**Diplomatic Language**

At the threshold of the XX century, the famous British diplomat Ernest Sato described diplomacy as an application of intellect and tact to conduct foreign affairs. The need of intellect is self-evident, but the equally vital need of tact and language is often disregarded.

The term "diplomatic language" is used to denote three different things. In its first sense it signifies the actual language (whether it be Latin, French or English) which is employed by diplomats in their converse or correspondence with each other.  
In its second sense it means those technical phrases which in the course of centuries, have become part of ordinary diplomatic vocabulary. And in its third and most common, sense it is used to describe that guarded understatement which enables diplomats and ministers to say sharp things to each other without becoming provocative or impolite.  
 Thus, if a statesman or a diplomat informs another government that his own government "cannot remain indifferent" to some international controversy, he is clearly understood to imply that his government will certainly intervene in this controversy.  
If a diplomat uses such phrases as "His (Her) Majesty's Government view with grave concern", then it becomes evident to all that the British Government intend to adopt a strong line.  
Thanks to such kind of ways of using guarded understatements and phrases, without threatening language, a statesman or a diplomat is enabled to convey a serious warning to a foreign government, still remaining courteous and conciliatory. The advantage of this conversational form of communication is that it maintains an atmosphere of calm (ness).  
 The disadvantage is that the public and sometimes even the statesmen themselves are not acquainted with the actual value of the expressions used. On the one hand, an ignorant or incautious use of one of these phrases may give to a given situation a gravity which it does not possess. On the other hand, when a really serious crisis arises, the public is apt to assume from the mildness of the language used that the crisis cannot be as grave as "the alarmists" had given them to suppose. The habit of diplomatic ambiguity or of diplomatic understatement, leads to actual misunderstanding. That's why in all important international controversies these phrases are most carefully scrutinized before they are used. In the Middle Ages, negotiations were conducted in Latin, which was considered the language of the civilized Christians.  
 The problem of the language at conferences is connected to the international prestige of the state, the language of which is accepted by a conference as official or working.  
What is the difference between official and working languages of conferences?  
Official languages are those in which texts and resolutions are published. Working languages are those languages used in discussion, debate and projects of the documents and from and into which interpretation is provided. In the international organization as the UNO six official languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic) are used.  
The Russian language became one of the official and working languages of major international conferences thanks to the contribution of the USSR to the victory over fascism during WWII and its high international prestige.

**Explanatory Notes**

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| an application of intellect and tact | ақылменэдептіліктіуйлестіру, қолдану | сочетание, приложение ума и такта. |
| the equally vital need | бірдейдәрежедегі (тіршілікке) қажетікеректілік | в равной степени жизненно-важная необходимость |
| guarded understatement | сабырлы, үқыпты, бүгіпқалғансөз (пікір) | сдержанное, осторожное (высказывание) |
| to say sharp things | тілменшығып, ащысөйлеп, өзойынайту | говорить колкости, резкие высказывания |
| international controversy | халықаралық дау, талас | международный спор, полемика |
| to view with grave concern | көңілқоюдыталапететінкейбірмәселелердібайыппенқарастырсу | относится, рассматривать какой-либо вопрос, проблему с серьезной озабоченностью |
| to be enabled to convey а serious warning | қатаңескертуберудіңмүмкіндігініңболуы | иметь возможность передать серьезное предупреждение |
| to be (remain) courteous and conciliatory | сыпайы және жарастыратын болу | быть учтивым и примирительным |
| to give a situation a gravity | біржағдайғашектентысқауіптілікқосу (беру) | придавать какой-то ситуации чрезмерную серьезность |
| to be apt to assume | үйғаруға, болжауға бейімді болу | быть склонным предполагать, допускать |
| diplomatic ambiguity | диплматиқалық көмескілі, бүгіпқалушылық | дипломатическая двусмысленность |
| thanks to the contribution of somebody. to….. | біреудінбірнәрсегеқосқанүлесіарқасында | благодаря вкладу кого то в….. |

**Tasks:**

**I. Read and translate the text into Kazakh/Russian.**

**II. Answer the following questions:**

1. Why is diplomacy regarded as "an application of intellect and tact" in conducting foreign affairs?

2. What does the term diplomatic language" denote?

3. What enables diplomats and ministers to say sharp things without becoming provocative or impolite?

4. What must be done to avoid actual misunderstandings?

5. Why is it very important to scrutinize phrases or guarded understatements very carefully before they are used?

6. Does the international prestige of the State play a great role in choosing the language by a conference?

7. What is the difference between official and working languages?

8. Why did the Russian language become one of the official and working languages of major international conferences?

**III. Give a Summary of the Text.**

**IV. Write an Essay on the Topic: “The Languages of the UN”.**