

THE IMPORTANCE OF ISSUES RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE LANGUAGE IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract: *This article discusses the issues related to the use of the State language in public spaces and official documents in the Republic of Uzbekistan and provides a number of recommendations. Furthermore, the article analyzes the role of Uzbek language as the state language in life of the country, the provisions on the official state language and language principles mentioned in normative – legal documents and international agreements, and issues related to significantly increasing the prestige and status of the Uzbek language as the state language.*

Keywords: *State language of the Republic of Uzbekistan, official documents, normative – legal documents, international agreements, language principle.*

INTRODUCTION

The state language is the officially designated language used in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of a country. Typically, in multi-ethnic countries such as India and Switzerland, the constitution specifies which language or languages are official language and the state language are the same.

However, in some countries, the official language differs from the state language. For example, in Switzerland, according to the constitution, German, French, Italian and Romansh are considered the state language [1]. During the Soviet era, it was impossible to even discuss the state language in Uzbekistan, and the use of the Uzbek language in public life was gradually restricted. The process of rebuilding society also initiated spiritual purification.

As a result, on October 21, 1989, the law "On the State language of the Republic of Uzbekistan" was adopted, confirming the Uzbek language as the state language and defining its relationship with other languages. This law plays a significant role in the development of the national consciousness of Uzbek people, the strengthening of the country's independence, and the restoration of cultural heritage. The language is a crucial tool for preserving a nation's unique cultural and spiritual heritage. Preserving and developing a language shapes the communication, knowledge, and worldview of a nation. In my opinion, a nation that preserve its language also preserves its history, traditions, and values, and only a nation with its own language can demonstrate its independence and strength.

When discussing the state language, it is essential to look at its history. The emergence and development of the Uzbek language is closely linked to the history of its speakers. The formation of the Uzbek people is associated with the unification of several ethnic groups that merged Turkish and Iranian languages. This can be seen from the many dialects within the Uzbek language.

The development of the Uzbek language can be divided into three periods: ancient Turkic, old Uzbek, and modern Uzbek [2]. The first phase, the ancient Turkic period, is related to the 5th-11th centuries, when the Turkic-speaking people gradually displaced the Indo – Iranian tribes living along the Syr Darya, Amu Darya, and, Zarafshan rivers. The common language of communication was the ancient Turkic language, which laid the foundation for many Asian languages. Today, only parts of the ancient Turkic script remain in cultural monuments from that era. The second phase, from the 11th to the 19th centuries, saw the development of Uzbek language under the influence of neighboring languages.

The famous poet Alisher Navoi played a significant role in the formation of the literary language. The final stage, the modern Uzbek language, began to take shape in the 20th century. The Fergana dialect, widely recognized across Uzbekistan, formed its formation. While the ethnic Sart people were not originally part of the Uzbek population, in the 1920s, the term “sart” was abandoned, and the population began to identify as “Uzbeks”. the literary norms of language became more democratic, simplifying it. Throughout its development, the Uzbek language has used three scripts [4]

Until the late 1920s, the Uzbek ethnic group used the Arabic script. With the rise of Soviet power, the script underwent several reforms, moving to the Latin alphabet until 1938, when the Cyrillic alphabet was adopted. After Uzbekistan became in independent state in 1993, the Latin alphabet was reintroduced. Currently, Uzbek is written in all three scripts: Arabic, Latin, and Cyrillic. Older generation prefer Cyrillic, while Uzbeks abroad are accustomed to the Arabic script. In schools, students are taught in the Latin alphabet, which sometimes causes difficulty when reading books published during the Soviet period.

The Uzbek language is an integral part of our national wealth, culture, and identity. Language is not just a means of communication, but also a factor that preserves the historical and spiritual values of the people.

However, today, a number of serious issues are emerging regarding the preservation of the purity of our language. The influence of globalization, modern technology, and mass media is causing changes in the development, and purity of the Uzbek language. Foreign words, incorrect grammar, and expressions are entering the language, leading to distortions of its original form.

Main part. The primary goal of the development of the Uzbek language is to ensure its effective and widespread use not only in government but institutions but also in all areas of society. As a state language, its progress depends on several key factors, including education translation of scientific and cultural materials, and active use in daily life and mass media.

The role of the government in implementing language policies in Uzbekistan is crucial. New laws, regulations, and state programs aimed at language development help deepen people’s understanding of the language and increase their respect for it. Additionally, in the era of digital technologies, it is necessary to strengthen the Uzbek language’s position by expanding its usage in new technologies and scientific fields.

Without a doubt, software, websites, and applications developed in the Uzbek language by both public and private sectors will contribute to the language’s development. The promotion of the state language in Uzbekistan not only enhance its social importance

but also strengthens national identity, unites society, and ensures the country's stable development.

Challenges in Preserving Language Purity. One of the biggest challenges today is preserving the purity of the Uzbek language. Unfortunately, there is still much work to be done in this regard, and many issues and shortcomings remain.

One of the major concerns is the incomplete transition to the Latin-based Uzbek alphabet. It is regrettable that newspapers, magazines, and official documents in many institutions still use the Cyrillic alphabet instead of Latin. According to Article 10 of the "Law on the State Language of the Republic of Uzbekistan", all businesses, institutions, organizations, and public associations must conduct official documentation, accounting, statistics, and financial records in the state language. In workplace where most employees do not understand Uzbek, these documents may be prepared in other languages along with Uzbek [4]. However, despite this legal requirement, statistical and financial documents, contracts, and agreements in some sectors are still not properly maintained in the state language. For example, in certain service industries, contracts, official letters, and reports are often not prepared in Uzbek, which contradicts legal regulations.

To address this, it is essential to mandate that all government and administrative bodies, businesses, institutions, organizations, and public associations conduct official documentation in Uzbek and translate it into other languages only when necessary.

According to Article 20 of the "Law on the State Language of the Republic of Uzbekistan", signs, announcements, price lists, and other visual and oral information must be prepared and published in the state language, with translation into other languages permitted if necessary [4].

However, these regulation are not always followed in practice.

Today we frequently encounter mistaken announcements, signboards, and displays, or even cases where information is written entirely in other languages. It is quite unfortunate to see that the literacy level of our population is still low, that they do not have a perfect command of their own language, and that they do not follow spelling rules. For example, in the trade and service sectors, it is common to see words such as "rasprodaja" (sale), skidka (discount), "dostavka" (delivery) in the names of stores, public catering places, and on their social media pages.

However, there are equivalent words in the Uzbek language, such as "chegirma" (discount), "yetkazib berish" (delivery), "arzon narxlarda" (sale). In order to address such issues, I believe that advertisements or announcements in foreign languages should only be placed after their Uzbek equivalents.

The ministry of Justice has drafted a law aimed at ensuring full compliance with the use of the state language in official work, which stipulates liability for officials.

According to this, Article 42 of the Administrative Liability Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan states: "Failure to comply with the requirements of the law on the state language in official documentation within state bodies and organizations shall result in a fine ranging from two to five times the base calculation amount for officials" [5].

From this, we can see that preserving the purity of our language is legally established, and we only need to follow these laws and regulations.

The development of the state language depends on the existence of a quality education system and its use in various fields such as government, science, industry, and culture. Scientific works and literature written in Uzbek help expand the intellectual capacity and thinking of the people while also strengthening the position of the Uzbek language in the scientific community.

Furthermore, the reinforcement of Uzbek language in foreign relations is essential for strengthening international cooperation and introducing Uzbek culture to the world, in my opinion.

At the same time, the importance of the state language is further strengthened by familiarizing younger generations with their mother tongue, teaching them to respect it, and encouraging them to use it effectively. I believe that the future of the Uzbek language, especially its development among the youth, depends on preserving its purity and integrating it with modern technologies.

In 2019, the President of Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in his speech at the ceremony dedicated to the 30th anniversary of granting the Uzbek language the status of the state language, stated: "In the era of globalization, preserving the purity of our national language, enriching its vocabulary, creating Uzbek equivalents of modern terminology in various fields, and ensuring their uniform usage remain urgent tasks.

Another important task is to fully implement the state language in fundamental research, industry, the banking and financial system, jurisprudence, diplomacy, medicine, and other sectors". From the above points, we can see that the importance of our state language is unparalleled. The Uzbek language is not only a means of uniting society but also a source of national pride and a force that ensure the uniqueness of the nation. I believe that protecting and developing it is the duty of every citizen and every state institution.

Conclusion. The state ensures the enrichment and improvement of the Uzbek language. Based on this, numerous scientific studies on the development and enrichment of the Uzbek language is not only the responsibility of linguists but a duty for all of us.

In this process, the state, scientific and cultural institutions, and all sectors of society must work together. Uzbek is considered one of the world's ancient and rich languages.

It is essential that we contribute to its purity, depth of meaning, and richness.

The great poet Alisher Navoi once said, " Tilga ixtiyorsiz – elga e'tiborsiz" (He who neglects language, neglects his nation). Even after centuries, this wisdom has not lost its meaning or relevance. On the contrary, historical events have proven its truth.

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