

GLOBALIZATION: LANGUAGE FACTOR IN THE FORMATION OF CULTURAL IDENTITY OF KAZAKHSTAN

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Abstract

This article attempts to give an overview of the language situation and language planning in Kazakhstan. Statistical data is given and excursion to history of languages in Kazakhstan is done. Particular emphasis is placed on the national- cultural component of the Kazakh people, namely the impact of the specificity of the Kazakh language on ethnic identity. Language is one of the basic aspects of national identity. Recently, in the Republic of Kazakhstan purposeful work on language development has been conducted. Optimal solution of language problems is a factor of interethnic relations harmonization, strengthening and consolidation of the peoples and public consent. Development of languages - one of the important directions of the state policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The problem of the state language, as part of national (civil) identification play a huge role in the successful integration process of Kazakh society. And quite rightly assume that one of the foundations of a new civic identity is knowing Kazakh language by all citizens of Kazakhstan. The article is an analysis of the language situation in Kazakhstan in close connection with the peculiarities of cultural identity.

Keywords– ethnolinguistics, Kazakhstan, language personality, language planning, mentality.

I. INTRODUCTION

The concept of language policy in Kazakhstan determines its main difficulty in “creating an optimal language area of the state”, requiring “a clear definition of the functional relation of languages in which the state language should take its rightful place”. Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev in his book “In the flow of history” believes that national diaspora can act in “arrayed common Kazakh cultural reality not as broken crops of their ethnic and continent cultures, but become authorized representatives of Kazakhstan, one of the channels of relationship between our country and national and cultural systems of other states”. [1]

National communities living in the newly independent state - the Republic of Kazakhstan, have an important mission to act as agents of cultural dialogue between Kazakhstan and other countries. At the same time ethno-linguistic communities in Kazakhstan show its political, linguistic, ethnic subjectivity through their cultural development and cultural activities, including, exit to the level of international relations.

Authors of the guide “Languages of the Peoples of Kazakhstan” noted that despite the political and other influence on the process and results of the census realization, as well as objective difficulties in the sociolinguistic identification and inventory of languages, a list of 126 languages spoken in Kazakhstan, which, in accordance with the status and spread in Kazakhstan and in the main country of residence of reference peoples were divided into the following groups : (1) State Kazakh language, (2) Russian (3) Exogenous and endogenous languages of diaspora (4) Immigrant languages. [2]

It is quite obvious that with such a huge number of ethnic groups living in the territory of Kazakhstan it is necessary to pay special attention to the issues of integration and interaction between them. In this regard, Kazakhstan has created a unique in its structure body - the Assembly of Peoples of Kazakhstan, as an advisory body, as well as scientific advisory council to the Assembly, which conducts a huge work in the spheres of all processes associated with ethno-linguistic, historical and cultural components of the current political situation of Kazakhstan.

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How can be characterized ethnolinguistic situation of modern Kazakhstan and what are the prerequisites for further development of languages and cultures in our country?

First of all, scientists have noted a steady Turkic substrate which was formed on the territory of Kazakhstan in the form of the titular ethnic group language - the Kazakh language, which, according to the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, is the official language, expanding its functions and is an important component of the language situation and language development in Kazakhstan.[3]

Currently in Kazakhstan from 126 languages Kazakh is autochthonous language, other languages are of dispersed living non-indigenous ethnic groups of diaspora: Russian, Uzbek, Kyrgyz, Tajik, Bashkir, Tatar, Azeri, Ukrainian, Polish, Czech, German, Bulgarian, Greek, Korean, etc.

II. OBJECT OF RESEARCH

Long period of time Kazakhstan was a part of the Russian Empire, and later the Soviet Union. That time fundamental and the de facto government language throughout the country was Russian, until the mid of 1980s abruptly (in 1939, 1957, 1969, 1983) paperwork in Kazakh language was folding in rural areas (originally paperwork in cities was in Russian), closure of Kazakh language schools.

The adopted on September 22, 1989 Law on Languages in the Kazakh SSR the concept of “state language” was introduced, and the Kazakh was given the status of state language, for the Russian language de jure status as the “language of interethnic communication” was secured. Later with amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan is determined that “together with the state language Russian is official language”. [4]

On May 15, 2002 at the presentation of the public association “Russian Party of Kazakhstan” (RPK), it was announced that the primary task of the RPK - is to call on all Russians living in Kazakhstan, to study the state language. As soon as the Russian Party was opened more than 3 thousand people became its members.

Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan fully translated all documentation into the state language according to the order of Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated July 5, 2004 # 348.

In 2004 according to the assess of D. O'Biken, “the Kazakh government has decided that the Kazakh language will play a crucial role in the process of so called “kazahization” of society. [5]

Thanks to the work of the Assembly of Peoples of Kazakhstan, languages and cultures having no official status in Kazakhstan are highly supported (or at least do not hinder their development).

On September 12, 2005, speaking on the second Civic Forum, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev said:

“We must work together to support the languages and cultures of all peoples of Kazakhstan. No one shall be discriminated in their rights to use their native language and culture”. [6]

By 2006, according to the voiced data at the round table “The Future of Kazakhstan and the state language”, paperwork was officially translated into Kazakh language in five areas (Atyrau, Zhambyl, Kyzylorda, Mangistau and South Kazakhstan regions). Nevertheless, even in these areas the “kazahization” of official documents faces several challenges. Therefore, in the Atyrau region only 51 % of the official documents was carried out in the Kazakh language in Jambul - 50%, in Kyzylorda - 49 %. In 2006, 500 million tenge from the republican budget was allocated to the introduction of the Kazakh language (Vdovin, 2008:90).

In 2007, the number of citizens of Kazakhstan, with knowledge of the state language of the republic, has reached about 70 percent. According to him (the Minister of Culture and Information Ermukhamet Ertysbayev) 10 years ago, when the Law “On languages in the Republic of Kazakhstan” was adopted, this number did not exceed 40 percent.

At the same year cultural project “Trinity of languages” - Kazakh, Russian and English in Kazakhstan was adopted on the state level. However, this idea had both supporters and opponents.

On August 20, 2007 at the XIII session of the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan The Head of the State Nursultan Nazarbayev stressed:

“We must make every effort for the further development of the Kazakh language, which is the main factor uniting all the peoples of Kazakhstan. At the same time, to create favorable conditions for persons of all nationalities living in the country to speak freely, to be taught in their native language and to develop it”.

In early September 2009, it was reported that by 2010, official documentation in Kazakhstan will be translated into the official language by 60% rather than 70%, as planned. It was due to the fact that at the beginning of September, the Government of the Republic decided to change the Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2009-2011.

Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan Zh.Tuimebayev in an interview on January 29, 2010 on the issue of translation the official documentation into Kazakh language from 2010 said that “All official documentation is maintained in national Kazakh and sub-national Russian languages. No displacement is expected. This was also recently announced by our President Nursultan Nazarbayev. He also confirmed that Russian will retain all functions of the language of

interethnic communication. I therefore emphasize that the rumors and speculation about a displacement of the Russian language is incorrect". Responding to other questions, he also said, "The number of people who are trained in Russian is now much more in Kazakhstan than the number of ethnically Russian people. Russian language - is our heritage, and our president has repeatedly talked about this. Kazakhs learned the world culture through the Russian language", "The are about 30 percent of Russian schools in Kazakhstan, i.e. those where all subjects are in Russian. Agree, it is not too little".

In 2012, under the amendments to the Law "On Culture" all films imported into the territory of Kazakhstan for hire, must be dubbed into Kazakh language.

On August 4, 2011 by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Kazakhstan has drafted a bill, which states that: applications (complaints) to public authorities, and public bodies responses to the treatment of individuals and entities, and other documents, maintaining accounting and statistical, financial, technical and other documents in the system of government of the Republic of Kazakhstan as well as all documents emanating from government, must necessarily be in Kazakh language. And for doing accounting and statistical, financial, technical and other documentation in organizations of Kazakhstan a reservation was made, this information is provided in Kazakh language, and only "if necessary" - in Russian. Names of legal persons and objects from the date of adoption of the law will be given only in Kazakh language. In education, the number of Kazakh groups and classes must be at least 50%.

On September 6, 2011 public figures demanded from the President of Kazakhstan to exclude from the Constitution point about the use of the Russian language on a par with the state - Kazakh. Signed: Co-Chair of NSDP "Azat" Bulat Abilov, chairman of the party "Ak Jol" Azat Peruashev, hero of the USSR, Soviet cosmonaut Tokhtar Aubakirov, People's Artist of the USSR Bibigul Tulegenova, chairman of the Green Party "Rukhaniyat" Serikjan Mambetalin, as well as writers, journalists, and many others. And on September 7, 2011 Advisor of the President of Kazakhstan on political issues Ermukhamet Ertysbayev responded to the letter of public figures with the statement that the "vast majority of Kazakh voters oppose such a position" and added that Russian language, nobody and never ever be able to dislodge.

On December 14, 2012 "Kazakhstan by the year of 2025 intends to translate the alphabet from Cyrillic to Latin", – said the President Nursultan Nazarbayev, giving his speech on Friday at a solemn meeting dedicated to the 21st anniversary of independence. "It is necessary to start now the preparatory work on the transition Kazakh alphabet to the Latin alphabet by the 2025," - said Nazarbayev. According to Nazarbayev, the Latin alphabet will turn Kazakh into "the language of modern media". By that time, in 2025, the Kazakh language must become ubiquitous and dominant in all spheres of national life.

Every year, in September Festival of languages is held on the territory of Kazakhstan. This festival is important event for all the peoples living on the territory of Kazakhstan and other countries, since it contributes to the strengthening of friendship and unity of the people; the Day of Languages is celebrated, Kazakh and other languages study centers are established.

Currently Kazakh scientists are carrying out a great job on learning Kazakh, Russian, Uzbek, Uighur and many other languages . The most important issues that excite philologists are:

- Kazakh language as the state language in the context of the linguistic situation of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- Russian as the mother language, as a second language and as a foreign language;
- languages of ethnic groups , such as the Ingush, German, Korean, Uighur and many other languages in Kazakhstan;
- communicative space of languages and cultures;
- linguistic identity and tolerance

Linguistic regulation in Kazakhstan is held in the context of multiethnic and multicultural society and aimed at optimizing inter-ethnic relations and formation of ethno-linguistic tolerance, development of inter-ethnic integration, and strengthening the unity and integrity of society. In this regard, "National Unity Doctrine" has been developed, which states: "The language policy is designed to create a harmonious sociolinguistic space in the country, to become a factor of unity of the people. It should be aimed at broadening and strengthening social and communicative functions of the state language; Russian language dialog function preservation; development of the languages of other ethnic groups". [7]

In modern conditions of statehood, prospects are directly dependent on the state's ability to maintain and protect the national system of values. The protection of national values is the main purpose of measures systems to ensure national security. Loss of state identity, lack of unified database of values are in turn a threat to national security. As K.Colin noted in his article "About the role of the Russian language in maintaining a unified information space of Russia", one of the important factors in ensuring national security is the state language. [8]

Being a critical threat to society, information and psychological impact on the consciousness of a human and people in general is carried out mainly through the language environment and through language.

According to L. Puhovich, the question of state language, as a part of national identity, is a definite threat to security and stability of the country. At the same time, the successful solution of the language problem can give a powerful impetus to further development of democracy and create the preconditions for entering the country's fifty most competitive countries in the world. [9]

That is why the active defense of the language environment is an important aspect of national security. Language is one of the basic aspects of national identity.

Recently, a determined purposeful work on language development is being done in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Optimal

solution of language problems is a factor of harmonization of interethnic relations, strengthening and consolidation of peoples and public consent. Development of languages - one of the important directions of the state policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan. [10]

According to B.Abdygaliev, one of the foundations of a new national identity is the knowledge of Kazakh language by all citizens of Kazakhstan. The key to stability and prosperity is the linguistic unity of Kazakhstani when Kazakh and Russian languages are symbols of mutual understanding and respect.

Currently, the Kazakh language as the state language, has high expectations. Thus, priority is given to the expansion of social, communicative and consolidating functions of the state language. [11]

According to Puhovich L., further use of Kazakh language by representatives of all ethnic groups of Kazakhstan will not be a policy of assimilation, as some Russians fear, it will only create the preconditions for the formation of national identity in the country. Experience in a number of European and Asian countries shows that fluency in two or three languages becomes not the exception but the rule.

The answer to this question we will search in the results of a poll conducted in 2010 by the Centre for the study of inter-ethnic relations of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Sociological survey covered all regions of Kazakhstan. The total number of respondents was 1,200.

According to the survey it appears that, in Kazakh language think 41.6 % of Kazakhstanis, while in Russian think 32.1 % of respondents, the answer “we can think both in Kazakh and Russian languages” gave 15.5 % of respondents. This question can not be overlooked without the latest data of the Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan that the major share of the population in the country over 64 % are Kazakhs, the second highest number are Russians (24%), 2.91 % of Uzbeks, 1.95% of Ukrainians, 1.42 % of Uighurs, 1.24 % of Tatars, 1.10 % of Germans, 4.51 % of other ethnic groups. [12]

To the question “Do you think that the language environment of the state language has been expanded today?” The majority of respondents (30.5%) believe that it has been expanded throughout, especially after the release of the State Language Law. 19.9 % of the population claims that the language environment of the state language expanded only at the official level, in official documentation, while 18.5 % believe that educational institutions begin to allocate more training hours to the state language study (see Table 1).

TABLE I
DO YOU THINK THAT THE LANGUAGE ENVIRONMENT OF THE STATE LANGUAGE HAS BEEN EXPANDED TODAY?

Answers	%
Yes, it has been expanded throughout , especially after the release of the State Language Law	30,5%
Yes, expanded only at the official level , in official documentation	19,9%
Yes, educational institutions begin to allocate more training hours to the state language study	18,5%
Yes, the media (TV programs, periodicals) give more airtime for programs in the official language	17,8%
No, hardly expanded, changes are of "cosmetic" nature	12,5%

According to the results, 17.8 % of respondents believe that “the media (TV program, periodicals) give more airtime for programs in the state language”. This circumstance can be proved by the fact that the biggest state television channel “Kazakhstan” by the decision of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev on September 1, switched to the broadcasting in Kazakh language.

“When hiring to a job knowledge of the state language was required, which created some difficulties for me”, believe 20.4 % of respondents, “difficulties were with filling some documents which required knowledge of the state language” - 12.4%, “did not experience any difficulties because of Kazakh language became official language” indicated the greatest number of respondents (45.9 %).

III. CONCLUSION

Today, 29 national and 16 local executive bodies transferred paperwork to the state language. As part of the development of infrastructure for teaching the state language, a unified network of the state language teaching organization has been created for the adult population, including civil servants. Currently, there are 93 state language learning Centers. State language teaching courses are working in all central and local government bodies.

This year, Development and functioning of languages state program for 2011-2020 was adopted. The aim of the Program is harmonious language policy that provides full operation of the state language as the most important factor in strengthening national unity while preserving the languages of all ethnic groups living in Kazakhstan. In Kazakhstan, along with Russian and Kazakh languages, different languages of ethnic groups continue to operate and develop. Conditions are being created and every opportunity is being used to meet national and linguistic queries of citizens. In this regard, a wide network of Sunday schools was organized. If in 2001, 23 national languages were studied in 173 Sunday schools, in 2008-2009 academic year 30 languages were studied in 190 schools.

Results on the level of the Kazakh language proficiency in Kazakhstan are presented in Figure 1.

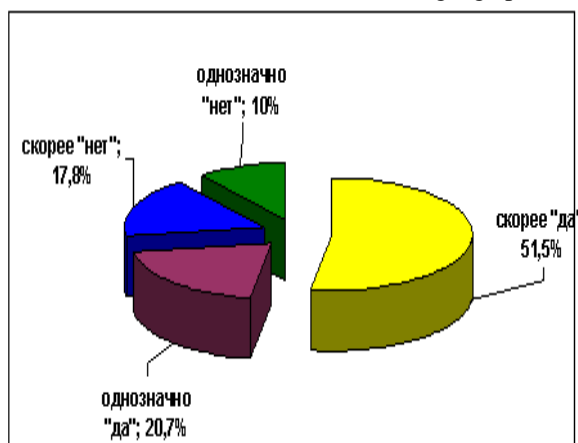


Fig. 1 Are you satisfied with your knowledge of Kazakh language?

Blue pie-chart – “probably not”
 Purple pie-chart – “definitely yes”
 Green pie-chart – “definitely no”
 Yellow pie-chart - “probably yes”

With knowledge of Kazakh language are satisfied 51.5 % of Kazakhstanis, the answer “definitely yes”, chose 20.7%, not contentment knowledge of the Kazakh language is expressed in responses “definitely no” (10%), most are not happy with the knowledge of the state language 17,8 % of respondents.

Since gaining long-awaited independence it is still debated about what Kazakh as the state language content should be. The position of Kazakhstan aborigines’ language might be dramatically improved, as it became not only de jure but also de facto official language of the republic. Citizens were asked “In your opinion, what kind of content (primarily) is needed to invest in the concept of “Kazakh language?” According to the survey 45.1 % of Kazakhstanis believe that primarily Kazakh language - is a state language, 24.1 % of respondents said that Kazakh language - is a factor of national identity , the most important element of the cultural values of the Kazakh ethnic group, whereas 16.4% perceived the Kazakh language as a communication tool, “Kazakh language (as well as the languages of other ethnic groups) - is the soul of the people” believe 13.7 % of the citizens of Kazakhstan.

Thus, the problem of state language, as part of national (civil) identification play a huge role in the successful integration process of Kazakh society. And quite rightly to assume that one of the foundations of a new civic identity is knowing Kazakh language by all citizens of Kazakhstan, this is shown in the poll results. The key to stability and prosperity is the linguistic unity of Kazakhstani when Kazakh and Russian languages are symbols of mutual understanding and respect. [13]

The question of knowledge of the Kazakh language is always associated with the formation of Kazakhstan patriotism, since knowledge of Kazakh language is primarily knowledge of a state language of the country. Today all the possibilities for learning the Kazakh language are being created. In state institutions and enterprises courses are opened, scientific and methodological materials are published and distributed. By the order of the President, employees of government agencies who are non-Kazakh nationalities but owning state language are financially encouraged. Many of our fellow citizens are aware of their patriotic duty - to learn Kazakh language. In addition, it is understood that the state language is a factor of personal competitiveness and career advancement in any field.

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