

LANGUAGE PLURALISM AS A SOCIAL FACTOR

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Abstract

This article analyzes the role of linguistic pluralism in societal development and its significance as a social factor. The author highlights the impact of the phenomenon of multilingualism on the development of the individual and society, its role in the development of intercultural communication, and its place in social integration processes. The article also examines problems related to interlingual interaction, the preservation and development of the national language in the context of globalization.

Keywords: Social factor, pluralism, linguistic pluralism, language, language policy, globalization, national language, bilingualism, pluralism.

Introduction

It is known from history that the role of social factors in the interaction of language and society is immense. Society and any processes occurring within it, as in all spheres, undoubtedly leave their mark on language. In the "Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language," the word "social" refers to "community, society." It is explained as a social system, social development, a system of social relations related to human and social life," and the word factor is indicated as "cause; expressing the meanings of an effective force, something that is the reason for the emergence, occurrence of an action, event, etc.; cause." [1]

"A social factor is an element or state within a social context that influences the thoughts, feelings, and behavior of an individual or group." Simply put, these are the variables that determine how we behave when interacting with others and how we perceive the world around us." [2] From this, it can be concluded that the social factor is a cause or thing that has a strong influence on the change of any action or relationship that occurs and arises in society and in people's lives. Since language and society are interconnected, all social factors that occur in society: economic, political, cultural, historical and others affect language. As a result, social factors cause the development of language and the change of its social functions.

"Language is an important means of communication that moves and develops according to its social nature; according to its function, it transmits information; according to its accumulative nature, it transmits information from generation to generation." [3] The social factor is a systematically organized social movement of various structures in society within the framework of a social fact or specific human activity. Processes related to the fate of language are an important factor determining the status of any nation and state. Therefore, language policy has been evaluated as a very relevant issue in all periods of language development. There are about seven thousand languages on Earth. Today, it is difficult to find any state or country where nations speak only one language. This is because in most countries, people speak several languages. In particular, the Republic of Uzbekistan is a multinational state, in which more than 130 nations and ethnic groups live. In such a situation, that is, in a situation of

multilingualism, the problem of language policy arises, and this makes it necessary to rely on the legal and political regulation of the relationship between two or more languages living in a certain territory - practical measures and theoretical principles for solving the language problem in society.

B.Spolsky expresses the following opinion about language policy: "Language policy is the main tool regulating the development of language potential in modern conditions. National language policy depends on the goal of the state and is realized in three main components: language practice, language ideology and language management." [4]

The breadth of the subject of language policy leads to different approaches to the typology and concept of language policy. V.A.Avrarin defines language policy as follows: "Language policy is a system of measures that consciously regulates the power of influence on the functional side of language, and through it, to a certain extent, also influences the structure of language." [5]

On this basis, naturally, in multinational states, there is a strong need for national policy, especially language policy, which is its direct component. Therefore, every country in the world has its own language policy. Language policy refers to the system of political, legal and administrative regulation of language issues in the state, society, the set of ideological principles and official-practical measures to solve language problems, mechanisms of planned influence on the language situation in the country. Indeed, language and its practical application mean freedom of the nation and freedom of thought. Because since the appearance of man, the issue of language, which is the expression of his most important thinking needs, means of communication, feelings, dreams and desires, has been one of the main problems in every era.

The Uzbek language emerged centuries ago in harmony with the history of the Uzbek people and continues to live to this day. If we look at history, we see that the status of our language has varied in different periods. Accordingly, the history of the formation and development of the Uzbek language is periodized as follows:

the first period: the period of formation of the Uzbek language (from ancient times before our era to the 11th century AD);

the second period: the period of development of the Uzbek language (from the 11th century to the 15th century AD);

the third period: the period of development of the Uzbek language (from the 15th century AD to the present). [6.7].

As Professor J. Eltazarov noted, changes in the political and linguistic geography of Central Asia, once referred to by Soviet ideologists as "Central Asia and Kazakhstan," also changed at every historical stage. In fact, the issue that is an integral part of the history of the peoples and nationalities of Central Asia, that is, the existence and oblivion of living and dead languages in the region, and the question of the place of new languages and dialects in this geography is an interesting and widely studied issue [7.142-143].

It seems that modern social development defines bilingualism as one of the most important issues of sociolinguistics. During the Soviet era, the bilingualism of Russian and other national languages was developed. During this period, bilingualism was mainly unilateral: non-Russian-speaking communities were forced to know Russian in addition to their native language due to the demands of the political and administrative environment. N. Mahmudov emphasizes that the disregard of this policy toward other languages reached such a level that instructions were even given on what the literary norm in the

national language should be, for example, how many cases should be, and serious attempts were made to put the grammars of other languages into the patterns of the dominant language, and among the languages that suffered from such an unacceptable and fraudulent language policy, there is undoubtedly the Uzbek language, which was under the destructive language policy of the Soviets during almost a century and a half of tyranny. The Law of Uzbekistan "On the State Language," adopted on October 21, 1989, states that the Soviet language policy in our country has completely ended [8]. This historical date is, of course, significant in that it is aimed at guaranteeing the ideological and political freedom of the Uzbek people and language.

Since language is a socio-psychological phenomenon, the establishment of its norms is linked to the state's language policy. Our country was a colony for more than a century. The dominant people and their language were given every privilege, and the mentality and language of the dependent peoples were attacked. Only as a result of independence, our language and linguistics were freed from the chains of tyranny [9.244]. A. Nurmonov points out the circumstances related to the development of Uzbek linguistics during the period of independence as follows:

1. Our national values and spiritual traditions, which had been forgotten due to the policy of uniting nations into a single socialist nation pursued by the Soviets for 70 years, were restored.
2. The tradition of studying other languages based on the standards of Russian linguistics prevailing during this period was abandoned.
3. The possibility of breaking free from the chains of Marxist doctrine, which has become the methodology of a single science, and freely using the best philosophical teachings of the world, which are useful in the scientific knowledge of the world, has emerged.
4. During the period of independence, there was a transition from methodological monarchy to pluralism in Uzbek linguistics. As a result, different approaches to the same object emerged.
5. Special attention was paid to the study of various levels of the Uzbek language based on the specific features of this language.
6. The policy of the Soviets to transform the Russian language into a "single national language," which lasted for 70 years, hindered the free development of the languages of other peoples within the empire.
7. The development of scientific and official styles of the Uzbek language, which has an ancient writing culture, was hindered. Serious attention was paid to the normalization of official and scientific styles that had become lame due to the language policy pursued during the Soviet era.
8. The globalization of information and communication media has emerged [10].

Indeed, in the conditions of independence, attention to our native language is increasing year by year. Measures are being developed to enhance the status of our national language as the state language. This can be seen in a number of resolutions, decrees, and laws developed by our state. In particular, the wide use of the Uzbek language in all spheres was ensured. In particular, it is shown that the specific tasks in the field of science are manifested in the following [11.18]:

firstly, in its function within a specific discipline (perception, thinking, exchanging ideas within that field, creating innovations, conducting research, etc.);

secondly, in terminology, that is, in the formation of concepts and terms, terms, and phrases related to the field of science;

thirdly, the method of oral and written presentation of scientific research - in the formation of the scientific style of language.

Along with increasing the prestige of our native language, the implementation of a fair language policy as a multinational country is considered at the level of state importance. As Y. Odilov rightly noted, [12.3.], the large number of countries where at least two or three languages operate is a key characteristic of the era of globalization.

In such a situation, the country needs to conduct a large-scale and careful language policy in order to properly operate in the fields of public administration, socio-economic policy, legislation, judicial affairs, education, production, and others. Language policy, like economic or ideological policy, is carried out by the state or its authorized body.

For the correct implementation of language policy in a multilingual state, it is first necessary to forecast the existing language situation, and such a scientific assessment is called "language forecasting" or "linguistic forecasting." Language forecasting consists of determining the place and level of use of languages with or without legal status in society, studying the attitude of the population to official and national languages, and providing a conclusion on the prospects for the development of existing languages. The state provides a model of language policy based on these conclusions and the goal of national policy. In other words, it clarifies what language policy should be pursued [12.3.]. The language policy pursued in our country is characterized by its foundation on democratic principles. As defined in the Law "On the State Language," it is of particular importance that the language policy pursued by the state adheres to pluralism.

In the "Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language," "pluralism (Lat. Pluralis – frequent, in large quantities. 1. The simultaneous coexistence of various forms of political, economic, and cultural life is the fundamental principle of the structure of a legal society. 2. The diversity and abundance of ideas, views, interests, etc., that allow for freedom of choice. 3. A philosophical doctrine, a movement that believes that there are several (or many) independent origins of existence, life, and several foundations of knowledge" [13.758.]. Compared to language, this phenomenon is a factor that creates multilingualism.

Along with other Central Asian countries, Uzbekistan is also a multi-ethnic country. The reason is that over the centuries, the Uzbek people have lived side by side with representatives of Turkic and other peoples according to various historical conditions. Accordingly, multilingualism was a traditional phenomenon among the peoples of the region [14.182].

"The achievement of the effectiveness indicator of the language policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan was influenced by the fact that the educational process is conducted in 7 languages." In total, 8,867 schools in the republic's public education are taught in the Uzbek language, 383 schools in the Karakalpak language, 739 schools in the Russian language, 505 schools in the Kazakh language, 267 schools in the Tajik language, 62 schools in the Kyrgyz language, and 50 schools in the Turkmen language.

"In Uzbekistan, mass media are conducted in 12 languages." In the second half of 1990, 238 newspapers and 31 magazines were published in the Uzbek language; 52 newspapers and 15 magazines in Russian; 44 journals and 15 journals in two languages (Russian and Uzbek); 20 newspapers and 7 magazines in the Karakalpak language; 15 newspapers in the Tajik language; 8 in Kazakh, etc. In addition, television and radio broadcasts are carried out in Uzbek, Russian, Kazakh, Tajik, Kyrgyz, Turkmen and other languages" [16.128.].

During the years of independence, due to various reasons and necessity, this phenomenon has intensified as a result of increased attention to the study of other languages (English, German, Arabic, Turkish, Korean, Chinese). Language learning is becoming a requirement and requirement of the times. In her research, N. Azizova emphasizes that "due to Uzbekistan being a multinational state, the prevalence of national-Uzbek bilingualism to a certain extent, and according to the analysis of strategic and regional studies under the President, among the representatives of other nationalities living in our country, the Slavic diaspora (Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian) accounts for 38.6%, the peoples of the Volga region (Tatars, Bashkirs, Chuvashes) for 72%, and the peoples of Central Asia (Kazakhs, Tajiks, Kyrgyz, Turkmen) for 78.2%; they consider Uzbekistan their motherland, and to one degree or another, bilingualism, i.e., knowledge of the Uzbek language alongside their native one, constitutes national-Uzbek bilingualism" [11.17].

This situation testifies to the high respect of representatives of other nationalities living in our country, primarily toward our people and language, and plays an important role in the development of our independent state and the formation of national relations. This serves to ensure their active participation in state and public affairs. As the author correctly notes, "bilingualism is a vital necessity for multinational states, ensuring the emergence of a unified socio-economic, political, and cultural space and the emergence of national consolidation." Therefore, the process of globalization increases the social need for bilingualism and multilingualism" [11.18].

In R. Zaripov's study, the classifications of bilingualism and pluralism, the degree of prevalence in the world and aspects related to manifestations in our country are summarized as follows:

- 1) specifically studied and randomly acquired according to the method of learning the language;
- 2) communicative and non-communicative in terms of the "method of learning a second language";
- 3) mass, group, individual according to the degree of language distribution;
- 4) oral and written according to functionality;
- 5) productive, reproductive, receptive according to the level of language proficiency;
- 6) unilateral and bilateral according to the nature of distribution;
- 7) similar and dissimilar according to the properties of the components;
- 8) pure and mixed by nature of application;
- 9) types characteristic of children and adults by the time of second language acquisition;
- 10) the "direct type," which consists of knowing the language at an involuntary, intuitive level, allowing a person to think in that language. The second is the "indirect type";
- 11) the rate of transition of language codes to each other is disordered and ordered according to the level of awareness of this process;
- 12) subordinative and coordinative from the point of view of the ratio of coordination and subordination of the native and foreign languages" [17.101-103].

The author also notes that bilingual and multilingual communications, as a social phenomenon, lead to the emergence of new forms and types of bilingualism, pluralism, and the transformation of the social field at individual, public, or global levels. Also, based on a new approach, description, and analysis of the spread of these phenomena in our country, that is, he says that the most important task is to cover bilingualism and multilingualism in a new perspective in connection with language, speech, society, situation, environment and individual.

In conclusion, effective language policy is based on a number of parameters that plan harmonious language situations: completeness, adequacy, historicity, multilingualism, democracy.

Language policy is a complex construct, and in order to build and implement it, it is necessary to pay attention to a number of complex factors: the language factor, socio-cultural and ethno-cultural, historical, economic characteristics of the region, the nature of language contacts, the psychological portrait of the mass language, etc. The implementation of language policy requires systematicity and consistency. Properly conducted language policy ensures the stabilization of interethnic relations in the region. It is a multifaceted phenomenon that affects science, education, and mass media.

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