

THE STATE LANGUAGE A BASIS FOR LEGAL PROGRESS AND NATIONAL
UNITY*Qurbonova Guljahon Rustamovna**Advisor to the Governor of Angor District,**Surxondaryo Region, on Enhancing the Effectiveness**of Spiritual and Educational Affairs and Ensuring**Compliance with Legislative Acts on the State Language**guljahonqurbonova917@gmail.com*

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada o'zbek tilining davlat tili sifatidagi huquqiy maqomi, ijtimoiy va madaniy hayotdagi o'rni, til siyosatining taraqqiyot bosqichlari hamda uning milliy birlikdagi roli tahlil qilinadi. Tildagi muammolar va ularni bartaraf etish bo'yicha ilgari surilayotgan tashabbuslar, zamonaviy raqamli imkoniyatlar kontekstida til siyosatining strategik ahamiyati ko'rsatilgan. Shuningdek, maqolada o'zbek tilini xalqaro miqyosda targ'ib qilish masalasi ham ko'rib chiqilgan.

Kalit so'zlar: davlat tili, til siyosati, milliy birlik, huquqiy maqom, raqamli til, til madaniyati.

Аннотация: В данной статье анализируется правовой статус узбекского языка как государственного, его роль в общественной и культурной жизни, этапы развития языковой политики, а также значение языка в национальном единстве. Рассматриваются проблемы, связанные с языком, и предлагаемые инициативы по их устранению, показано стратегическое значение языковой политики в контексте современных цифровых возможностей. Кроме того, в статье рассматривается вопрос продвижения узбекского языка на международном уровне.

Ключевые слова: государственный язык, языковая политика, национальное единство, правовой статус, цифровой язык, языковая культура.

Abstract: This article analyzes the legal status of the Uzbek language as the state language, its role in social and cultural life, the stages in the development of language policy, as well as its significance for national unity. It examines linguistic problems and proposed initiatives to address them, highlighting the strategic importance of language policy in the context of modern digital opportunities. In addition, the article discusses the promotion of the Uzbek language on the international stage.

Keywords: state language, language policy, national unity, legal status, digital language, language culture.

INTRODUCTION

“The issue of the state language is not just about the language itself; it is an issue of homeland, nation, independence, and the future.”

Shavkat Mirziyoyev

Language is the heart, soul, historical memory, and highest mirror of a nation’s cultural heritage. The most important value expressing a people’s identity, national character, and worldview is its language. Language is not only a means of communication, but also a unifying factor in the social-political life of a people, and a foundational pillar in cultural development. Therefore, the spiritual-moral wealth of a nation, its historical roots, and its future path of development are inextricably linked to the condition and status of its language. In the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the explicit provision “The state language is Uzbek” is not without reason. This norm is not merely a legal declaration, but serves as a guarantee of the political solidity of our independent state, the understanding of national identity, and the unity of citizens.. The status of the state language is the moral foundation on the path toward honoring a nation’s history, understanding its present, and building its future.

In today’s era of globalization, the role of the state language in social life is increasing even further. In particular, scientific research, education, information-communication technologies, the Internet, and the digital sphere are leading language policy into a new stage. In this respect, the development of the language, its efficient use in state governance, legislation, scientific-technical activity, and international communication become pressing issues. This article analyzes the legal status of the Uzbek language, its role in social and cultural life, the stages of state policy for language development, the existing problems and proposed initiatives for their resolution. Also, the strategic importance of language policy in the context of digital technologies and the international promotion of the Uzbek language is examined in detail.

MAIN PART

Legal Status of the Uzbek Language

In the legal foundations of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the role of the state language is established with special attention. For example, according to Article 4 of the Constitution of Uzbekistan, adopted in its new edition on 30 April 2023: “The state language of the Republic of Uzbekistan is Uzbek.” This norm is not only symbolic in meaning, but also serves as a legal guarantee ensuring the primacy of the state language in the country’s socio-political life. The constitutional enshrinement of the language creates a legal basis for the Uzbek language to be actively used in state governance, in the legislative process, in education, science, culture, medicine, the economy and other social sectors. In addition, the Law “On the State Language,” adopted on 21 October 1989, marked the beginning of a new era in language policy. This law, revised during the years of independence, currently consists of 24 articles, regulating the use, legal protection, development, and normative application of the state language in all spheres. The law’s existence in practice serves to comprehensively develop the state language, fully implement it in social life, and elevate the culture of the language.

Priority Directions of Language Policy

In recent years, the Republic of Uzbekistan has been advancing a number of initiatives to steadily improve language policy and adapt it to modern requirements. In particular, by

Presidential Decree No. PF-6084 of 20 October 2020, the “Concept for the Development of the Uzbek Language and Improvement of Language Policy in 2020–2030” was approved. This concept holds great importance as a long-term strategic program for further development of the state language. The concept sets out several priority tasks. Among them are: developing new terms in accordance with modern science and technology and introducing them into official usage; establishing full documentation in the state language; implementing complex measures to raise language culture; and updating spelling rules of Uzbek. Within these directions, the activities of the Terminology Commission have been revitalized; more than 40 new terms have been scientifically developed and brought into practice. This process plays a particularly important role in expanding the scientific and technical capabilities of the language and adapting it to modern needs of science and industry.

The Role of Language in the Digital Sphere

In today’s era of globalization, the prestige and domain of use of the state language are expanding further through the field of digital technologies. Information-communication media, internet networks, and artificial intelligence systems are providing unprecedented opportunities for national languages to reach the international stage. In this sense, the Uzbek language is also making significant progress toward securing a strong position in the modern digital environment. For example, the presence of Uzbek in major translation platforms like Google Translate and Microsoft Translate enables the language to be recognized and used internationally. Also, artificially intelligent assistant programs such as ChatGPT are increasingly capable of processing Uzbek—handling question-answering and text generation. At the same time, special modules for Uzbek are being created for text editing and spell-checking services like Grammarly and DeepL. Additionally, digital resources such as Uzbek-language chatbots, audio books, electronic textbooks, mobile applications and e-libraries are growing in number—serving to strengthen the position of the state language in the consciousness of younger generations. This process represents an important stage in the promotion and recognition of the Uzbek language not only nationally but also internationally.

Cultural Practice in Society and Practical Problems

Today it is commendable that the standing of the Uzbek language in state and society is progressively becoming stronger. The use of Uzbek is expanding in public administration, education, science, culture, mass media, and other spheres. Nevertheless, there are a number of problems in fully implementing language policy in practice. First, in some organizations and institutions, documents are still maintained in Russian. Such a situation undermines the official status of the state language and is not in line with legal requirements. Also, in capital and regional cities, external advertisements, banners, and notices often contain many orthographic errors. This is not only detrimental to the aesthetic value of the language, but also negatively affects public literacy levels. Another important issue is the widespread use among youth of mixed speech, excessive use of Russian or English words. While on one hand this is a natural consequence of globalization, on the other hand it may pose a risk to the purity of the national language. Additionally, software, mobile applications and electronic services are not always developed in full in Uzbek, which reduces convenience for widespread users. To address these problems, several initiatives and practical measures can be advanced. First, appointing a responsible person in all organizations and institutions to oversee the use of the state language in official documentation. Second, introducing a certification system that confirms a person’s

level of proficiency in the state language would elevate language policy to a new stage. Third, increasing programs, articles, and educational videos about language culture in mass media, social networks and digital platforms would serve to raise public awareness and attention to the language. Also, establishing “Language Promotion Councils” at the neighborhood level, to directly involve citizens in matters of language culture, would yield effective results. Thus, solving the existing problems in language policy is a duty of the state, society, and every citizen. A responsible attitude toward language is an important condition for strengthening national consciousness and culture.

CONCLUSION

The state language is the heart of a nation, its historical memory, and the moral foundation oriented toward the future. The legal status of the Uzbek language, its constitutional guarantee, and support at the level of state policy are steadily elevating its role in social life. Today, the state language has become an important tool not only in legislation but also in practical life, in securing national unity, and shaping social solidarity and moral harmony. In the digital age, the status of the Uzbek language is being raised to a new level, and it is gaining recognition on the international stage. Through modern technologies, artificial intelligence, and digital resources, for the Uzbek language to find its place among world languages is a bright expression of our national pride. Respect for the language is respect not only for identity, but also for history, the legacy of ancestors, and the prospects of future generations. Every citizen’s right to think, create, and dream freely in their mother tongue ensures the true elevation of the state language. Therefore, every initiative in the development and promotion of Uzbek serves to strengthen the spiritual power of the nation and helps our country take its dignified place in the international community.

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