

The Role of the Russian Language as Interethnic Communication in the Economic Integration of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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Annotation: The article is devoted to the issues of teaching the Russian language in the context of sustainable development of economic integration and modernization of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This article reflects the strategy of teaching the Russian language to students with the Uzbek language of instruction, when the Russian language acquires a special status as an instrument of disciplines of professional significance.

Teaching Russian to non-Russian audiences in the era of globalization and intercultural interaction is becoming more important than ever. And a special role in this regard is assigned to a specialist in Russian as a foreign language.

At present, in the system of higher technical education, teaching the Russian language, as a significant part of the general and professional culture and a means of verbal communication, has acquired particular importance. Teaching a specialty through a language and teaching a language through a specialty is one of the urgent tasks of professional training of a specialist in a non-linguistic university.

Key words: integration of science and production, partnership and strategic interaction, innovative development, international cooperation, implementation of joint projects.

Economic integration is a process of economic interaction between countries, leading to convergence of economic mechanisms, taking the form of interstate agreements and coordinated by interstate bodies. At the present stage, it is difficult to imagine the development of states outside of economic integration.

More than 30 years have passed since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The former republics of Central Asia gained political independence in the conditions of a destroyed economy, unresolved social and everyday problems. The restructuring of the system of state and public construction, undertaken by M. Gorbachev, led the country to a dead end. Every year the pace of development of production decreased, the standard of living and well-being of the population decreased.

Thus, in 1990, the production of national income per capita in Uzbekistan was two times lower, labor productivity in industry lagged behind by 40%, in agriculture - two times lower than the average Union level. The production of consumer goods per capita in the republic amounted to 40% of the average Union. The share of the population with an average per capita total income of less than 75 rubles per month was almost 45%, while for the country as a whole it was a little over 12%. (Economy of Uzbekistan. Internet portal-CIS) On the socio-economic development of Uzbekistan over the years of independence. Source: review.uz

In 2021, independent Uzbekistan turned 30 years old. Over the years, Uzbekistan itself has changed dramatically, there have been profound changes in the world around Uzbekistan - technological, economic, political, the balance of power and geo-economic alignments have changed.

Uzbekistan began to pay even more attention to cooperation with neighboring countries. The foreign trade turnover of the republic with the member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) for 11 months of this year increased by 30%. At the same time, compared to 2019, trade with the countries of the association increased by 11%. (Economy of Uzbekistan. Internet portal-CIS) On the socio-economic development of Uzbekistan over the years of independence. Source: review.uz

Despite the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and thanks to the reforms of the government of the Republic to liberalize prices and remove barriers to domestic and foreign trade, the country's economy was one of the few in the Europe and Central Asia region where it was possible to avoid a decline in production in 2020.

One of the levers for the development of the republic is education, which is based on modern science.

“Science occupies a very important place in the development of all sectors of the economy, in this matter the state relies primarily on the Academy of Sciences, the integration of science and production today, more than ever, is very relevant. The time itself requires further development of scientific cooperation with the world's leading institutions, universities, research centers and academies of sciences,” the President of Uzbekistan emphasized (Sh.M. Mirziyoyev at a historic meeting with scientists of our country. 2016.30.12. <http://www.uzbekistan.at> > news > edvard-rtveladze-inic...)

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As you know, economic growth requires integration in the field of education and in the industrial space. The prerequisites for economic integration are the comparability of the levels of market development of the participating countries, their geographical proximity, the commonality of the problems they face, the desire to speed up market reforms and not stay away from the ongoing integration processes. [1]

The dynamic economic development of Uzbekistan and the enhancement of its role in the international arena required fundamental reforms in the field of lifelong education and the transformation of its role in society. Over the years of reforms, conceptually new approaches to the functioning of the higher education system have been formed, which holistically cover all levels and directions of this sphere of society. The desire to integrate into the world educational space, to master the best foreign standards and technologies for training specialists led the domestic higher school to turn to the rich experience accumulated by the educational systems of developed countries, expanded the scope of cooperation with major universities, international humanitarian organizations, foreign financial institutions. Analysis of the processes taking place in this area is of undoubted interest to researchers.

In 2016, the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev began a new stage of profound transformations in all spheres of life. In February 2017, he approved the Action Strategy for five priority areas of development of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021. Among the key areas of the new stage are the improvement of state and public construction, ensuring the rule of law and reforming the judicial and legal system, developing and liberalizing the economy, developing the social sphere, ensuring security, and implementing a balanced and constructive foreign policy. Important steps have been taken in all these areas in recent years.

Recently, interest in the issues of cooperation between domestic universities and leading universities and humanitarian structures abroad has increased in the scientific and educational sphere of Uzbekistan [2].

In addition, over the past three years, the number of universities in Uzbekistan has doubled, and the coverage of higher education has tripled and reached 28%. By 2030, this figure is planned to be increased to 60%. Economic integration, cultural interconnection again raised the issue of the status of the Russian language as the language of interethnic communication in the CIS space.

In the law of Uzbekistan "On the state language" of 1989, the Uzbek language was declared the state language, and Russian was defined as the language of interethnic communication. Recently, Russian has been one of the foreign languages studied in schools and universities of the republic. Persons residing in the Republic of Uzbekistan are given the right to freely choose the language of instruction. The Republic of Uzbekistan provides general, vocational, secondary specialized and higher education in the state language, as well as in other languages. (Art. 6.)

After the collapse of the USSR, in the 1990s, an intensive outflow of the Russian-speaking population began from Uzbekistan. According to the statistical agency, in 1991, 1.594 million Russians, or 7.7% of the total population, lived in Uzbekistan, by January 1, 2017, 730 thousand Uzbeks (2.2%) live in the republic, in whose passport the nationality "Russian" is indicated ". The largest outflow of the Russian population occurred in 1991-2011, when the number of Russian-speaking citizens decreased by 1.9 times - up to 837.5 thousand people, this is evidenced by the data of the national composition of the permanent population of Uzbekistan, published by the State Statistics Committee. (Economics of Uzbekistan Internet portal - CIS) On the socio-economic development of Uzbekistan over the years of independence.

During this period, the number of schools with Russian as the language of instruction has more than halved. However, in the last few years, the situation has begun to change. In 2015, there were 739 schools in Uzbekistan - with the Russian language of instruction. This year their number has grown to 836, although the number of Russian-speaking classes is also growing, 90% of which are representatives of the titular nation.

Russian President Vladimir Putin at the annual press conference in December 2019 stressed: "It is more difficult for people from Central Asia to adapt. There we just have to introduce education systems, open Russian language courses, Russian schools, branches of our universities. And then the people who come here will feel more comfortable." It should be noted separately that in 2019, 703 students were admitted to study at the branches of Russian universities, and a total of 2.5 thousand citizens of Uzbekistan study. And we can assume that the numbers will grow every year.

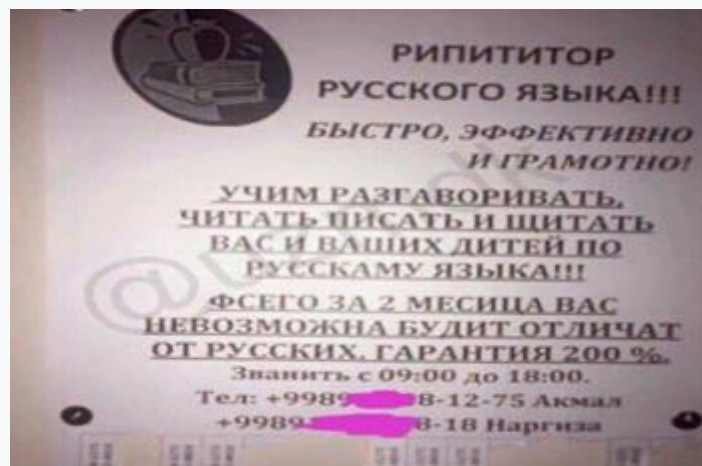
Education, in particular the development of the Russian language as a new one, turns out to be a means capable of "transforming" our new compatriots into an organic part of the multinational Russian society. At the same time, teaching Russian as a new language (in conditions of situational bilingualism) can fulfill another key task: to form a tolerant consciousness of new citizens of Russia.



Most private schools, such as those in Tashkent, are completely Russian-speaking. And there are about 900 ordinary, public schools in which instruction is conducted in Russian. More than 1,200 schools have classes in which instruction is entirely in Russian. Yes, and in 8400 Uzbek schools, the study of the Russian language is mandatory.

Now in Uzbekistan, about 10 percent of schools teach in Russian, the rest teach in Uzbek, Kazakh, Karakalpak and other languages. In them, one or two hours a week, Russian is studied as a foreign language.

Economic and scientific integration, cultural interconnection again raised the issue of the status of the Russian language as the language of interethnic communication in the CIS space.



If you look at the path traveled by the Independence of the Republic, there were omissions in the study of the Russian language and in the preparation of the personnel policy of teachers of the Russian language.

The agrarian policy, inherited from the former USSR during the years of independence, did not give its positive results, but, on the contrary, lowered the standard of living of rural business executives.

In general education schools, attention to the teaching of the Russian language has decreased. Year after year, the cotton campaign attracted pupils, students and educators. The number of applicants to philological faculties majoring in the Russian language has also decreased. As they say, among the people "The lie dressed up in truth, but the truth was broken" During the pandemic, the mistakes of the Ministry of Public Education in training teachers of the Russian language were clearly reflected in teaching on TV online, and even some moments became the subject of jokes on the Internet space. For example, "What is this bear? Big!". "Days of the week" (from a TV lesson). The market economy also entered the study of language. Intensive BOOKNOMY books on learning Russian through listening in just 6 months are often advertised on the Internet and on television. The activities of training centers, tutoring courses and private lessons, in particular online, are widely spread.

However, teaching the Russian language does not always meet the requirements. This is evidenced by advertising tutors.

With the development of scientific and technological progress, paradoxically, the level of literacy of the population began to decline rapidly. And if mistakes in the public space were out of the ordinary, now it is a common thing.

Take at least the ad presented above, or chat correspondence, or banners ... And it seems that people have ceased to be ashamed of their mistakes. Either the teachers have become less literate, or the people's attitude to the learning process itself has changed radically, but the fact remains that there are fewer and fewer literate people. Despite the large number of scientific papers and research by scientists on the methodology of teaching Russian as a non-native language, the training of students with poor knowledge of the Russian language in higher educational institutions of a non-philological direction remains an urgent task.

The observed situation can be caused by several factors: a decrease in the number of hours in the subject, the outflow of the Russian-speaking population and the narrowing of the circle of communication in this language, the influence of the native language on pronunciation, the reduction of Russian-language media, etc.

The struggle for independence, for national identity in the emerging states resulted in ignoring the study of the Russian language. As a result, at the present stage of development, first of all, the interests of the republics themselves suffered.

The project "Class" is considered to be a progressive direction for solving this problem.

We must admit the obvious fact that the Russian language has become the second language of communication for millions of "indigenous" residents of Central Asia. The personnel issue of Russian language teachers is still an unresolved issue.

In the Decree of April 20, 2017 "On Measures for the Further Development of the Higher Education System", the President identified the most important tasks for the further integrated development of the higher education system, where special attention is paid to the widespread introduction of international best practices into the educational process, advanced training of pedagogical and scientific personnel through establishing close partnerships with leading specialized foreign scientific and educational institutions. The dynamics of the development of relations with foreign partners of the domestic higher education can be traced on the example of the formation of a legal framework for cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and its traditional partner - the Russian Federation. [3]

It should be noted that the humanitarian project "Class!" is implemented with the financial support of Alisher Usmanov's charitable foundation "Art, Science and Sport". At the first stage of the project implementation, 32 Russian methodologists came 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 teaching the Russian language for foreign colleagues.

Comparative grammar must be taken into account in the educational process and independent education in the Russian language. Take into account the main grammatical barrier in the study of the Russian language. Especially, gender, number of nouns, prepositions, gender declension, etc. Since they are typical mistakes of Uzbek groups in learning the Russian language.

The teacher should take into account the peculiarities of the Uzbek language. For example, in the Turkic group of languages there are no genders, prepositions, personal pronouns of the feminine, neuter gender. Here is what N.T. Abdulkhakimova, a teacher of the Russian language at a professional school in the city of Almalyk, with thirty years of experience, an applicant for the methodology of teaching the Russian language, writes:

"One of the methods of learning languages is to compare the facts of the language being studied with the corresponding facts of the native language. Such a comparison helps to identify the different and special of the compared languages.

A teacher of Russian as a foreign language should have a good knowledge of the theoretical foundations of the grammar of the students' native language, getting acquainted with the grammatical structure, vocabulary and phonetics of the students' native language.

Theoretical knowledge of the language, in our opinion, provides the ability to compare Russian with the native language of students. Practical knowledge of the language of the trainees without comprehending the structure of this language is often insufficient. In order to make comparisons of this kind, the teacher must be to some extent a theoretical linguist, otherwise it will be difficult for him to understand the structure of a non-native language.

Teachers of the Russian language, as well as other subjects, face the following problems:

1. Overcoming the language barrier. Some studied Russian in national schools as a foreign language, and now it is becoming their main language of communication, one of the main ways to adapt to new living conditions.
2. Psychological stress. Getting into a new language environment, a person gets stress, as a result of which his emotional background sharply decreases, which creates additional obstacles to establishing contacts with peers.
3. Difficulties in the performance of independent work, since difficulties also arise in the assimilation of educational material. It takes a significant amount of time to successfully prepare this task.
4. Lack of help from others. They hardly speak Russian and therefore cannot help their peers with their homework. At home, relatives communicate in their native language, and at the institute, each student encounters Russian (as a non-native language), and, as a result, each student has a reduced level of adaptation to new living conditions.

Tempus and Erasmus Mundus programs in Uzbekistan play an important role in strengthening the relationship of universities and research institutes with foreign partners, in participating in international internship programs for students and scientists, in expanding the program of funds and scholarships for studying students in foreign universities.

There is a great need in Uzbekistan for equal and mutually beneficial interaction with the international community. An active dialogue has begun on the country's entry into the World Trade Organization. In order to create more favorable conditions for mutual trade and soften the foreign trade regime, negotiations on the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with the European Union (EPCA) are being completed. [3, p. 250].

During the years of independence, the country's economy has turned from an import-substituting agro-industrial into an export-oriented industrial-agricultural one, with a higher level of product processing.

As statistics on foreign economic cooperation show, the main investor of the republic is Russia. In 2021, 2,335 enterprises with Russian capital opened in the country. They are followed by China, Turkey.

For students of a technical university, studying the Russian technical language is not only a means of mastering a future specialty, but also an opportunity to carry out competent, professionally oriented communication, which will make it easy to adapt to dynamically changing conditions of professional activity.

The discipline "Professional Russian Language" has such wide possibilities, the content of which is aimed at the formation of linguistic and professional competence, integrating the general cultural, intellectual, social and professional qualities of a specialist.

New digital technologies and modern information resources have burst into our lives and have radically strengthened the processes of global integration of countries in all areas: economics, science, culture, and education.

Worldwide communication is in several languages, including Russian (without any communication from anyone in our country), which has the status of an official language of the UN, along with English, French, Arabic, Spanish and Chinese.

But lately, from the lips of some "politicians", and now "journalists" one can hear words about the uselessness of studying the Russian language in Uzbekistan.

President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev argues with them: "Great Russian culture has always been and will be an integral part of the spiritual life of Uzbek society."

The President also announced that a 100-volume collection "Masterpieces of Russian Classics" in the Uzbek language will be published in Uzbekistan.

There is nothing surprising in such a position of the Head of State, because knowledge of languages not only makes it possible to join the heights of world culture, but also to feel like a full member of the world community, because "how many languages you know, so many times you are human."

And here are the words of the poet Hamid Alimjan: "In all the houses where Navoi is revered, Pushkin is also revered."

We simply must remember that in the most difficult winter of 1942, Leningraders in the besieged city held jubilee events in honor of the 500th anniversary of the founder of the Uzbek language, Alisher Navoi. Tired of hunger and incessant bombing, people left their frozen apartments on the street, walked on ice, snowdrifts, wrapping themselves in scarves. In the icy halls of the unheated Hermitage, the intelligentsia gathered to listen to the lines of the great poet. Exhausted due to constant malnutrition, translator N. Lebedev was carried into the hall in his arms.

And he read Navoi's poems - in the original Old Uzbek (Chagatai) language, and then translated into Russian. At this time, another shelling of the city began. But not a single listener went into the bomb shelter. Navoi readings in Russian continued during the war throughout the year.

And interest in the translations of Navoi into Russian does not fade even today. The proof is the IJOF project "Sharg Ayoli" for the translation into Russian of Alisher Navoi's works "Pearl Stanzas" and "Five of Amazement" (Academician Aziz P. Kayumov, member of the Writers' Union, Doctor of Philology, Professor Dinora S. Azimova).

The export of labor is another clear confirmation of the purely practical benefits of knowing languages. For migrants from Uzbekistan who go to work abroad, the most popular language is Russian. Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 14, 2020 No. PP-4829 "On measures to introduce a system of safe, orderly and legal labor migration", from 2021 introduces a procedure for compulsory vocational training for those leaving to work abroad, primarily in the language.

The common truth is that the higher the level of knowledge of the Russian language, the more highly paid work migrants from Uzbekistan find in Russia. According to data published on the RBC website, in the first half of last year alone, 918,000 citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan arrived in Russia to work. In general, according to some expert estimates, about two million Uzbeks are currently working in the Russian Federation.

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