



THE UZBEK LANGUAGE IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION: HISTORICAL LEGACY, CULTURAL POTENTIAL, AND INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE

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Abstract: This article analyzes the current problems and promising directions of the development of the Uzbek language in foreign countries. In addition, cooperation between Uzbekistan and other countries in the field of language teaching, ongoing cultural and educational projects will be considered. In universities and centers of foreign countries, special attention is paid to the organization of Uzbek language courses, the provision of educational materials and the training of qualified personnel. The article also examines the factors that contribute to the recognition of the Uzbek language within the framework of language policy and international cultural integration.

Keywords: Uzbek language, study abroad, international cooperation, language policy, educational projects, cultural exchange, educational and methodological materials, language promotion.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada O'zbek tilining xorijiy mamlakatlarda o'qitilishida mavjud muammolar va istiqbolli yo'nalishlar tahlil qilinadi. Shuningdek, O'zbekiston bilan boshqa davlatlar o'rtasida til o'rgatish sohasidagi o'zaro hamkorlik aloqalari, madaniy hamda ta'limiy dasturlar orqali amalga oshirilayotgan loyihalar ko'rib chiqiladi. Xorijdagi universitetlar va markazlarda O'zbek tili kurslarini tashkil etish, o'quv-uslubiy materiallar bilan ta'minlash hamda malakali kadrlar tayyorlash masalalariga alohida e'tibor qaratilgan. Maqola til siyosati va xalqaro madaniy integratsiya doirasida O'zbek tilining nufuzini oshirishga xizmat qiluvchi omillarni ham yoritadi.

Kalit so'zlar: O'zbek tili, xorijda o'qitish, xalqaro hamkorlik, til siyosati, ta'lim loyihalari, madaniy almashinuv, o'quv-uslubiy materiallar, tilni targ'ib qilish.



Аннотация: В данной статье анализируются актуальные проблемы и перспективные направления развития узбекского языка в зарубежных странах. Кроме того, будет рассмотрено сотрудничество между Узбекистаном и другими странами в области преподавания языков, реализуемые культурные и образовательные проекты. В вузах и центрах зарубежных стран особое внимание уделяется вопросам организации курсов узбекского языка, обеспечения учебными материалами и подготовки квалифицированных кадров. В статье также рассматриваются факторы, способствующие признанию узбекского языка в рамках языковой политики и международной культурной интеграции.

Ключевые слова: узбекский язык, обучение за рубежом, международное сотрудничество, языковая политика, образовательные проекты, культурный обмен, учебно-методические материалы, языковое продвижение.

In the contemporary era of globalization, the Uzbek language is gaining increasing international recognition due to its rich historical heritage, cultural potential, and the state's language policies. The development of the language is not only of national significance but also plays an important role as a tool of cultural diplomacy on a global scale.

Belonging to the Turkic language family, Uzbek is one of the languages with the largest number of speakers in Central Asia. Today, over 35 million people worldwide speak Uzbek. The international prestige of the language is determined not only by demographic indicators but also by its activity in scientific, cultural, and diplomatic domains. The global status of the Uzbek language has been historically shaped by the works of great thinkers and poets such as Alisher Navoi, Babur, Uvaysi, and Nodira. Between the 16th and 19th centuries, Uzbek served as a literary and administrative language in Central Asia. During the Soviet era, although the official status of the language was maintained, its international activity was limited due to the predominance of Russian.

The Law "On the State Language," adopted in 1989, legally established the status of Uzbek¹. In subsequent years, presidential decrees and resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers introduced strategies aimed at the development of the language. The "Concept for the Development of the Uzbek Language until

¹ Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the State Language," October 21, 1989.



2030,” approved in 2020² Presidential Decree PF-6084, October 20, 2020, “On Measures for the Further Development of the Uzbek Language and Improvement of Language Policy in Our Country”, further strengthened the prestige of the language.

Currently, Uzbek is taught in universities in countries such as Russia, the United States, South Korea, Turkey, Germany, and China. For instance, at Moscow State University, Uzbek is offered as an elective subject, while Seoul National University in South Korea provides specialized courses in Uzbek. There is also a growing presence of Uzbek-language blogs, YouTube channels, electronic dictionaries, mobile applications, and translation platforms. Global platforms such as Google Translate and Duolingo support Uzbek, enhancing its recognition in the digital sphere.

However, the promotion of Uzbek abroad still faces challenges. Primary issues include low interest in learning the language, lack of modern textbooks and comprehensive dictionaries for learners, a shortage of qualified local teachers capable of teaching Uzbek, and the absence of mechanisms for their financial and moral support. These are issues that can be addressed at the governmental level.

The teaching of Uzbek abroad is not only a process of language instruction but also a significant means of enhancing Uzbekistan’s international reputation and strengthening its cultural diplomacy. The study of any national language in foreign countries generally depends on three main factors: state policy, scientific and pedagogical foundations, and international cooperation. In Uzbekistan, systematic work is being carried out in all three areas; however, compared to countries with more developed experience, there remain numerous objectives yet to be achieved.

In recent years, under the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to elevate the Uzbek language to an international standard, a series of significant steps have been undertaken. Notably, Uzbek language and culture centers have been established in cooperation with foreign universities, Uzbek embassies, and diaspora communities. For instance, such centers are operational in Turkey, the United States, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Kazakhstan, India, and Japan. The primary objectives of these centers are to

² Presidential Decree PF-6084, October 20, 2020, “On Measures for the Further Development of the Uzbek Language and Improvement of Language Policy in Our Country



teach Uzbek to foreign audiences, to promote its scientific and theoretical development, and to enhance the professional qualifications of instructors.

Despite these achievements, certain challenges persist. One major issue is the insufficient availability of instructional and methodological materials adapted for foreign learners. Many existing textbooks are primarily designed for domestic audiences and do not consider the linguistic preparedness or learning mindset of international students. Additionally, teaching methodologies require enrichment through modern psycholinguistic approaches, multimedia textbooks, interactive applications, and the integration of artificial intelligence (AI)-based educational technologies.

Historically, the language, referred to by the names Turkic, Khokhani, or Chagatai, began to be officially recognized as modern Uzbek by the 1920s. Today, Uzbek is the most widely spoken language in Central Asia, with over 40 million speakers worldwide using it as their primary language. It was once renowned as a literary and poetic language in Central Asia and was widely used prior to the Mongol conquests under its authentic Turkic designation.

Mahmud al-Qashgari, in his seminal work *Divan ul-Lughat al-Turk* ("Compendium of the Turkic Languages"), documented the use of the "Khokhani" language in Oghuz and Kipchak dialects, within the Khokhan court, and in state affairs. It was in this language that the earliest Turkic poetry was composed, official documents were written, and the works of the greatest poet of the Turkic peoples, Alisher Navoi, were created.

In today's era of globalization, the international status and recognition of every national language are increasingly significant. The study and teaching of Uzbek in foreign countries present opportunities not only for linguistic promotion but also for the dissemination of Uzbek culture, history, and national values. In recent years, courses in Uzbek have been organized abroad in collaboration between Uzbekistan's higher education institutions and foreign educational establishments, making this process a priority within the framework of state policy.

Specifically, universities in countries such as Russia, the United States, South Korea, Germany, and China offer Uzbek language courses. This initiative not only strengthens Uzbekistan's international relations but also increases interest in the country among foreigners. Collaboration with embassies, cultural centers, and foreign universities plays a crucial role in the effective teaching of Uzbek abroad.



However, several challenges remain. These include the limited availability of instructional materials, a shortage of qualified instructors, and the restricted use of modern didactic approaches and digital platforms, which hinder the attainment of desired outcomes. Consequently, there is a need to systematically train Uzbek language teachers, send them abroad, and expand teaching programs based on international grants and projects. Furthermore, cultural and scientific exchange programs can enhance international cooperation, contributing to the global development of the Uzbek language.

Organizing international conferences, seminars, and online courses in Uzbek can further stimulate the interest of foreign students. This, in turn, plays a critical role in shaping a positive image of Uzbekistan internationally. The importance of international cooperation in the systematic promotion of Uzbek abroad cannot be overstated. The establishment of "Uzbek Language and Culture Centers" serves to strengthen links with foreign educational institutions. These centers promote not only the language but also Uzbekistan's culture, history, traditions, and customs. Instructors sent from Uzbekistan operate in these centers, improving the quality of language instruction.

Moreover, the expansion of distance learning opportunities through digital technologies increases interest in studying Uzbek. Online courses, mobile applications, electronic textbooks, and interactive platforms allow foreigners to learn the language independently. In this regard, the use of modern information and communication technologies has become a critical factor in language instruction. Financial support from the Uzbek government for foreign students and linguists, including scholarships, scientific expeditions, and exchange programs, has produced positive outcomes. These initiatives not only facilitate language learning but also expand scientific and cultural ties with Uzbekistan.

At the same time, establishing a system for language certification, developing international competitions and examinations, and providing globally recognized certifications and awards are essential measures for strengthening the official status of Uzbek internationally and encouraging language learning.

The teaching and promotion of the Uzbek language abroad constitute a crucial factor in strengthening Uzbekistan's cultural and political image in today's globalized world. This process, as an integral part of language and cultural diplomacy, enables the expansion of international relations and the dissemination of national values to foreign audiences. Alongside existing achievements, a systematic approach is required in this field, including the



training of qualified personnel, the enrichment of methodological resources, and the expansion of international cooperation.

For the effective teaching of Uzbek abroad in the future, it is essential to extensively utilize digital technologies, establish an international language certification system, and integrate Uzbek language courses into the curricula of prestigious universities. These measures will consolidate the international status of the Uzbek language and contribute to a growing number of learners worldwide.

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