

Level Of Knowledge of Russian Language Among Schools in Uzbekistan

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Abstract: The article characterizes the official status and scope of the Russian language in the Republic of Uzbekistan. It is shown that the policy of strengthening the state language in modern Uzbekistan is associated with the adaptation of the late Soviet model of the nation state, in which the language was one of the most important markers of the nation. It is proved that the Russian language is one of the rooted languages of the republic. The author comes to the conclusion that the Russian language is part of modern Uzbek culture.

Key Words: Uzbekistan, Russian-speaking population, areas of application of the Russian and Uzbek languages, communicative need for Russian, identity, Uzbek Latin, school,

The Russian language on the territory of modern Uzbekistan became widespread after the annexation of Tashkent in the 1860s and since then has gone through a long stage of development and formation, accompanied by repeated changes in its social and legal status. In Soviet times, the Russian language ceased to be exclusively the native language of the ethnic Russian population of the republic: many Tashkenters and other national minorities of Uzbekistan took it as their native language: Ukrainians, Germans, Koreans, Tatars, Kazakhs, various mestizos and others. In Russian, Russian-speaking nationalities, Uzbeks and Tajiks communicate with each other. It has become a second language for the majority of urban, especially Tashkent Uzbeks.

Spoken Russian in Uzbekistan is spoken by 50% to 80% of the population, the number of Russian groups in colleges and lyceums is 50% and 90%, respectively. The Russian language is mandatory for study in all universities of the country, and is also the main language of office work in large cities.

As of the 2013/2014 academic year, 886 schools operated in Russian; 8.95% of the country's schoolchildren studied there. As of the 2017/2018 academic year, 903 schools operated in Russian; 10% of the country's schoolchildren studied there.

The Russian language in the republics of the region has become native not only for Russians, Ukrainians and other Europeanized urban groups, but also for part of the titular population (the highest proportion of the Russian language is spoken among Kazakhs and Kyrgyz in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, respectively), as well as deported ethnic groups, etc. If you look at the data of the Soviet censuses of 1970 and 1989 for the Uzbek SSR, then in 1970 out of 7,724,715 Uzbeks living in the republic, 26,276 people (0.3%) called Russian their native language. According to the 1989 population census, out of 14,142,475 Uzbeks living in the republic, the Russian language was considered relatives of 63,568 people (0.4%). It should be noted that these were those Uzbeks who thought, spoke and wrote in Russian better than in Uzbek, in some cases this group of Uzbeks included those who did not speak Uzbek at all. In 2019, a respondent, aged 52, was interviewed in Tashkent, an Uzbek by origin, but he avoided identifying himself with this group, he grew up in a family of Russified Uzbeks: "Yu. Ts: What ethnic group do you belong to? B.: ... I was born in 1967, that is, I still grew up and formed at that time, Soviet ... my parents spoke Russian all the time at home ... Therefore, I think that if we start from this fact, then I belong to 90% of Russian culture, but if we start from the fact that there were and are some local traditions that could not pass by and still exist now, they still affect us, then belonging to the local, indigenous ethnic group is also

felt. Therefore, there is some kind of duality here". Respondent B. emphasizes that his self-identification coexists in two contexts, where the leading role is played by the "European" identity, based on knowledge of the Russian language (the native language for this respondent), on "addiction" to Russian literature, etc. ., on the other hand, his identity is inscribed in the context of the national culture, to which he also partly belongs. The multi-level identity that has formed among a part of the urban population, which allows them to live in different socio-cultural contexts, is a little-studied phenomenon that requires a long anthropological study and comprehension. Following the logic of this thought, it is necessary to once again focus on the fact that the Russian language, starting from the imperial time and massively in the Soviet period, became a connecting bridge through which the indigenous population got an idea of "European" culture and values. This situation has not changed to the present time - until now, familiarization with the Russian language has influenced and still influences the identification of its carrier. In Uzbekistan, there are 2 cultural-linguistic identities: Russian-speaking / Europeanized and national. Russian-speaking / native speaker of the Russian language, or in everyday life the name / self-name "European" is more common - a person, regardless of ethnicity, who shares European values through the Russian language. Culturologist and linguist Aleksey Ulko, who lives in Uzbekistan, believes that the names of this group - "Europeans" and "Russian-speaking" - are unsuccessful and distort the characteristics of the groups. In his opinion, at present, the main speakers of the Russian language in Uzbekistan are non-Russians, who, according to official statistics, as of January 1, 2018, there were 739,684 people in Uzbekistan (2% of the total population) (materials provided State Committee on Statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan No01/4-01-19-477 dated May 3, 2019), and ethnic Uzbeks. But at the same time, the level of Russian language proficiency among Uzbeks and Tajiks differs in the degree of developed skills: listening comprehension, the ability to maintain conversational speech, the ability to read, write, etc. Everyday life in Uzbekistan dictates completely different rules for using languages, and often the attitude towards the Russian language in everyday practices does not coincide with the course declared by the state. In recent years, expert articles on Uzbekistan have appeared, which emphasize the idea that high-ranking officials do not speak Uzbek well, the middle and lower levels of officials speak Uzbek, but use a lot of dialectisms and Europeanisms. Because of these features of the Uzbek language, it is not possible to completely abandon Russian. Uzbekistan is one of those post-Soviet countries in which the fate of the Russian language is determined by objective socio-economic and inertial processes. It should also be noted that the Uzbek society is extremely traditional, so de-Russification here took place extremely slowly, the Uzbek Cyrillic alphabet has not been abandoned so far, despite the fact that the reform of the Latinization of the alphabet began more than 25 years ago, it has remained so. unfinished. In clerical work in Uzbekistan in the 2000s–2010s, the Uzbek language was mainly used in Cyrillic, to a lesser extent in Latin, but at the same time, the Uzbek Latin prevailed in the sphere of official symbols - signs, inscriptions in the subway, names of cities , streets, etc. In this situation, the Russian language still acts as an intermediary language. School education in the Uzbek Latin alphabet was introduced in 1996, the first generation of graduates of classes with instruction in the Uzbek Latin alphabet in the 2000s faced the practice of the total use of the Uzbek Cyrillic alphabet in business and the need to master it Tsyryapkina Yu.N. Russian language in modern Uzbekistan: politics, identity, areas of application

Bulletin of the Altai State Pedagogical University Altai State Pedagogical University or Russian as an intermediary language. The incompleteness of the reform of the translation of the alphabet graphics into the Latin alphabet has led to a new level of discussion in modern Uzbekistan. In 2017, an open letter was published by the well-known Uzbek literary critic Shukhrat Rizaev, addressed to President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev, with a proposal to return to the Cyrillic alphabet as the main graphics. The above-mentioned initiatives of President Sh. Mirziyoyev in 2020 marked a mainstream movement towards strengthening the Uzbek Latin alphabet, the completion of the reform of the Uzbek alphabet graphics, as well as the widespread translation of office work into the state language. At the same time, in Uzbekistan, there remains a high demand from the indigenous

population (Uzbeks, Tajiks) for education in Russian - in schools, colleges, universities, which retain "European" flows (Russian language of instruction) and "national" (Uzbek language) . The website of the Ministry of Public Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan provides official information on the number of schools and students by language of instruction in general education schools of the public education system in the 2020/21 academic year (moreover, the information is published in Uzbek Cyrillic). There are 8,083 schools with the Uzbek language of instruction in the republic, while there are 81 schools with the Russian language of instruction, about 100 times less, but at the same time, 5,321,918 people receive education in schools with the Uzbek language of instruction, and 634,985 with Russian students, 8 times less. Given the fact that there are 739 68 Russians in the republic, although data on the age and sex composition of Russians are not available to the author, representatives of the middle and older age groups are more likely to belong to this group even in cities. Thus, most of the students in Russian classes and schools are most likely Uzbeks and other indigenous ethnic groups in the region. The rootedness of the Russian language in education is connected not only with the widespread stereotypes that education in Russian is of better quality than in Uzbek-teaching classrooms. Summarizing the above trends, it should be noted that the potential of the Russian language in Uzbekistan is significant, it unites groups of the population culturally close to it, regardless of ethnicity. In the Internet space, the Russian language in Uzbekistan is a universal means of communication. The "soft" policy towards the Russian language in recent years is associated with labor migration and an attempt by the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan to institutionalize this process and make it regulated by Uzbekistan and Russia. Nevertheless, the position of the Russian language is significantly influenced by the situation in which the Uzbek language functions. As experts from Uzbekistan have repeatedly noted, during the post-Soviet period, the Uzbek language could not become a unified and standardized language, the presence of dialectisms is still high in the Uzbek language, the state language does not reflect modernity well, and if it is modernized, then this happens artificially. Thanks to these factors, the Russian language was able to strengthen its positions, and in some cases replace Uzbek in the sphere of public administration, business, science, and production, although the Russian language in Uzbekistan is also characterized by gradual obsolescence. Accordingly, the Russian language in Uzbekistan does not need the return of an official status, much less any diplomatic support from Russia. Currently, Uzbekistan needs educational and methodological support from Russia to improve the teaching of the Russian language, assistance in this matter from Russia began in the last months of 2020. The Russian language, as one of the rooted languages of Uzbekistan, will undoubtedly be in demand in the future. The British historian A. Morrison, who for a long time held the position of professor at Nazarbayev University in Astana (now Nur-Sultan), in the midst of public debate about the translation of the Kazakh language into the Latin alphabet in April 2017, wrote that in India after gaining independence in 1947 The same emotional discussions took place as in Kazakhstan in 2017. Thanks to the preservation of English in education and in other areas, India has become a key competitive power in the region and in the world. Summarizing the above, it should be noted that the Russian language in Uzbekistan, without having an official status, is an ingrained language and firmly occupies a niche in many areas. In society, there was a strong demand for knowledge of the Russian language among the indigenous population of the republic. The state, completing and deepening the reform of the graphics of the Uzbek alphabet, focuses on the younger generation of Uzbeks, who have already mastered the Latin alphabet, which in a few decades will be replaced by a generation of compatriots of middle and older ages. Then it will be possible to fully assess the results of the language reform in Uzbekistan. Due to the widespread use of computer programs that allow you to translate texts from one script of a language to another, from one language to another, it is not particularly difficult to establish communication now. The romanization of the Uzbek language, its modernization and the availability of education in the Uzbek language for all categories of the population of Uzbekistan, the formation of a national identity based on the adoption of two socio-cultural identities (Uzbek-speaking and Russian-speaking population) will further integrate various groups of the population of Uzbekistan into a single civil nation. The

Ministry of Education of Russia, the Ministry of Public Education of Uzbekistan and the Alisher Usmanov Charitable Foundation "Art, Science and Sports" are launching a joint project "Class!" ("Zo`r!"), aimed at improving the level of Russian language proficiency in Uzbekistan.

The signing of a memorandum on the implementation of a joint Russian-Uzbek project took place on October 11 in Tashkent during the visit of the official Russian delegation to Uzbekistan. This was reported to UzNews.uz in the press service of the Alisher Usmanov Foundation.

The program to improve the level of Russian language proficiency in Uzbekistan will not only expand humanitarian cooperation between Uzbekistan and Russia, but also create favorable conditions for high-level education in Russian in general educational institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and will also contribute to the development of quality education.

The operator of the program is the Russian State Pedagogical University. A. I. Herzen, who will ensure the work of qualified Russian specialists (teachers and methodologists) in regional centers for advanced training and retraining of pedagogical personnel in the public education system and schools in Uzbekistan. At the first stage of the implementation of the project "Class!" 32 Russian methodologists went to Uzbekistan to monitor the current level of Russian language proficiency of teachers and students of local schools. Russian specialists will assess the quality of teaching the Russian language in Uzbekistan, as well as develop recommendations for foreign colleagues on teaching it.

As Alisher Usmanov, the founder of the Art, Science and Sport Foundation, noted in his address to the participants in the signing ceremony of the memorandum, "Russia and Uzbekistan are inextricably linked with each other by a common history and cultural heritage. I myself graduated from a Russian-language school, so I am especially pleased to support such a long-term and strategic initiative of the Government of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation to teach the Russian language in my historical homeland. I am sure that this is not just support for education, but also support for our common traditions, our talents. This initiative will be successful and will be in demand among the entire population of Uzbekistan, so I wish her great success." The project is a continuation of the "Russian Teacher Abroad" program of the Russian Ministry of Education, under which Russian teachers teach Russian and subjects in Russian in a number of foreign countries, helping to develop the quality of Russian language teaching and contributing to the development of quality education.

There are few countries in the world that support the Russian language as well as Uzbekistan. We have 14 percent of educational institutions for the teaching of the Russian language and the maintenance of Russian-language schools. No country can boast of this,
- Sherzod Shermatov said.

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