THE ROLE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN THE SOCIETY OF UZBEKISTAN

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Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilining O‘zbekiston jamiyatidagi o‘rni va ahamiyati tahlil qilinadi. Xorijiy tillarni o‘qitishga oid davlat siyosati, ta’lim va fan, iqtisodiyot, turizm, axborot texnologiyalari hamda madaniy hayotda ingliz tilining roli yoritilgan. Shuningdek, ingliz tilini o‘qitish sifatidagi hududiy tafovutlar va ona tilini asrab-avaylash masalalari ko‘rib chiqiladi.

Kalit so‘zlar: ingliz tili, O‘zbekiston, xorijiy tillar, ta’lim, til siyosati, ko‘p tillilik.

Annotation. This article examines the role and importance of the English language in the society of Uzbekistan. It describes the state policy on foreign language teaching and the place of English in education and science, the economy, tourism, information technology, and cultural life. The article also discusses regional differences in the quality of English teaching and the need to preserve the national language.

Keywords: English language, Uzbekistan, foreign languages, education, language policy, multilingualism.

Over the past decade, Uzbekistan has opened itself to the world more than at any other time in its modern history. New economic partnerships, growing tourism, investment in digital technologies, and the ambitions of a young population have all increased the need for effective international communication. In this environment, the English language has become one of the most important tools for national development. It is no longer seen as a school subject only, but as a practical skill that shapes education, careers, and the country’s image abroad.

The growing role of English in Uzbekistan is strongly supported by government policy. A key step was the Presidential Decree No. 1875 of December 10, 2012, “On measures to further improve the foreign language learning system.” According to this document, foreign languages, mainly English, began to be taught from the first grade of primary school starting with the 2013/2014 academic year, whereas earlier they were introduced only in the later stages of schooling. The reform also encouraged the training of qualified teachers, the creation of modern textbooks, and the equipping of classrooms with multimedia resources.

This course was strengthened in 2021, when a new decree stressed the importance of learning foreign languages and expanded the effort to improve language teaching

nationwide. Proficiency in a foreign language is increasingly viewed as a valuable qualification for specialists and public servants. At the same time, the state continues to protect and develop Uzbek as the state language, which shows that the aim is to build a multilingual society rather than to replace national identity.

For Uzbek students, English opens the door to the global academic world. Most international scientific journals, research databases, and online courses are available in English, and scholarship programs abroad usually require internationally recognized language certificates such as IELTS or TOEFL. In recent years, several universities in Uzbekistan have established partnerships with foreign institutions and offer programs taught in English, including in Tashkent. As a result, young people can obtain a modern education without leaving their home country, and local researchers can publish their work for an international audience.

English is also important for the economy of Uzbekistan. The country's historic cities, such as Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva, welcome visitors from all over the world, and guides, hotel staff, and entrepreneurs in the tourism sector rely on English to communicate with them. Foreign investors and international companies usually conduct negotiations and write contracts in English, so specialists who speak it fluently have better chances of finding well-paid jobs.

The development of information technology has strengthened this trend. Programming languages, software documentation, and professional forums use English, and many young Uzbek programmers, designers, and freelancers work remotely for clients abroad. Knowing English therefore gives them direct access to the global labor market and helps to reduce the gap between the capital and the regions.

In everyday life, English is present in music, films, social networks, video games, and online learning platforms that are popular among Uzbek youth. It allows them to follow world news, communicate with peers in other countries, and share Uzbek culture, cuisine, and traditions with a wider audience. In this way, English serves not only as a window to the world but also as a means of presenting Uzbekistan to the world.

Nevertheless, some challenges remain. The quality of English teaching is not equal everywhere, and students in rural areas often have fewer opportunities, qualified teachers, and modern resources than those in large cities. In addition, society must ensure that interest in English does not weaken the Uzbek language or the other languages spoken in the country, including Russian, Karakalpak, and Tajik. The most effective approach is to support Uzbek as the foundation of national identity while developing English as an additional language for progress and cooperation.

In conclusion, English plays a growing and positive role in the society of Uzbekistan. Supported by state reforms, it contributes to better education, stronger economic ties, successful careers, and cultural exchange. By combining respect for the

native language with a solid knowledge of English, the people of Uzbekistan can take an active part in the global community and build a more open and prosperous future.

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