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Cover Page Footnote

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Erratum

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THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN MODERN UZBEK SOCIETY

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Abstract: *Uzbekistan is a multinational country with the Uzbek language as the only official state language. However, since the declaration of independence the importance of English language has been increasing in all aspects of Uzbek people life. According to this statement, a lot of decrees were adopted and their results can be seen in every branches of our country.*

Key words: *Lingua franca, ethnical minorities, presidential decree, mother tongue, government, educational reforms, National Testing center, National Program for training, Law, CEFR, urban area, rural area, Presidential schools.*

ЗНАЧЕНИЕ АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА В СОВРЕМЕННОМ УЗБЕКСКОМ ОБЩЕСТВЕ

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Аннотация: *Узбекистан – многонациональная страна, в которой узбекский язык является единственным официальным государственным языком. Однако после принятия Декларации Независимости во всех аспектах жизни узбекского народа повышается значение английского языка. Об изучение иностранных языков были приняты ряд указы и постановление, и в каждом аспекте видны результаты.*

Ключевые слова: *лингва франка, Президентские указы, родной язык, государства, реформы образования, национальная тестовая система, национальная программа обучения права, CEFR, сельская местность, городская местность, Президентские школы.*

ЗАМОНАВИЙ ЎЗБЕК ЖАМИЯТИДА ИНГЛИЗ ТИЛИНИНГ АҲАМИЯТИ

Валиева Шахло Акмаловна,
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Аннотация: *Ўзбекистон – ўзбек тили расмий давлат тили ҳисобланган кўп миллатли мамлакатдир. Мустақиллик Декларацияси қабул қилингандан бери фуқароларнинг ҳаётининг ҳар соҳасида инглиз тилининг аҳамияти ортиб бормоқда. Чет тилларини ўрганиш бўйича кўплаб қарор ва фармонлар қабул қилинмоқда ва мамлакатимизнинг ҳар бир жабҳаларида натижа кўзга ташланмоқда.*

Калит сўзлар: *лингва франка, Президент фармони, она тили ҳукумат, таълимдаги ислохотлар, миллий тест тизими, ҳуқуқ ўқитишнинг миллий тизими, ҳуқуқ ўқитишнинг миллий дастури, CEFR, қишлоқ ҳудуди, шаҳар ҳудуди, Президент мактаблари.*

Approximately 375 million people speak English around the world and there are more than 50 English speaking countries, where English is either the official or the

primary language. English is the third most common spoken language in the world. The English language which evolved from a combination of Old English and the German Anglo-Saxon tongue, began to be commonly used around the 5th century. It is the most widely learned second language in the world.

Internet is one of the most used and available resources, so more than half of the world's population is online now and 80% of all the information on the net is in English.

Today the role and influence of English are gaining a higher speed in the world as well as in Uzbekistan. Since the Republic of Uzbekistan declared its independence in 1991, the role of the language used in the country started to change, shifting in dominance and significance in all spheres of Uzbek people's life. The Uzbek language acquired its position as the only official state language, while Russian was given the status of foreign language and lost its power as "Uzbek's second mother tongue". However, preserving its importance on communicational level and the function of lingua franca for ethnical minorities. English, in its turn has been continuously increasing in importance and acquiring the status of the most preferred foreign language to be learned.

The spread of English in Uzbekistan greatly differs from that Russian back at the beginning of 20th century, being marked mostly as a desirable rather than suppressive process. Uzbek people realize that English is significant in all regards, when it comes to pursuing international education attending a good career keeping up with the rapid pace of world changes.

We highly favour the English language, seeing it as the key to successful and prosperous life. The main factors for the phenomenon of the great role and impact of English include expanding communication with the world after gaining the independence and increasing exchange in the global village. The dominant position in the internet space by the language of the published content is firmly held in English, which is a strong motivation to learn English for those who wish to promote their global competence.

As it was mentioned above since the declaration of independence the importance of English language has been increasing in all aspects of Uzbek people's life. Currently, great attention is given to the radical reorganization of educational system that will provide an opportunity to raise it to the level of modern standards.

In order to realize the aims and tasks put forward by the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Education" (1997) and National Program of Personnel Training (1997) the complex system of reorganizing the structure and the content of personnel training, proceeding from perspectives of social, economic development of the society, contemporary achievements of science, culture, technique and technology are being created in the country. Besides on December 10, 2012 a decree was signed "On measures to further improve foreign language learning system".[1]

It is noted that in the framework of the Law of The Republic of Uzbekistan "On Education" and "The National program for training" in the country a comprehensive foreign languages teaching system, aimed at creating harmoniously developed, highly

educated and modern thinking young generation, further integration of the country to the world community, has been created.

According to the decree foreign languages mainly English gradually throughout the country will be taught from the first year of schooling in the form of lesson-game and speaking-games, continuing to learning the alphabet, reading and spelling in the second year.

Also it is envisaged that university modules, especially in technical international areas will be offered in English and other foreign languages at higher education institutions. Since the enforcement of the decree all English language teachers have obtained a privilege of receiving a 15% (urban area) or a 30% (rural area) bonus on top of their monthly salary if they present CEFR (Common European Framework Reference) and prove this with a certificate of language proficiency at the National Testing Centre, which was assigned to design tests to check English teachers' language proficiency.

Nevertheless, this policy has shown its positive impact on quality of educational staff and has become the main criteria of employment in the country not only in educational but in other spheres as well. This approach helped the Uzbek to understand what level must be acquired to meet the requirements of modern standards. These reforms have undoubtedly been aimed at integration with the western world and acquiring information access as well as an ability to keep up with the pace in the world.[2]

Looking back, now it becomes clear that Uzbek government started the process of bringing the National language closer to English "to enter the world community" and communicate effectively and effortlessly on an international level, when it was decided to convert the Uzbek alphabet from Cyrillic to Latin in 1993.

In addition it must be emphasized that Presidential schools, which are being opened by the initiative of our President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, will also heighten the prestige of English language in our society. Because all the subjects in these schools will be held in English. The entrance exams of Presidential schools are to be taken only by foreign specialists and experts. The graduates of these schools will inure to the integration of Uzbekistan in the world.[3]

The Presidential decree was enacted on the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan, which substantiates foreign language teaching significance comprehensively. It has got points for English language and affirms following:

Firstly, from the new academic year on all the applicants applying to the universities who puts in IELTS (5.5 band score) or TOEFL (IBT 72) certificates, plus the ones who has got B2 level on CEFR or FCE (Cambridge assessment English) are privileged to get the total high score in entrance examination on English as a primary subject.[4]

Secondly, the applicants taking exam on English as a minor subject must show IELTS (4.5 band score) or TOEFL (IBT 42) certificates either B1 level on CEFR or FCE in order to take a privilege for the total high score.

Moreover, all these reforms enfold Master degree applicants too. And it pleases that IELTS and TOEFL certificates are considered to this Resolution, because it levels up Educational system of Uzbekistan to the world standards.

Language specialist Rod Bolitho marks such strong interest in language by two factors: the intention of studying and working abroad and one of the negative factors – idealization of The UK and The USA. ‘These two reasons in his opinion are the strongest motivations for the Uzbek to learn English. [5]

Several large – scale projects in cooperation with British Counsel have been launched to achieve the purpose set by the government, including PRISSETT focused on training pre-service teachers and the program aimed at reforming English teaching at Higher Educational Institutions with non-linguistic majors (West and Sheykhametova, 2016 Cambridge Press).

To sum up all above, the English language and situation itself in which it happens to be involved in the 21st century are unique. Indeed none of the languages before has gained the same spread and popularity within such short period of time. Knowledge of English not only contributes to the international ties of the country but also facilitates smooth communication among academic communities.

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