

in Miftahush Shalihah. (2024). Translanguaging in YouTube Channel: A Case Study of Nessie Judge. DOI:10.47191/ijsshr/v7-i01-103.

7 Hoffman C. (1991). An Introduction to Bilingualism. New York: Longman. Cited in Miftahush Shalihah, 2024 / Translanguaging in YouTube Channel: A Case Study of Nessie Judge. DOI:10.47191/ijsshr/v7-i01-103.

8 Appel R., Muysken P. (1987). Language Contact and Bilingualism. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press. Cited in Miftahush Shalihah, 2024 / Translanguaging in YouTube Channel: A Case Study of Nessie Judge. DOI:10.47191/ijsshr/v7-i01-103.

9 Creswell J. W. Educational Research: Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research, 2012 (4th ed.).

10 Алия Ашим: воспитание детей в Америке, защита личной информации, бюрократия, казахи, не знающие истории [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n93jXQ\\_3a-E&list=PL3obZR9\\_IC6k0IeU8BTjBehzkJeC9suph](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n93jXQ_3a-E&list=PL3obZR9_IC6k0IeU8BTjBehzkJeC9suph)

11 Асем Жапишева. Новый Қазақстан / Парламентская республика / Независимые СМИ (Dope Soz 24) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ni5Qk39AReE>

12 Камила Смагулова: Алаш, Региональные герои, Интеллигенция (Dope Soz 27) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=si-e-FEjtk&t=1s>

13 Алия Ашим: эпоха Кунаева, декабрьское восстание, Казахский феминизм (Dope soz 87) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAVON7qdPOY&t=2s>

14 Алима Бисенова. Мамбет, стыд, культурные войны (Dope Soz 11) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACzskcPx4bM>

15 Данияр Алшинов: Новый год, токсичность и расстройство личности (Dope soz 46) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZ8\\_-XaMTAg&t=1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZ8_-XaMTAg&t=1s)

Материал поступил в редакцию журнала 04.10.2024

IRSTI 16.21.31

DOI: [10.59102/kufil/2025/iss2pp22-35](https://doi.org/10.59102/kufil/2025/iss2pp22-35)

U. Anarbekova

University of Technology and Engineering named after Sh.Yessenov, Aktau, 130000, Kazakhstan

### KAZAKH ORTHOGRAPHY: A STUDY ON THE NORMATIVE FORMS OF “KYRKUIEK/KYRGUIEK”

*This study examines the orthographic variation of the Kazakh word Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek (“September”), a subject of ongoing public debate regarding its correct spelling. The issue is significant for maintaining orthographic consistency and preserving cultural identity within the Kazakh language.*

*The aim of the research is to determine the normative spelling of the term through an analysis of orthographic dictionaries published between 1941 and 2013, and a sociolinguistic survey involving 367 participants from 17 regions of Kazakhstan, as well as from Turkey and Russia. The study also explores the historical and etymological development of the word and reviews its representation in explanatory dictionaries and online linguistic resources such as soztekser.kz and qazcorpus.kz.*

*A mixed-methods approach was adopted, combining historical-linguistic analysis with quantitative and qualitative survey methods. The survey assessed participants’ reliance on orthographic dictionaries, attitudes toward Kazakh spelling norms, and preferences between the variants Kyrkuiek and Kyrguiek. The findings indicate a strong preference for the Kyrkuiek spelling, despite inconsistencies in official sources over time.*

*The article advocates for the standardization of Kyrkuiek as the correct form and recommends including phonetic transcriptions in dictionaries to reconcile pronunciation with orthography. This research contributes to addressing orthographic ambiguity in the Kazakh language and offers practical recommendations relevant to language policy, education, and public linguistic awareness.*

*Key words: Kazakh orthography, orthographic dictionaries, orthographic norms, spelling standardization, Kazakh linguistics.*

## MAIN PROVISIONS

Orthography, the conventional spelling system of a language, plays a critical role in literacy and communication. It involves the norms and rules for writing words, including the use of letters, diacritics, and punctuation. Understanding orthographic norms is essential for linguists, educators, and language learners.

Orthographic systems represent spoken language consistently. Coulmas (2003) [1] notes that orthography is not just about spelling but includes punctuation, capitalization, and word breaks. Sebba (2007) [2] highlights that orthographic standardization often follows the development of print technology, while Crystal (2012) [3] observes that orthographic norms adapt to changes in language use and technology.

Orthographic norms facilitate clear communication and help preserve the historical and etymological roots of words (Venezky, 1999) [4]. In education, consistent orthographic rules assist learners in decoding and spelling words (Ehri, 2000) [5], especially in complex orthographies like English.

Orthographic dictionaries provide standardized spellings and serve as critical tools for maintaining orthographic norms. Scragg (1974) [6] emphasizes their role in language standardization, while Ziegler and Goswami (2005) [7] note their value in teaching spelling skills. In the digital age, online dictionaries offer additional features like audio pronunciations and interactive exercises.

The study of Kazakh orthography has become a significant focus in linguistics. This article builds on the work of notable Kazakh linguists who have contributed significantly to the field of orthography, including Akhmet Baitursynuly, Rabiga Syzdykova, Nurgeldy Uali, and others. Recent studies by Sarsenbay et al. (2023) explore the dynamic relationship between established orthographic norms and actual language usage, providing a contemporary context for understanding the challenges of standardizing Kazakh orthography. Sarsenbay et al. (2023) [8] highlight the interplay between established norms and actual language use (usus), reflecting both historical and modern linguistic practices.

The word "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek" illustrates the challenges of standardizing orthography. While the 2001 Kazakh Orthographic Dictionary [9] listed it as "kyrkuiek," Rabiga Syzdykova suggested using "kyrguiek" and advised against considering either spelling incorrect for a transitional period. The word "kyrguiek," however, has not gained widespread acceptance, highlighting that for a word to become an orthographic norm, it must be widely used and recognized.

Public and scholarly debate about orthographic norms in the 1990s led to the principle of aligning spelling with pronunciation. While some progress was made, words like "kyrguiek," "shegara," and "kogonis" remain inconsistent in spelling practice. Despite being included in dictionaries, these forms have not been widely adopted due to concerns over losing the etymological identity of the words.

The ongoing tension between spelling and pronunciation continues to challenge the standardization of certain words in Kazakh, as seen in the case of "September" (kyrkuiek/kyrguiek). Writing it with a "k" preserves its structure, while using "g" aligns with pronunciation but risks losing the word's roots.

## INTRODUCTION

Kazakh orthography plays a crucial role in the literacy and cultural identity of the Kazakh people. The first national alphabet, "tote jazı" (direct writing), was created by Akhmet Baitursynuly in the early 20th century, which accurately represented the sounds of the Kazakh language. However, subsequent transitions – such as the adoption of the Latin alphabet in 1929 and the Cyrillic alphabet in 1940 – led to numerous revisions in Kazakh orthographic norms. Key updates to the "Basic Rules of the Orthography of the Kazakh Language" were made in 1957 and 1983, with further revisions in publications like the "Guide to Kazakh Orthography and Punctuation" from 1959 to 2018. These resources have been pivotal in shaping and standardizing Kazakh writing.

The choice of this topic is justified by the ongoing debates surrounding the standardization of certain words in Kazakh orthography, especially the word "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek" (September). This issue, which resurfaces each autumn, remains unresolved despite repeated attempts at standardization. The persistent public and scholarly debates over this word's spelling underscore its importance in Kazakh language practices and its influence on language education and cultural preservation.

The relevance of this problem lies in its impact on the development of Kazakh orthography and the broader challenges of language reforms in Kazakhstan. The controversy surrounding the spelling of "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek" is particularly significant in the context of the ongoing transition to the Latin alphabet and the need for orthographic standardization.

The purpose of this research is to analyze the evolution of the spelling of "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek" and examine the sociolinguistic factors influencing its usage. The study aims to propose a normative spelling based on historical, linguistic, and sociolinguistic analysis.

The object of this study is the word "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek" and its variations in Kazakh orthographic dictionaries. The subject is the debate surrounding its spelling and the implications this debate has for the standardization of Kazakh orthography. The hypothesis of this research is that the spelling "Kyrkuiek" should be standardized due to its greater historical and practical usage, although "Kyrguiek" has been suggested for phonetic alignment.

The significance of this research lies in its potential contribution to the standardization of Kazakh orthography, and its broader implications for linguistic identity in Kazakhstan. This study will help clarify the debate around the spelling of "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek" and offer recommendations for adopting a consistent orthographic standard.

The scientific novelty of this work stems from its empirical approach to the orthographic controversy surrounding "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek." It integrates historical and sociolinguistic methodologies, filling a gap in the literature by providing new insights into this ongoing debate.

Prominent Kazakh linguists who have significantly contributed to this field include D. Sultangazin, A. Baitursynuly, E. Omarov, K. Kemengeruly, T. Shonarov, K. Basymov, K. Zhubanov, S. Amanzholov, M. Balakaev, N. Sauranbaev, N. Oralbaeva, S. Myrzabekov, A. Kaidar, R. Syzdyk, N. Uali, A. Junisbek, A. Aldash, A. Salkynbay, K. Kuderinova, G. Mamyrbek, and N. Amirzhanova, etc.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study utilized a combination of orthographic dictionaries, Kazakh language definitions, scientific works, and online linguistic resources to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the spelling norms of the word "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek" and its usage among the general population.

The study is guided by the following central research questions:

- *What are the historical and linguistic factors influencing the variation in the spelling of the word "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek" in Kazakh orthographic dictionaries?*

- *What is the public's preference for the spelling of "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek," and how does this relate to their attitudes toward Kazakh orthographic norms?*
- *Which version of the word "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek" should be standardized based on historical usage, linguistic analysis, and public preference?*

The hypothesis of this study is that "Kyrkuiek" should be standardized due to its greater historical usage and alignment with Kazakh linguistic norms. Although "Kyrguiek" is phonetically plausible, the historical and societal factors surrounding the use of "Kyrkuiek" suggest that it is the more appropriate form for standardization.

The research is divided into the following stages:

*Literature Review:* A thorough review of the historical development of Kazakh orthographic norms, focusing on key linguistic publications and dictionaries. This stage involves examining how the spelling of the word "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek" has evolved over time, particularly in significant orthographic dictionaries from 1988, 2001, 2005, and 2013.

*Historical-Linguistic Analysis:* In this stage, a comparative analysis of the orthographic dictionaries is conducted. The word "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek" is analyzed within the context of these dictionaries to identify the factors behind the spelling variations and the influence of socio-political and historical events on orthographic norms.

*Sociolinguistic Survey:* A sociolinguistic survey is administered to 367 participants from various regions in Kazakhstan, Turkey, and Russia. The survey collects both qualitative and quantitative data regarding their preferences for the spelling of "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek" and their general attitudes toward orthographic reforms in Kazakh. The results of the survey are then analyzed to gauge public opinion on the spelling issue.

The collected survey data is analyzed using statistical methods to identify patterns and preferences. Based on the results of the historical-linguistic analysis and sociolinguistic survey, conclusions are drawn about the most widely accepted spelling of "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek." Practical recommendations for orthographic standardization are then proposed.

The quantitative survey results were processed using basic statistical techniques to determine the percentage of respondents who prefer "Kyrkuiek" vs. "Kyrguiek." The qualitative data was analyzed thematically to identify the reasons behind respondents' preferences, focusing on aspects such as linguistic habit, historical knowledge, and perceived cultural significance.

Eleven orthographic dictionaries were analyzed to study the variation in the spelling of the word "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek." These dictionaries span several editions from 1988 to 2013, each reflecting different orthographic norms in Kazakh over time. The dictionaries used are:

The 1988 Kazakh Orthographic Dictionary (third edition) based on the Basic Rules of Kazakh Orthography from 1983.

The 2007 Orthographic Dictionary based on the 2006 revision of the 1983 rules, marking a key moment in standardization.

The 2013 edition, the latest update, available online at Emle.kz, reflects the most recent orthographic norms.

In addition to the dictionaries, Kazakh language definitions from prominent linguistic sources were referenced, including websites like soztekser.kz, emle.kz, sozdik.kz, sozdikqor.kz, and qazcorpus.kz, which offer tools for verifying correct spelling and linguistic usage. These resources provide insight into the frequency and nature of spelling issues in contemporary Kazakh language use.

More than 10 scientific works of Kazakh linguists and about 10 works by foreign scholars were used to support the study. Key works from Kazakh linguists like Akhmet Baitursynuly, Rabiga Syzdykova, and Nurgeldy Uali provided a theoretical and historical context for the analysis of orthographic norms in Kazakh.

*Participants*

The study aimed to assess the influence of spelling norms and orthographic dictionaries on the general population's language usage. A total of 367 respondents participated in the sociolinguistic survey, representing a broad demographic from Kazakhstan and beyond.

*Demographic Characteristics:*

Gender: 82% women, 18% men.

Age: 35.4% were aged 18-29, 28.3% were schoolchildren aged 11-17, 20.2% were aged 30-39, and 9% were aged 40-49, with 5-6% over 50 years old.

Education: 33.2% were students, 24% were graduate students, 16.6% were high school students, and other participants included those with secondary professional education, master's degrees, and doctoral degrees.

Geographical Distribution: The majority of respondents were from Shymkent (22.9%), Almaty (21.5%), Aktau (7.9%), and other cities such as Nursultan, Atyrau, Aktobe, Taraz, Mangistau, and Kyzylorda. The survey also included responses from Kazakh expatriates in Turkey and Russia.

Nationality: 95.9% of respondents were Kazakh nationals, with small numbers of Uzbek, Turkmen, German, Tatar, Karakalpak, and Kurdish communities who are fluent in Kazakh.

To ensure the reliability of the research, a diverse and representative sample was selected from different regions of Kazakhstan, as well as from the Kazakh diaspora in Turkey and Russia. The study used well-established orthographic dictionaries, linguistic resources, and rigorous survey methods to ensure the validity of the results. The use of multiple data sources and methods further enhanced the credibility of the findings.

The study's findings from both the historical-linguistic analysis and sociolinguistic survey suggest that:

The word "Kyrkuiek" has been consistently used in Kazakh orthographic dictionaries since 1988 and remains the most widely recognized form. This form has historical precedence and is more consistent with established orthographic norms.

Survey results indicate a preference for "Kyrkuiek," with 72% of respondents from Kazakhstan, Turkey, and Russia favoring this spelling. The survey also revealed that a significant portion of the population views the spelling "Kyrguiek" as a recent and unnecessary change, aligning with phonetic trends but lacking historical and linguistic justification.

Respondents from rural areas showed a stronger preference for "Kyrkuiek," while younger, urban respondents were more likely to accept "Kyrguiek" due to its phonetic appeal. This reflects broader sociolinguistic trends in Kazakhstan, where language reforms are often met with varying levels of acceptance across demographic groups.

This research is novel in its combined approach, integrating both historical-linguistic analysis and sociolinguistic survey methods to address a specific orthographic issue. By combining empirical data with historical documentation, this study offers new insights into how spelling conventions evolve in Kazakhstan and provides a comprehensive analysis of the public's role in shaping orthographic norms.

The novelty also lies in the interdisciplinary approach, drawing from both linguistic theory and sociolinguistic research to resolve a contemporary issue in Kazakh orthography. The results and conclusions of this study will contribute to the ongoing debate about the standardization of Kazakh orthography and inform future language reforms.

## RESULTS

This study examined the variations in the spelling of the word "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek" in Kazakh orthographic dictionaries and its usage among the general population. The results of both the historical analysis and the sociolinguistic survey are presented below, followed by an analysis of the main findings and their implications for orthographic standardization.

*Table 1. The progression of the word "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek" in the orthographic dictionaries:*

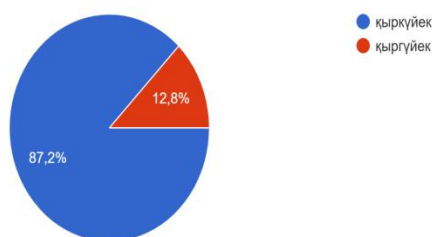
Year of publication	The word "September", "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek"
1941	Сентябрь (sentyabr) (p. 84)
1948	Сентябрь (sentyabr) p. 83
1963	Сентябрь (sentyabr) (p. 348)
1978	Сентябрь (sentyabr) (p. 337)
1988	Қыркүйек ( <i>ескіше ай аты</i> ) (Kyrkuiek) <i>an old name for the month</i> , (p. 228)
2001	Қыргүйек (kyrguiek) (p. 261)
2005	Қыргүйек (kyrguiek) (p.356)
2007	Қыркүйек (kyrkuiek) (p. 283)
2013	Қыргүйек (Kyrguiek) (p. 459)

The historical analysis of Kazakh orthographic dictionaries revealed that the spelling of the word "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek" has undergone significant changes over time. The word was initially represented as "Sentyabr" (the Russian loanword for September) from 1941 to 1978. In 1988, the spelling "Kyrkuiek" was introduced, reflecting the traditional Kazakh form. In subsequent editions (2001 and 2005), the spelling changed to "Kyrguiek," and by 2007, it reverted to "Kyrkuiek." However, in the most recent dictionary (2013), the spelling reverted to "Kyrguiek," highlighting the ongoing shifts in spelling conventions.

The sociolinguistic survey provided valuable insights into public attitudes toward the two spellings. Of the 367 respondents, 79.3% indicated they use spelling dictionaries for study, work, or personal interests. Among these, 61.3% use them specifically to check the correct spelling of Kazakh words. When asked which orthographic dictionary they rely on, 46.9% of respondents preferred the 2013 dictionary, followed by 22.9% who selected the 2007 edition and 18.8% who chose the 1988 edition. Despite the latest dictionary being favored for its perceived reliability, the results indicate a fairly balanced use of all editions.

*Figure 1: The Percentage of the Use of the Words "Kyrkuiek" and "Kyrguiek" According to the Survey Results.*

Сіз төмендегі нұсқалардың қайсысын дұрыс деп қабылдайсыз?  
367 ответов



(Translation: Question: Which of the following options do you consider to be correct?  
Options: blue - Kyrkuiek, red - Kyrguiek)

In assessing the correct spelling of various words, the respondents overwhelmingly favored the spelling "Kyrkuiek" for September. The survey question regarding the correct spelling of "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek" showed that 320 respondents (87.2%) chose "Kyrkuiek," while only 47 respondents (12.8%) selected "Kyrguiek," indicating that "Kyrkuiek" is seven times more common in practical use.

The comparison of spelling in different dictionaries revealed that while "Kyrguiek" is presented in both the 2001 and 2013 editions, it is significantly less popular among the general public. The results suggest that the formal orthographic norms, which prefer "Kyrguiek," are not fully aligned with common usage, where "Kyrkuiek" remains the preferred form.

The results highlight the complexity of orthographic standardization in the Kazakh language. While the formal spelling "Kyrguiek" is recognized in recent orthographic dictionaries, "Kyrkuiek" is by far the more widely used form among the public, suggesting that linguistic practices are more

resistant to change than official standards. This discrepancy illustrates the challenges in achieving uniformity between normative orthography and actual language use, particularly when public preference diverges from institutional recommendations.

Based on the findings, it is recommended that efforts be made to standardize the spelling of "Kyrkuiek" in official orthographic dictionaries, as it is the preferred form among the majority of the population. However, it is essential to recognize that language is dynamic, and public consensus may evolve over time. Educational campaigns, especially in light of the transition to the Latin alphabet, could help clarify orthographic norms and bridge the gap between formal standards and everyday usage.

*Summary of Key Findings:*

- "Kyrkuiek" is overwhelmingly preferred by the public, with 87.2% of respondents choosing this spelling over "Kyrguiek."
- The word "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek" has alternated in Kazakh dictionaries, reflecting the evolving nature of orthographic standardization.
- Despite official standards, actual usage favors "Kyrkuiek," indicating a gap between formal orthography and public language practice.

This study contributes to the ongoing efforts to standardize Kazakh orthography and provides valuable insights into the role of spelling dictionaries in shaping language use. Understanding the relationship between formal orthography and public preference is crucial for policymakers, linguists, and educators involved in language reform.

Given the continued use of "Kyrkuiek" in practical settings and the ongoing debates surrounding the word, it is likely that the spelling controversy will persist in the coming years. As Kazakhstan continues to navigate language reforms, including the shift to the Latin alphabet, further research on public perceptions of orthographic norms will be necessary to guide future decisions.

## DISCUSSION

The spelling controversy surrounding the word "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek" has been a recurring issue in Kazakh orthography, especially since 2018. This debate reflects broader tensions in orthographic reforms and the challenges of balancing linguistic tradition with phonetic adaptation. Our findings align with the historical discourse on this issue, highlighting its persistence and significance in the Kazakh language community.

The public debate over the spelling of "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek" gained widespread attention in September 2018, when the issue was highlighted in the media. Informburo Channel 31 broadcasted a report titled *"Kyrkuiek or Kyrguiek?"*, which criticized the use of the letter "g" in textbooks for words like "kyrguiek," "shegara," and "kogonis." Parents voiced concerns that teaching these spellings contradicted established norms, and the report suggested that with the transition to the Latin alphabet, the spelling would revert to "k."

The controversy continued with coverage on websites such as *kaz.nur.kz* and *bugin.kz*, where public figures like Bakhtiyar Maken questioned the legitimacy of the "g" spelling. Linguists, including Professor Rabiga Syzdykova, defended "Kyrguiek" based on phonetic harmony, while emphasizing that both spellings were correct during a transitional period. These discussions underscored the complexities of reconciling spelling and pronunciation in the Kazakh language.

From 2018 to 2023, similar debates resurfaced annually, often prompted by media reports, online discussions, and scholarly critiques. For example, in 2020, linguist professor *Anar Salkynbay* and linguist professor *Kuralai Kuderinova* revisited the issue, each offering insights into the historical rationale for the "g" spelling. While some linguists supported "Kyrguiek" as a phonetic reflection of spoken Kazakh, others emphasized the cultural and historical integrity of "Kyrkuiek."

These recurring debates illustrate a broader societal resistance to orthographic changes that deviate from traditional spellings. The strong public preference for "Kyrkuiek," despite its phonetic

challenges, reflects this resistance and highlights the importance of aligning orthographic reforms with public perceptions and linguistic heritage.

Our sociolinguistic survey revealed that **87.2%** of respondents preferred the spelling "**Kyrkuiek**" over "**Kyrguiek**," aligning with the dominant public sentiment observed in media discussions. Similarly, online resources, such as *sozdikqor.kz* and *soztekser.kz*, showed a clear prevalence of "Kyrkuiek" in usage and flagged "Kyrguiek" as incorrect. These findings reinforce the idea that "Kyrkuiek" is more widely accepted and used, despite periodic endorsements of "Kyrguiek" in recent orthographic dictionaries.

Historically, the spelling of "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek" has fluctuated, as documented in orthographic dictionaries from 1988 to 2013. This inconsistency reflects the challenges of establishing a uniform orthographic standard in a language undergoing significant reforms. Notably, the alternation between the two spellings since the 2001 dictionary has created confusion, further exacerbated by divergent views among linguists, educators, and policymakers.

The debate also sheds light on the *cultural significance* of orthographic norms in preserving Kazakh linguistic identity. Linguists such as *Rabiga Syzdykova* and *Nurgeldy Uali* have emphasized the importance of respecting the historical and etymological roots of words like "Kyrkuiek," while acknowledging the need for phonetic alignment. The dual association of "Kyrkuiek" with seasonal and agricultural traditions underscores its cultural relevance, which many Kazakh speakers are reluctant to lose.

However, the phonetic adaptation to "Kyrguiek," particularly in spoken language, highlights the natural evolution of linguistic practices. This creates a *paradox*: should orthography prioritize historical and cultural preservation or adapt to phonetic realities? As seen in other languages, such as English, resolving such tensions often involves integrating *phonetic transcriptions* into dictionaries to bridge the gap between spelling and pronunciation.

Media coverage has played a pivotal role in keeping this debate alive. Reports like those from *Informburo Channel 31*, *kaz.nur.kz*, and *tilalemi.kz* have amplified public awareness and facilitated discussions among linguists, educators, and the general public. However, despite this heightened visibility, the issue remains unresolved, with no clear consensus on which spelling should be standardized. The persistent attention from both scholars and the public suggests that this debate is far from over and will likely resurface as Kazakhstan continues its transition to the Latin alphabet.

The findings of this study, coupled with the recurring debates in media and academic circles, underscore the need for a more inclusive approach to orthographic reform. Efforts to standardize Kazakh orthography should prioritize public engagement, ensuring that proposed changes align with both historical conventions and contemporary usage. Incorporating *phonetic transcriptions* in dictionaries, as suggested in this study, could provide a practical solution, allowing for accurate pronunciation while preserving traditional spellings.

The findings of this study on the spelling of "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek" are consistent with the broader trends in Kazakh orthography and language usage, revealing a clear preference for the spelling "Kyrkuiek" over "Kyrguiek". Both the survey results and online dictionary data provide substantial evidence for this preference, demonstrating the prevalence of the "Kyrkuiek" form in both everyday use and authoritative linguistic resources. This discussion will examine the implications of these findings, compare them with previous studies, and explore potential solutions to the issues surrounding Kazakh orthography.

The sociolinguistic survey of 367 participants, alongside the findings from online dictionaries, supports the conclusion that "Kyrkuiek" is the dominant form. The survey showed that 87.2% of respondents preferred "Kyrkuiek," aligning with the findings from several major online platforms. For example, *sozdikqor.kz* reported 1,263 instances of "Kyrkuiek" compared to only 13 for "Kyrguiek," and *qazcorpus.kz* also showed a stark contrast, with "Kyrkuiek" appearing far more frequently than "Kyrguiek." On *sozdik.kz*, "Kyrkuiek" was present, while "Kyrguiek" was absent. These data highlight a significant discrepancy in the usage of the two spellings in widely accessible online dictionaries, reinforcing the popularity of "Kyrkuiek."



Moreover, *soztekser.kz* marked "Kyrguiek" as incorrect in a sentence example, suggesting that "Kyrkuiek" is the preferred and correct spelling. This observation further supports the survey results, which indicate that "Kyrkuiek" is not only more widely accepted but also considered the standard spelling in the majority of linguistic contexts, including online platforms.

Beyond the question of spelling, it is essential to explore the lexical and etymological significance of the word "Kyrkuiek." The 2008 Explanatory Dictionary of the Kazakh Language defines "Kyrkuiek" as September, specifically the first month of autumn, a meaning that connects the word to Kazakh cultural and agricultural practices. The Fifteen-Volume Dictionary of the Kazakh Literary Language provides an additional ethnographic layer, suggesting that "Kyrkuiek" also refers to a period linked to animal husbandry, further deepening its cultural and historical relevance.

In contrast, the 2013 Kazakh Dictionary introduces the spelling "Kyrguiek" and adds an additional meaning, associating the word with winter headgear for rams and goats, and the lambing period. While these additional definitions are significant, the historical and agricultural roots of "Kyrkuiek" should be considered in maintaining the integrity of the word's original form. N. Uali's etymological analysis links "Kyrkuiek" to the term "Kyr kuegi," referring to the period before rut for certain animals, suggesting a connection between the word and the timing of seasonal changes in Kazakh pastoral life.

The central issue in this debate lies in the paradox between correct pronunciation and spelling. While the official orthographic standard favors the spelling "Kyrkuiek," pronunciation tends to align more closely with "Kyrguiek." This tension between the written and spoken forms of the word creates challenges for both language users and language authorities. The phonetic adaptation of "Kyrkuiek" to "Kyrguiek" is widespread, especially in spoken language, yet the spelling convention has remained largely unchanged in official documents and dictionaries.

The discrepancy between spelling and pronunciation is not unique to Kazakh and is not often addressed by including phonetic transcription in dictionaries. This method could allow both the etymologically accurate spelling and the phonetic form to coexist. As seen in English dictionaries, where words like "mother" are presented with their phonetic transcription (e.g., mother ['mʌðə]), Kazakh dictionaries could adopt a similar approach. Presenting the word "Kyrkuiek" with a phonetic transcription like "Kyrkuiek [Kyrguiek]" would provide clarity, especially for learners, and preserve the integrity of the spelling while facilitating correct pronunciation.

#### *Integration of Phonetic Transcription in Kazakh Orthography*

Incorporating both the standard spelling and phonetic transcription in dictionaries would provide a practical solution to the spelling-pronunciation issue. This approach would be particularly beneficial for words like "Kyrkuiek," which are pronounced differently from their written form. It would help to:

- *Bridge the gap between written and spoken language, ensuring consistency in pronunciation while maintaining the traditional spelling.*
- *Enhance linguistic education by making it easier for learners to understand how to pronounce words accurately, particularly those with significant spelling-pronunciation differences.*
- *Preserve the historical and cultural integrity of the language by retaining traditional spellings, while acknowledging the modern pronunciation shifts that occur in everyday use.*

The findings from this study are consistent with previous research on Kazakh orthography, including the work of Syzdykova (2005), who advocated for a flexible approach to spelling, allowing for both historical forms and phonetic adaptations during periods of transition. The results also align with Tasimov (2010), who discussed the challenges of enforcing orthographic norms when public usage diverges from formal standards. This study confirms that while "Kyrguiek" is gaining some acceptance in modern media and official discourse, the spelling "Kyrkuiek" remains the preferred form in everyday use.

Given the findings of this study, it is recommended that Kazakh orthographic dictionaries adopt a dual approach: standardizing the spelling "Kyrkuiek" while providing phonetic transcriptions for words that experience significant pronunciation shifts. This could help resolve the

tension between orthographic rules and pronunciation practices, improving both language teaching and public understanding of orthographic norms.

Additionally, linguistic authorities should consider expanding public education campaigns to clarify the rationale behind orthographic reforms and the use of phonetic transcription, ensuring that both the standard spelling and correct pronunciation are understood and accepted by the broader population.

As Kazakhstan continues its linguistic reforms and transitions to the Latin alphabet, further studies should explore the evolving relationship between orthographic norms and public usage. Longitudinal studies could track changes in spelling preferences over time, particularly in response to shifts in education, media, and online platforms. Additionally, the role of digital tools and online resources in shaping orthographic practices will become increasingly important, and future research should examine their impact on language standardization.

## CONCLUSION

This study aimed to explore the variation in the spelling of the word "Kyrkuiek/Kyrguiek" in Kazakh orthography, examine public attitudes toward these spellings, and assess the historical and etymological factors that have influenced their usage. The research methods employed in this study included *historical-linguistic analysis*, *sociolinguistic surveys*, and the review of *online dictionaries* and *Kazakh language resources*. These methods allowed for a comprehensive examination of both the formal orthographic norms and actual language practices surrounding the spelling of this word.

The findings of this study indicate that "**Kyrkuiek**" is the preferred spelling among the Kazakh-speaking public, with 87.2% of survey respondents favoring it over "**Kyrguiek**". This preference is reflected in *online dictionaries* and resources, where "**Kyrkuiek**" appears far more frequently than "**Kyrguiek**". Despite the official orthographic norms, which have fluctuated between the two spellings, "**Kyrkuiek**" continues to be widely used in practice. The survey and dictionary data suggest that "**Kyrkuiek**" remains more closely aligned with traditional Kazakh linguistic forms, while "**Kyrguiek**" is viewed as a more recent phonetic adaptation that has not yet gained significant traction.

The *etymology* of the word "Kyrkuiek" is tied to cultural and historical roots, particularly in relation to the timing of animal husbandry activities in Kazakhstan, which lends further importance to preserving the traditional form. Although "**Kyrguiek**" is phonetically plausible and is included in more recent orthographic publications, it is not widely accepted by the general public, reflecting a resistance to spelling reforms that diverge from established norms.

The study also identified a *paradox* between the correct pronunciation and official spelling, with "**Kyrkuiek**" being pronounced as "**Kyrguiek**" in spoken language. This discrepancy highlights the need for greater flexibility in the approach to Kazakh orthography, particularly in cases where phonetic pronunciation conflicts with traditional spelling.

The results of this study suggest several directions for future research in the field of Kazakh orthography. First, further studies could investigate the impact of *phonetic transcription* in Kazakh dictionaries, providing both the standard spelling and its phonetic representation. This dual approach could help resolve the tension between pronunciation and spelling, benefiting both language learners and everyday users of the language.

Additionally, *longitudinal studies* could track changes in public attitudes toward orthographic reforms as Kazakhstan continues to transition to the **Latin alphabet**. The findings from such studies could provide valuable insights into the challenges of standardizing Kazakh orthography while balancing tradition and modernity. Moreover, future research could focus on the role of *digital platforms* and *online resources* like *soztekser.kz*, *emle.kz*, and *qazcorpus.kz* in shaping public perceptions of orthographic norms and facilitating their acceptance.

The implementation of phonetic transcription in Kazakh dictionaries, as well as continued efforts to educate the public about orthographic norms, could lead to a more consistent and accepted

approach to Kazakh orthography. By bridging the gap between formal spelling rules and actual pronunciation, this initiative would help enhance both the *clarity* and *accuracy* of Kazakh language instruction.

Furthermore, the findings of this study underscore the importance of *public engagement* in language reform processes. In future language policy initiatives, *public opinion* should be considered more systematically to ensure that orthographic changes align with the linguistic habits and preferences of the population.

In conclusion, while the standardization of Kazakh orthography remains a complex and ongoing process, this study contributes valuable insights into the dynamics between *institutional spelling norms* and *public usage*. The preference for "Kyrkuiek" over "Kyrguiek" highlights the challenges of orthographic reforms in languages undergoing significant transitions, and the findings provide a foundation for further investigation into how Kazakh orthography can be standardized while respecting the linguistic traditions of the Kazakh people.

## REFERENCES

- 1 Coulmas, F. (2003). Writing Systems: An Introduction to their Linguistic Analysis. Cambridge University Press.
- 2 Sebba, M. (2007). Spelling and Society: The Culture and Politics of Orthography around the World. Cambridge University Press.
- 3 Crystal, D. (2012). Spell It Out: The Curious, Enthralling and Extraordinary Story of English Spelling. Profile Books.
- 4 Venezky, R. L. (1999). The American Way of Spelling: The Structure and Origins of American English Orthography. Guilford Press., Developmental Dyslexia, and Skilled Reading across Languages: A Psycholinguistic Grain Size Theory. Psychological Bulletin, 131(1), 3-29.
- 5 Ehri, L. C. (2000). Learning to Read and Learning to Spell: Two Sides of a Coin. Topics in Language Disorders, 20(3), 19-36.
- 6 Scragg, D. G. (1974). A History of English Spelling. Manchester University Press.
- 7 Ziegler, J. C., & Goswami, U. (2005). Reading Acquisition
- 8 Sarsenbay, Zh., Salkynbay, A., Ramazanov, Sh., Ashirova, A., Igilikoba, S., Alimtayeva, L., Kaspikhan, B. (2023) Modern Kazakh Language Trends: Norms and Usus Features. International Journal of Society, Culture and Language, 11(3), 188-201. <https://doi.org/10.22034/ijsc.2023.2006970.3096>
- 9 Aldasheva, A., Abdirakhmanov, A., Kaliyev, B., Kalybaeva, A., Netaliyeva, K., Saliyeva, U., Ualiev, N. Kazakh tilinin orfografiyalyk sozdigi [Orthographic dictionary of the Kazakh language] (Kazakhstan, 1988) [In Kazakh].
- 10 Syzdyk, R. Kazakh tilinin anyktagyshy (emle, tynys belgileri, soz sazy)[Dictionary of the Kazakh language (spelling, punctuation, vocabulary)] (Elorda, 2000). [In Kazakh].
- 11 Kuderinova, K. (2024). Kazakh public speaking: language norm, speech ethics, speech structure. Eurasian Journal of Philology: Science and Education, 193(1), 65–76. <https://doi.org/10.26577/EJPh.2024.v193.i1.ph6> [In Kazakh].
- 12 Beremkul, Z. Kyrkuiek ili Kyrguiek? Roditelei smutilo napisane slova “sentyabr” v uchebnike [Kyrkuiek or Kyrguiek? Parents Confused by the Spelling of the Word "September" in the Textbook] (Infroomburo31, 2018). Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=506wPDVv1AQ> [In Russian].(accessed 12.04.2024)
- 13 Syzdyk, R., Ualiuli, N., Kuderinova, Isaeva Zh., Amirzhanova, N. (2007). Kazakh tilinin orfografiyalyk sozdigi [Orthographic dictionary of the Kazakh language]. Dyke-Press. [In Kazakh].
- 14 Ualiuli, N., Kuderinova, Isaeva Zh., Amirzhanova, N., Amirbekova, A. (2013). Orfografiyalyk sozdik [Orthographic dictionary]. Almaty. [In Kazakh].
- 15 Tasymov, A. (2010) Emle sozdikteri eldi adastyrmасыn [Don't let spelling dictionaries mislead the nation]. Anatili.kazgazeta.kz Available at: <https://anatili.kazgazeta.kz/news/4572> [In Kazakh]. (accessed 10.05.2024)

Received: 05.01.2025

## **Қазақ орфографиясы: «Қыркүйек/қыргүйек» сөзінің нормативтік сипатын зерттеу** Ұ.Ұ. Анарбекова

Ш.Есенов атындағы Каспий мемлекеттік технологиялар және инжиниринг университеті,  
Ақтау, 130000, Қазақстан Республикасы

*Бұл зерттеу жыл сайын "қыркүйек/қыргүйек" сөзінің дұрыс жазылуы төңірегінде талқыланатын орфографиялық вариациясын қарастырады. Бұл талқылау қазақ тіліндегі орфографиялық бірізділік пен мәдени болмысты сақтау үшін маңызды. Зерттеудің мақсаты – 1941 жылдан 2013 жылға дейінгі орфографиялық сөздіктерді талдау арқылы терминнің нормативтік жазылуын анықтау және Қазақстанның 17 өңірінен, сондай-ақ Түркия мен Ресейден 367 қатысушыны қамтитын социолингвистикалық сауалнама жүргізу. Сонымен қатар, сөздің тарихи және этимологиялық дамуы зерттеліп, түсіндірме сөздіктер мен [soztekser.kz](http://soztekser.kz) және [qazcorpus.kz](http://qazcorpus.kz) сияқты онлайн лингвистикалық ресурстардағы көрінісі қарастырылды.*

*Зерттеуде тарихи-лингвистикалық талдау мен сауалнама әдістемелері қолданылған аралас әдіс пайдаланылды. Сауалнама қатысушылардың орфографиялық сөздіктерді пайдалануын, қазақ тілінің орфографиялық нормаларына деген көзқарастарын және "қыркүйек" немесе "қыргүйек" нұсқаларының қайсысын таңдайтынын бағалады. Нәтижелер көрсеткендей, сөздіктердегі әртүрлілікке қарамастан, "қыркүйек" жазылуы басымдыққа ие.*

*Мақала "қыркүйек" жазылуын стандарттау қажеттігін дәлелдеп, сөздікке фонетикалық транскрипцияны енгізуді ұсынады, бұл жазу мен айтылу арасындағы ашақтықты жоюға ықпал етеді. Бұл зерттеу орфографиялық түсінбеушіліктерді шешіп, тіл саясаты, білім беру және қоғамдық түсінік үшін маңызды саналатын орфографиялық стандарттауды жетілдіруге бағытталған практикалық ұсыныстар береді.*

*Кілт сөздер: қазақ орфографиясы, орфографиялық сөздіктер, орфографиялық нормалар, жазуды стандарттау, қазақ тіл білімі.*

### **ӘДЕБИЕТТЕР ТІЗІМІ**

- 1 Coulmas F. Writing Systems: An Introduction to their Linguistic Analysis. Cambridge University Press. – 2003.
- 2 Sebba M. Spelling and Society: The Culture and Politics of Orthography around the World. Cambridge University Press. – 2007.
- 3 Crystal D. Spell It Out: The Curious, Enthralling and Extraordinary Story of English Spelling. Profile Books. – 2012.
- 4 Venezky, R. L. The American Way of Spelling: The Structure and Origins of American English Orthography. Guilford Press. – 1999.
- 5 Ehri L. C. Learning to Read and Learning to Spell: Two Sides of a Coin. Topics in Language Disorders, 20(3). – 2000. – Pp.19-36.
- 6 Scragg D. G. A History of English Spelling. Manchester University Press.
- 7 Ziegler, J. C., & Goswami, U. (2005). Reading Acquisition, Developmental Dyslexia, and Skilled Reading across Languages: A Psycholinguistic Grain Size Theory. Psychological Bulletin. – 1974. – 131(1). – Pp. 3-29.
- 8 Sarsenbay Zh., Salkynbay A., Ramazanova Sh., Ashirova A. Igilikoba, S. Alimtayeva, L. Kaspikhan, B. Modern Kazakh Language Trends: Norms and Usus Features. International Journal of Society, Culture and Language. – 2023. – 11(3). – Pp. 188-201. <https://doi.org/10.22034/ijscsl.2023.2006970.3096>
- 9 Алдашева А., Әбдрахманова А., Қалиев Б., Қалыбаева А., Неталиева К., Уәлиев Н., Қазақ тілінің орфографиялық сөздігі. – Алматы: Қазақстан, 1988. – 400 б.
- 10 Сыздық Р.С. Қазақ тілінің анықтағышы (емле, тыныс белгілері, сөз сазы). – Астана: Елорда, 2000. – 532 б.

- 11 Күдерінова Қ.Б. Қазақ шаршысөзі: тілдік нормасы, сөз әдебі, құрылымы// ҚазҰУ Хабаршысы, фил. сер. – 2024. – Т. 193. №1, 65-76 бб.
- 12 Беремкул З. Қыркүйек әлде қыргүйек? Ата-аналар оқулықтағы «қыркүйек» сөзінің жазылуынан жаңылды [Электрон.ресурс]. – 2018. – URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=506wPDVv1AQ> (қаралған күні: 12.04.2024).
- 13 Сыздық Р., Уәлиұлы Н., Фазылжанова А., Күдерінова Қ., Ғ.Әнес. Орфографиялық сөздік. – Алматы: Тіл білімі институты, 2007. – 480 б.
- 14 Уәлиұлы Н., Фазылжанова А., Күдерінова Қ., Исаева Ж., Әміржанова Н., Әмірбекова А. Орфографиялық сөздік/алтыншы басылым. – Алматы: Дәуір, 2013. – 720 б.
- 15 Тасымов А. Емле сөздіктері елді адастырмасын. [Электрон.ресурс]. – 2010– URL: <https://anatili.kazgazeta.kz/news/4572>. (қаралған күні: 10.05.2024).

Материал 05.01.2025 баспаға түсті

### **Казахская орфография: исследование нормативного характера слова «Кыркүйек/Кыргүйек».**

Ұ.Ұ. Анарбекова

Каспийский государственный университет технологий и инжиниринга имени Ш. Есенова, Актау, 130000, Республика Казахстан

*В данном исследовании рассматривается орфографическая вариативность казахского слова «Кыркүйек/Кыргүйек», означающего «сентябрь», которое ежегодно вызывает споры о правильности его написания. Этот вопрос имеет важное значение для сохранения орфографической целостности и культурной идентичности казахского языка. Цель исследования – определить нормативное написание термина путем анализа орфографических словарей с 1941 по 2013 годы, а также проведения социолингвистического опроса с участием 367 респондентов из 17 регионов Казахстана, а также из Турции и России. Кроме того, изучалось историческое и этимологическое развитие слова, а также его представление в толковых словарях и онлайн-ресурсах, таких как soztekser.kz и qazscopus.kz.*

*В исследовании использован смешанный метод, включающий историко-лингвистический анализ и методику опросов. Опрос оценивал использование участниками орфографических словарей, их отношение к нормам казахского правописания и предпочтение между вариантами «Кыркүйек» или «Кыргүйек». Результаты показали, что написание «Кыркүйек» пользуется подавляющим предпочтением, несмотря на несоответствия в словарях с течением времени.*

*В статье аргументируется необходимость стандартизации написания «Кыркүйек» и предлагается включение фонетической транскрипции в словари для устранения разрыва между написанием и произношением. Данное исследование вносит вклад в разрешение орфографических неопределенностей и предлагает практические рекомендации по улучшению орфографической стандартизации, что является важным для языковой политики, образования и повышения общественной осведомленности.*

*Ключевые слова: казахская орфография, орфографические словари, орфографические нормы, стандартизация написания, казахская лингвистика.*

### **СПИСОК ЛИТЕРАТУРЫ**

- 1 Coulmas F. Writing Systems: An Introduction to their Linguistic Analysis. Cambridge University Press. – 2003.
- 2 Sebba M. Spelling and Society: The Culture and Politics of Orthography around the World. Cambridge University Press. – 2007.

- 3 Crystal D. Spell It Out: The Curious, Enthralling and Extraordinary Story of English Spelling. Profile Books. – 2012.
- 4 Venezky R. L. The American Way of Spelling: The Structure and Origins of American English Orthography. Guilford Press. – 1999.
- 5 Ehri L. C. Learning to Read and Learning to Spell: Two Sides of a Coin. Topics in Language Disorders. – 2000. – 20(3). – Pp.19-36.
- 6 Scragg D. G. A History of English Spelling. Manchester University Press. – 1974.
- 7 Ziegler J. C., & Goswami, U. Reading Acquisition, Developmental Dyslexia, and Skilled Reading across Languages: A Psycholinguistic Grain Size Theory. Psychological Bulletin. – 2005. – 131(1). – 3-29.
- 8 Sarsenbay Zh., Salkynbay A., Ramazanova Sh., Ashirova A., Igilikoba S., Alimtayeva L., Kaspikhan B. Modern Kazakh Language Trends: Norms and Usus Features. International Journal of Society, Culture and Language. – 2023. – 11(3). – Pp. 188-201.  
<https://doi.org/10.22034/ijsc.2023.2006970.3096>
- 9 Алдашева А., Абдрахманова А., Калиев Б., Калыбаева А., Неталиева К., Уалиев Н., Орфографический словарь казахского языка. – Алматы: Казахстан, 1988. – 400 с.
- 10 Сыздық Р.С. Путеводитель по казахскому языку (орфография, знаки препинания, лексика). – Астана: Элорда, 2000. – 532 с.
- 11 Кудеринова К.Б. Казахская публичная речь: языковая норма, этика речи, структура речи // Вестник КазНУ, фил. сер. – 2024. – Т. 193. №1, 65–76 с.
- 12 Беремкул З. Қыркүйек или Кыргүйек? Родителей смутило написание слова «сентябрь» в учебнике [Электрон.ресурс]. – 2018. – URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=506wPDVvIAQ> (день рассмотрения: 12.04.2024).
- 13 Сыздық Р., Уалиули Н., Фазылжанова А., Кудеринова К., Анес Г. Орфографический словарь. – Алматы: Институт языкознания, 2007. – 480 с.
- 14 Уалиули Н., Фазылжанова А., Кудеринова К., Исаева Ж., Амиржанова Н., Амирбекова А. Орфографический словарь / Шестое издание. – Алматы: Дауир, 2013. – 720 с.
- 15 Тасымов А. Пусть орфографические словари не вводят народ в заблуждение. [Электрон.ресурс]. – 2010– URL: <https://anatili.kazgazeta.kz/news/4572>. (день рассмотрения: 10.05.2024).

Материал поступил в редакцию журнала 05.01.2025

#### Appendix A.

1. *Do you use a spelling dictionary?*

- a) Yes, in study, at work, with my personal interest
- b) No, I don't use it at all
- c) Your answer

2. *For what purpose do you use a spelling dictionary?*

- a) To check the correct spelling of the Kazakh word
- b) To do the task
- c) To write a text in Kazakh
- d) Your answer

3. *What year's spelling dictionary do you use?*

- a) 1988                      b) 2005                      c) 2007                      d) 2013    e) your answer

4. *Which spelling dictionary information do you think is reliable?*

- a) 1988                      b) 2005                      c) 2007                      d) 2013    e) your answer

#### Appendix B

*Which of the following options do you consider to be correct?*

- a) kyrkuiek    b) kyrguiek