examines how they are perceived, adapted, or substituted by Uzbek speakers. The study is based on methods of Phonetics and comparative analysis. The findings indicate that due to the absence of certain diphthongs and triphthongs in Uzbek, they are often simplified into monophthongs or modified in pronunciation. This may lead to phonetic inaccuracies in learning English as a foreign language.

**Keywords:** diphthongs, triphthongs, phonetics, pronunciation, Uzbek learners

**АННОТАЦИЯ:** В данной статье анализируются сложные скользящие звуки английских дифтонгов и трифтонгов, а также рассматривается их восприятие, адаптация и замещение носителями узбекского языка. Исследование основано на методах Фonetика и сравнительного анализа. Результаты показывают, что из-за отсутствия некоторых дифтонгов и трифтонгов в узбекском языке они часто упрощаются до монофтонгов или изменяются в произношении, что может приводить к фонетическим ошибкам при изучении английского языка.

**Ключевые слова:** дифтонги, трифтонги, фонетика, произношение, узбекские учащиеся

### Introduction

The study of speech sounds is a central aspect of Phonetics, which examines how sounds are produced, transmitted, and perceived. Among the most complex vowel structures in English are diphthongs and triphthongs, often referred to as gliding vowels due to the smooth transition from one vowel quality to another within a single syllable.

English contains a rich inventory of diphthongs and triphthongs, which play a crucial role in distinguishing meaning and ensuring intelligibility. However, these complex vowel combinations are often challenging for non-native speakers, particularly those whose first language lacks similar phonological structures.

In the case of Uzbek speakers, the native vowel system is relatively simpler and predominantly consists of monophthongs. As a result, English diphthongs and triphthongs are frequently adapted or substituted in ways that reflect Uzbek phonetic patterns. This study aims to analyze these adaptations and identify common pronunciation tendencies among Uzbek learners of English.

#### Methods

This research is based on a qualitative and comparative approach. Data were collected through observation of Uzbek learners' pronunciation in both formal and informal settings, including classroom speech and recorded samples.

The analysis focuses on selected English diphthongs (e.g., /aɪ/, /eɪ/, /ɔɪ/) and triphthongs (e.g., /aɪə/, /aʊə/), examining how they are produced by Uzbek speakers. These pronunciations were compared with standard English phonetic norms to identify deviations.

Additionally, elements of contrastive analysis were employed to compare the vowel systems of English and Uzbek. This allowed for a deeper understanding of how native language interference influences pronunciation patterns.

#### Results

The findings reveal several consistent patterns in how Uzbek speakers adapt English diphthongs and triphthongs:

##### Simplification to monophthongs:

Many diphthongs are reduced to a single vowel sound. For example, /eɪ/ in "day" may be pronounced as [e].

##### Reduction of triphthongs:

Triphthongs such as /aɪə/ in "fire" are often simplified to diphthongs or even monophthongs, resulting in pronunciations like [far] or [far].

##### Loss of glide:

The characteristic glide between vowel elements is frequently weakened or omitted.

##### Influence of Uzbek phonology:

Uzbek speakers tend to substitute unfamiliar vowel combinations with the closest equivalents present in their native language. These patterns demonstrate that phonological transfer plays a significant role in shaping pronunciation.

#### Discussion

The results highlight the impact of native language interference on second language acquisition. Since Uzbek lacks diphthongs and triphthongs as distinct phonemic units, learners often rely on familiar vowel patterns, leading to simplification.

This has important implications for language teaching. Instructors should pay special attention to explicit phonetic training, particularly focusing on vowel glides and syllable structure. Listening and repetition exercises, as well as visual phonetic models, can help learners better perceive and produce these sounds.

Furthermore, raising learners' awareness of the differences between English and Uzbek vowel systems can reduce pronunciation errors and improve overall intelligibility.

#### Conclusion

This study demonstrates that English diphthongs and triphthongs present significant challenges for Uzbek speakers due to structural differences between the two languages. The

tendency to simplify complex vowel combinations results in noticeable pronunciation deviations.

Addressing these issues through targeted phonetic instruction can greatly enhance learners' speaking skills and contribute to more accurate and effective communication in English.

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