

SPELLING OF WORDS WITH THE LETTER COMBINATION OU AND THE FORMS –ILLE, –EILLE

Nargiza Narmatovna Nuritdinova

Senior Lecturer,

Uzbekistan State Academy of Choreography

nuritdinovanargiza777@gmail.com

Abstract

This article provides a scientific analysis of the spelling features of the **ou** letter combination as well as units ending in **–ille** and **–eille** found in loanwords used in the Uzbek language. The study is based on the current Uzbek spelling rules, explanatory dictionaries, and written language materials. The results show that the spelling of these words mainly relies on adaptation to pronunciation and the phonetic laws of the Uzbek language. The article has practical significance in improving students' literacy and strengthening spelling norms.

Keywords: spelling, *ou* letter combination, **–ille** and **–eille** forms, loanwords, Uzbek language, phonetic adaptation.

In the modern era, as a result of the intensification of globalization processes, interaction between languages has increased, and the lexical system of the Uzbek language is being enriched with new words. In particular, terms and expressions borrowed from French, English, and other European languages are actively used in linguistic practice. Although this process is important for language development, it also creates certain problems within the spelling system.

Borrowed words often do not fully correspond to the phonetic and graphic norms of the Uzbek language. As a result, uncertainties arise in the spelling of certain letter combinations and word-final forms. In particular, the spelling of words containing the **ou** letter combination and those ending in **–ille** and **–eille** is considered one of the more complex issues for pupils, students, and the general language community. Such units often lead to numerous errors due to differences between pronunciation and spelling. Therefore, there is a need to study this issue on a scientific basis, analyze it in accordance with current spelling rules, and draw clear conclusions.

The purpose of this article is to investigate the spelling features of words with the **ou** letter combination and the **–ille**, **–eille** forms in the Uzbek language, to substantiate their normative spelling, and to develop scientific recommendations aimed at improving spelling literacy.

To conduct an in-depth analysis of the spelling features of words with the **ou** letter combination and the **–ille**, **–eille** forms in Uzbek, several scientific-linguistic methods were employed. The research methodology was based on both theoretical and practical approaches in linguistics.

First, the descriptive-linguistic analysis method was applied. Through this method, the spelling forms of borrowed words, their pronunciation, and their usage in orthography were examined. For example, words borrowed from English and French such as *tour*, *group*, *famille*, and *ville*

were observed to be written in Uzbek as *tur*, *gruppa*, *familiya*, and *viloyat*, and their phonetic adaptation was described.

Second, the current “Rules of Uzbek Orthography,” as well as the Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language and terminological dictionaries, were analyzed as primary sources. In this process, it was clarified in which cases the **ou** letter combination is retained and in which cases it is simplified. For instance, the spelling of *boutique* as *butik* and *group* as *gruppa* was analyzed in terms of compliance with spelling norms. In addition, using the comparative analysis method, the original forms of words in foreign languages were compared with their Uzbek variants. In particular, the adaptation of french **–ille** and **–eille** forms into Uzbek as **–iya**, **–ey**, and **–il** (e.g., *famille* – *familiya*, *Mireille* – *Mirey*) was analyzed from phonetic and morphological perspectives.

The analysis showed that in the orthography of borrowed words in Uzbek, the spelling of the **ou** letter combination and the **–ille**, **–eille** forms is based on certain phonetic and graphic principles. The relationship between pronunciation and spelling of these units was clarified during the analysis.

According to the research results, the **ou** letter combination mainly occurs in words borrowed from English and French. In Uzbek, this combination is usually pronounced close to the sounds [u] or [o‘] and is simplified in spelling in accordance with pronunciation. According to the current spelling rules, such words are written in a form adapted to the phonetic characteristics of the Uzbek language.

Examples:

- *boutique* → *butik*
- *group* → *gruppa*
- *tour* → *tur*
- *route* → *rut*
- *journal* → *jurnal*

As seen from the examples above, the **ou** letter combination is not preserved as an independent graphic unit in Uzbek; rather, it is simplified and adapted to pronunciation. This helps to prevent unnecessary graphic complexity in written language.

The analysis also revealed that some words borrowed from French end with the forms **–ille** and **–eille**. When these units enter the Uzbek language, they are reshaped based on phonetic adaptation and are used in simplified forms in spelling. In this process, complex graphic units at the end of words are replaced with suffixes or sounds characteristic of Uzbek.

The following examples clearly illustrate this:

- *famille* → *familiya*
- *ville* → *viloyat* (as a result of historical and semantic adaptation)
- *Mireille* → *Mirey*
- *Marseille* → *Marsel*
- *Bastille* → *Bastiliya*

The results indicate that the **–ille** and **–eille** forms are often Uzbekized as **–iya**, **–ey**, and **–il**. This process is based on the principle of adaptation to the phonetic and morphological norms of the Uzbek language and ensures the simplicity and stability of the spelling system.

Based on the above, it can be concluded that the spelling of words with the **ou** letter combination and the **–ille**, **–eille** forms in Uzbek primarily relies on pronunciation and adaptation to the phonetic laws of the Uzbek language. This is explained by the fact that the Uzbek graphic system is close to phonetic writing. During the analysis, it was observed that

some words containing the **ou** letter combination may be used in several forms in the press and everyday written language. Such cases indicate that spelling norms have not yet been fully consolidated or that adherence to spelling rules varies in language practice. Therefore, further clarification of spelling norms and the establishment of a unified written form are of great importance.

It was also determined that historical, phonetic, and morphological factors play an important role in the Uzbekization of **–ille** and **–eille** forms. Some words have historically become firmly established in Uzbek and have acquired new forms through Uzbek affixes. This demonstrates the natural integration of borrowed words into the language system.

Studying these issues on a scientific basis and analyzing them systematically serves as an important methodological resource for teaching correct spelling of borrowed words, preventing spelling errors, and enhancing written language culture. The spelling of the **ou** letter combination and the **–ille**, **–eille** forms found in borrowed words in Uzbek is closely connected with the phonetic and graphic system of the language. Their spelling is shaped mainly through adaptation to pronunciation, observance of Uzbek phonetic laws, and reliance on existing spelling norms.

According to the results of the analysis, the **ou** letter combination is not preserved as an independent graphic unit in Uzbek and is usually written in a simplified form. Likewise, words with the **–ille** and **–eille** forms acquire Uzbek-specific variants such as **–iya**, **–ey**, and **–il** during phonetic and morphological adaptation. This confirms that the adaptation of borrowed words to the Uzbek language system is a natural and regular process.

In conclusion, this article can serve as a theoretical and practical resource for gaining a deeper understanding of Uzbek spelling rules, ensuring the correct spelling of foreign words, improving written literacy, teaching spelling issues, preparing methodological manuals, and conducting linguistic research.

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