

## On Uyghur Consonant Clusters: Using Russian loanwords for studying phonotactics

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Uyghur has loan borrowings from many languages including frequently used terms borrowed from Persian, Russian and Chinese. Due to multiple waves of contact with Russia in the early 1900s, the 1950s, and the late 1980s, there is reason to believe that Uyghur borrowed Russian loans diachronically. Russian has a  $(C_4)V(C_4)$  syllable structure (Halle 1959) while my research suggests that Uyghur limits its syllables to  $(C_2)V(C_2)$ . Using this knowledge, I focus on common Russian loan words in this paper to gain a better understanding of Uyghur syllable structure as it pertains to permissible consonant cluster environments. Using data that I collected from three native Uyghur speaking consultants residing in the United States, I have examined the phonotactics controlling the formation of grammatical Uyghur consonant clusters in both onsets and codas. In doing so, my research aims to answer the following questions. (1) Why are Russian word syllabified as they are in Uyghur? (2) How are these terms linked to different time periods, and what evidence, if any, exists for two or more waves of loans? The answers to these questions may furthermore be examined in forms of Uyghur used in exile communities to help understand phonotactics in language use when speakers may perceive their language to be threatened. With the information gained from my research, I have show rules and constraints for Uyghur consonant clusters, demonstrating very restictive environments that allow consonant clusters in both syllable onsets and codas.

Russian	Uyghur	English
pla.sti.ka	ɣi.la.stin.ka	'plastic'
disk	di.ska	'disk, CD'
kom.pju.tor	kom.pju.tor	'computer'
stol	y.stɛl	'table'
tri.gi.no.me.tri.a	tɪ.ri.gi.no.me.ti.ri.a	'trigonometry'
a.gra.nom	aʁ.ro.nom, a.gi.ri.nom	'agriculture'
mart	mart	'March'
an.gli.ski	iŋ.gɪ.liʃ.tʃɛ	'English'

Halle, Morris. 1959. *The Sound Pattern of Russian*. The Hague: Mouton.