

## **CORPUS-BASED APPROACHES TO STUDYING THE JADID MOVEMENT'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY UZBEK MEDIA**

Nigora Alimqulovna Satibladieva

Teacher, Uzbekistan State World Languages University

### **Abstract**

This review article examines how corpus-based methods (digital text analysis, diachronic corpora, keyword and collocation analysis) have recently been applied to the study of the Jadid movement and its contribution to the development of early Uzbek media. Drawing on both methodological literature in corpus linguistics and empirical studies of Jadid publications, the article argues that corpus approaches provide new empirical evidence clarifying the linguistic, semantic, and discursive innovations introduced by the Jadids. Key findings show that Jadid texts feature high frequencies of terms such as education / enlightenment, progress / reform, nation / people, and deploy a mix of classical and emerging modern Uzbek vocabulary; collocation and concordance patterns reveal consistent thematic clusters around modernization, social reform, and cultural identity. The review highlights strengths of corpus-based media historiography – transparency, reproducibility, quantitative support – as well as challenges (corpus representativeness, OCR quality, diachronic annotation). Finally, the article outlines prospects for advancing research on early Central Asian media through expanded corpora, tagged Uzbek corpora, and semantic shift detection.

**Keywords:** Jadid publications, corpus linguistics, digital text analysis, media history, Uzbek media, semantic change, diachronic corpus, keyword analysis.

### **Introduction**

The early 20th-century Jadid movement played a seminal role in modernizing education and establishing print media in Central Asia. Through newspapers, periodicals, pamphlets, and textbooks, the Jadids introduced new linguistic, cultural, and ideological norms – promoting ma‘rifat (enlightenment), taraqqiyot

(progress), national identity, and modern education (Khalid, 2005; Abdullayeva, 2025).

Traditional scholarship has largely been historical or qualitative, focusing on biographies, institutional history, or close readings of individual texts. But over the last decade, corpus-based and digital humanities methods have opened new possibilities for systematically analysing large bodies of Jadid texts, revealing aggregate patterns in vocabulary, themes, and discursive strategies that are difficult to detect via manual reading alone (Jaworska, 2018; Kytö, 2011).

This review aims to present a synthesis of these developments. I survey methodological literature on corpus linguistics in media and historical contexts, present empirical findings from recent studies of Jadid corpora, assess strengths and limitations, and suggest future directions.

Corpus Linguistics (CL) defines a “corpus” as a deliberately compiled collection of naturally occurring texts. The rise of electronic and annotated historical corpora during the late 20th and early 21st centuries has enabled researchers to study language change, discourse patterns, and media records with empirical and replicable methods.

In the field of media studies, CL has been increasingly used over past two decades. Scholars combine quantitative techniques (e.g., frequency lists, n-gram analysis, collocations) with qualitative discourse and stylistic analysis to uncover subtle patterns of media language and representation.

More recently, a growing sub-field has emerged – corpus-driven historical media studies – where corpora constructed from archive newspapers, periodicals, and pamphlets serve as empirical sources for studying discursive change, media development, and ideological shifts over time (Newspapers corpus projects; corpus-driven historical linguistics).

Thus, corpus methods offer two main advantages for studying Jadid media: (1) they can systematically process large volumes of texts, giving statistical support to claims about dominant themes, lexical innovations, and discursive orientation; (2) they support diachronic analysis, making it possible to track lexical and semantic change over time.

## Recent Corpus-Based Analyses

A key recent contribution is the article “Digital Text Analysis of Jadid Publications” (2025), which builds a digital corpus from Jadid newspapers, periodicals, pamphlets, and educational texts. Using frequency, collocation and concordance analyses, the authors demonstrate quantitatively the thematic structure of Jadid media discourse: high frequency of terms related to reform, education, modern science, publications, and new ideas – indicating a clear agenda of cultural and intellectual modernization.

Another relevant study, “A Corpus-Based Analysis of Uzbek Jadid Texts” (2025), highlights how Jadid discourse contributed to shaping modern Uzbek language. The authors show frequent use of terms such as ma‘rifat (enlightenment), taraqqiyot (progress), millat (nation), reflecting the ideological and lexical modernization agenda. Collocation and topic-modelling reveal recurrent clusters around science, morality, media, and social reform. The study also notes stylistic blending: classical literary Uzbek forms alongside colloquial expressions, and systematic introduction of neologisms and loanwords – evidence of linguistic modernization.

A complementary work, “Analyzing Cultural Discourse in Jadid Texts” (2025), focuses on cultural and social themes: family, morality, communal identity, modernization vs. tradition. Through concordance and collocation analysis, the authors show how Jadid writers navigated tensions between tradition and modernity, advocating reform while preserving aspects of Islamic and Turkic cultural heritage.

From these studies emerge several important conclusions:

- **Lexical modernization and semantic innovation:** Jadid publications were instrumental in developing modern Uzbek vocabulary; corpus analysis confirms introduction and frequent use of modernizing terms.
- **Discursive orientation toward reform, enlightenment, education, and national identity:** Statistical patterns show that “education / enlightenment,” “reform / progress,” “people / nation” – the central motifs of Jadid ideology – dominate vocabulary use.

- **Cultural mediation between tradition and modernity:** Analysis of collocations and concordances reveals that Jadid texts often frame modern science and reform in moral or religious-cultural language, softening potential cultural rupture.

- **Media as catalyst for social modernization:** The frequent presence of media-related vocabulary (newspaper, publication, printing, readership) underlines that Jadids consciously saw print media as a tool for spreading new ideas and educating society.

These findings provide empirical grounding for long-held qualitative hypotheses about the Jadid role in linguistic and media modernization – validating the historical significance of the movement.

Based on the surveyed literature and identified gaps, the following future steps are promising:

1. **Creation and expansion of a comprehensive, annotated diachronic Uzbek-Jadid corpus.** Ideally it should include: newspapers, periodicals, pamphlets, school textbooks, translations, private letters, etc., with metadata (date, place, genre), and proper orthographic normalization and tagging (lemma, POS, morphological features).

2. **Semantic shift detection and embedding-based diachronic analysis.** The recent rise of computational methods using word embeddings enables detection of meaning change over time (e.g., in semantic shift detection in European languages). Such methods could reveal how key Jadid terms (e.g., maʼrifat, taraqqiyot, millat, ilm, urdū, etc.) shifted in meaning or usage frequency across decades.

3. **Mixed-methods integration.** Combine corpus analysis with historical archival research, readership data (where available), and reception studies to assess not only how Jadids wrote, but how their media output was received and re-used.

4. **Comparative media-historical corpora for Central Asia.** Building corpora not only in Uzbek, but in neighboring languages (e.g., Kazakh, Tajik, Russian) to study cross-linguistic influence, translation networks, and transnational media dynamics of Jadid and post-Jadid periods.

**5. Digital humanities platforms and open databases.** Publishing corpora with open licences, annotated metadata, and tools for keyword, collocation, concordance, topic-modelling – to foster collaborative and reproducible research.

## Conclusion

Corpus-based methods have proven to be a powerful tool for revisiting the legacy of the Jadid movement and understanding its real impact on the formation of modern Uzbek media, language, and public discourse. Quantitative data drawn from digitized corpora reveals with empirical clarity the core concerns and discursive strategies of Jadid authors: education, enlightenment, reform, modern science, nationhood, media publishing.

At the same time, the approach has limitations – availability of sources, quality of digitization, insufficient annotation, and challenges of diachronic normalization. Awareness of these constraints is essential for responsible scholarship.

Nevertheless, as digital archives expand and computational methods mature, corpus-based media historiography promises to transform our understanding of early 20th-century Central Asia. For historians, linguists, media scholars, and cultural researchers alike, building and analysing corpora of Jadid texts offers a historically grounded, replicable, and richly nuanced way to trace how print media, language reform, and modern ideas became interwoven in the formation of modern Uzbek identity.

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