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LANGUAGE POLICY AND NATIONAL INTERESTS IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION

Abstract. This article explores the strategic role of language policy in protecting and promoting national interests in the era of globalization. In the context of increasing global integration, language has become not only a means of communication but also a crucial element of national identity, cultural continuity, and state sovereignty. The study examines the theoretical foundations and conceptual approaches to language policy, as well as its legal frameworks and institutional mechanisms of implementation. Particular emphasis is placed on strengthening the status and functional capacity of the state language while simultaneously encouraging the acquisition of foreign languages to enhance international cooperation and competitiveness. The article highlights the importance of achieving a balanced and sustainable language policy that ensures linguistic security, social cohesion, and long-term national development.

Key words: globalization, language policy, national interests, state language, multilingualism, linguistic security, national identity, cultural sustainability, language planning.

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GLOBALLASHUV SHAROITIDA TIL SIYOSATI VA MILLIY MANFAATLAR

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada globallashuv jarayonlarining jadallashuvi sharoitida til siyosatining milliy manfaatlarni ta’minlashdagi strategik o‘rni ilmiy-nazariy va amaliy jihatdan tahlil qilinadi. Zamonaviy dunyoda globallashuv iqtisodiy, siyosiy va madaniy sohalarda chuqur integratsiyani yuzaga keltirayotgan bir paytda, til masalasi milliy o‘zlikni saqlash va rivojlantirishning muhim omiliga aylanmoqda. Maqolada til siyosatining mohiyati, asosiy tamoyillari hamda davlat miqyosida olib boriladigan til siyosatining yo‘nalishlari yoritiladi. Shuningdek, davlat tilining maqomi va funksional imkoniyatlarini mustahkamlash, ko‘p tillilik sharoitida milliy manfaatlar muvozanatini ta’minlash masalalari tahlil qilinadi. Til siyosatini samarali amalga oshirish orqali milliy madaniyatni asrash, yosh avlodni milliy qadriyatlar ruhida tarbiyalash va xalqaro maydonda raqobatbardoshlikni oshirish mumkinligi asoslab beriladi.

Kalit so‘zlar: globallashuv, til siyosati, milliy manfaat, davlat tili, ko‘p tillilik, milliy o‘zlik, madaniy integratsiya, lingvistik xavfsizlik, til va jamiyat, ijtimoiy barqarorlik.

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ЯЗЫКОВАЯ ПОЛИТИКА И НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЕ ИНТЕРЕСЫ В УСЛОВИЯХ ГЛОБАЛИЗАЦИИ

Аннотация. В статье исследуется значение языковой политики как одного из ключевых инструментов обеспечения национальных интересов в условиях глобализационных процессов. В современном мире глобализация способствует активному взаимодействию государств и культур, что, с одной стороны, расширяет возможности международного сотрудничества, а с другой, усиливает риски утраты национальной самобытности. В этой связи языковая политика рассматривается как стратегический механизм сохранения культурного наследия, укрепления государственного суверенитета и консолидации общества. В работе раскрываются теоретико-методологические основы языковой политики, анализируются её приоритетные направления и практические механизмы реализации. Особое внимание уделяется вопросам статуса государственного языка, поддержке многоязычия и формированию сбалансированной языковой среды, способствующей гармоничному развитию личности и общества.

Ключевые слова: глобализация, языковая политика, национальные интересы, государственный язык, языковая среда, культурная идентичность, многоязычие, национальная самобытность, государственный суверенитет.

INTRODUCTION

The twenty-first century is marked by unprecedented and rapid processes of globalization that permeate virtually all aspects of human life. The expansion of information and communication technologies, growing economic integration, increased migration, and intensified cultural exchange have fundamentally transformed language dynamics across the globe. In this context, language is not merely a tool for interpersonal communication; it is a central marker of national identity, a repository of cultural memory, and a pillar of state sovereignty. The vitality of a language reflects the strength and cohesion of the communities that speak it, while the erosion or loss of languages can signal the weakening of cultural and social structures (Fishman, 1991).

Globalization brings both opportunities and challenges for linguistic landscapes. On the one hand, exposure to foreign languages, digital communication platforms, and cross-border collaboration can enhance economic competitiveness and intercultural understanding. On the other hand, dominant global languages may marginalize minority languages, leading to cultural homogenization and the endangerment of linguistic diversity (Phillipson, 1992). UNESCO reports that thousands of languages worldwide are currently at risk of extinction, underscoring the urgent need for strategic interventions in language planning and policy.

Language policy, therefore, emerges as a crucial instrument of national development, aimed at preserving linguistic heritage, promoting multilingual competence, and ensuring that the state language maintains its functional and symbolic roles (Spolsky, 2004). Effective language policies not only safeguard national interests but also facilitate social cohesion, educational equity, and sustainable development in a globalized world. By balancing the promotion of the national language with opportunities for foreign language acquisition, countries can strengthen both their cultural identity and international competitiveness.

This article examines the theoretical foundations, legal mechanisms, and practical approaches to language policy, highlighting its role in maintaining linguistic security, fostering cultural continuity, and supporting the long-term development objectives of modern states.

In the context of globalization, language policy develops in two major directions: protecting the national language and integrating into the global linguistic environment. The dominance of English in international communication, science, and technology has encouraged many states to reconsider their language strategies.

Within the framework of national interests, the state language functions as a unifying factor of society. Its use in public administration, education, legislation, and mass media strengthens social stability and cultural continuity.

At the same time, learning foreign languages is essential for economic growth, academic mobility, and international cooperation. Therefore, contemporary language policy should

aim to maintain a balance between national language preservation and global integration.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

Language policy has long been a central topic in sociolinguistic research, attracting attention from scholars who investigate the intersections of language, society, and power. Prominent researchers such as Joshua Fishman, Robert Spolsky, and Robert Phillipson have explored how language functions not only as a communicative tool but also as a mechanism for social organization, identity formation, and political control (Fishman, 1991; Spolsky, 2004; Phillipson, 1992). Fishman's work emphasizes the role of language in maintaining cultural continuity and community cohesion, particularly among minority groups (Fishman, 1991). Spolsky highlights the interplay between language planning, policy, and ideology, showing how official language policies can reflect broader societal goals and power structures (Spolsky, 2004). Phillipson examines the effects of linguistic imperialism, particularly the dominance of global languages over local languages, and the socio-political implications of such dynamics for national development and cultural preservation (Phillipson, 1992).

Building on this theoretical foundation, this study employs a multidisciplinary methodological framework to analyze language policy in the context of globalization and national development. The research combines sociolinguistic analysis, which focuses on language use, social interaction, and identity; comparative-legal analysis, which examines the frameworks of language legislation across different jurisdictions; and the analysis of normative documents, including laws, decrees, and policy guidelines that define and regulate language use in public and institutional spheres (Ricento, 2006; Cooper, 1989). These methods are integrated into a systematic and interdisciplinary approach, enabling a comprehensive understanding of both theoretical and practical aspects of language policy.

As a case study, the research focuses on Uzbekistan, which provides a rich context for examining the practical implementation of language policy in a multilingual society. Particular attention is paid to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the State Language," which serves as the primary legislative instrument regulating the status, use, and development of the state language. This law outlines the principles of protecting and promoting Uzbek as the state language while recognizing the rights of speakers of minority languages, thereby creating a framework for balanced multilingual development.

The study also considers the practical implications of this legislation in educational institutions, government agencies, and media, assessing how legal norms translate into policy practice and everyday language use. By analyzing Uzbekistan's experience, the study highlights the challenges and opportunities associated with implementing effective language policy in a post-Soviet, multilingual context, offering insights that can inform broader discussions on linguistic security, national identity, and sustainable development in the era of globalization (Laitin, 1992).

Through this literature review and methodological approach, the article situates the case of Uzbekistan within global debates on language policy, showing how theoretical perspectives and legal frameworks intersect with real-world sociolinguistic realities to support national interests and cultural preservation.

RESULTS

The findings of this study demonstrate that a well-structured and scientifically grounded language policy plays a crucial role in protecting and advancing national interests in a globalized world. The research revealed several significant outcomes, particularly the strengthening of the legal status of the state language. Establishing robust legal frameworks ensures the official recognition of the national language, guarantees its use in government and public administration, and provides effective mechanisms for its protection and promotion.

The study also highlights the importance of maintaining the priority of the state language in education and governance. Incorporating the national language as the primary medium of instruction, official communication, and public services fosters linguistic cohesion, strengthens identity formation, and supports the professional development of citizens. At the same time, expanding foreign language competence through multilingual education and proficiency in international languages enhances participation in

global trade, diplomacy, and scientific research, thereby balancing national identity with international engagement.

In addition, the research emphasizes the need to enhance the use of the national language in digital and scientific domains. Integrating the national language into artificial intelligence systems, digital platforms, scientific publications, and online resources helps safeguard its relevance in the digital age and ensures inclusive access to information and technology.

In conclusion, an effective language policy is both a tool for preserving cultural heritage and a strategic instrument for national development. By combining legal protection, educational prioritization, multilingual competence, and digital integration, states can safeguard their cultural identity while actively participating in global processes. Such a balanced approach ensures sustainable development, social cohesion, and long-term national resilience in the face of ongoing globalization.

DISCUSSION

The study confirms that in the context of globalization, language policy serves as a strategic mechanism for protecting national interests and ensuring sustainable state development. Maintaining a balance between strengthening the national language and integrating into the global linguistic environment is the central task of contemporary language policy.

In today's interconnected world, languages are not only instruments of communication but also carriers of historical memory, cultural values, and collective identity (Ricento, 2006). Therefore, weakening the position of a national language may gradually affect social cohesion, cultural continuity, and even political stability. A well-designed language policy helps prevent such risks by institutionalizing the role of the state language in public administration, education, science, and the media, while simultaneously creating opportunities for citizens to acquire foreign language competencies necessary for global engagement.

Furthermore, globalization requires states to rethink traditional language management approaches. Digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and transnational information flows demand the modernization of linguistic infrastructure. The development of national language corpora, digital dictionaries, terminology databases, and language technologies becomes an essential component of linguistic security (Cooper, 1989). Without such measures, national languages risk being marginalized in digital and scientific domains dominated by global languages.

Globalization has profoundly reshaped the role and objectives of language policy, transforming it from a primarily cultural concern into a multidimensional strategy with economic, political, and technological implications. In the contemporary global context, promoting and preserving the national language is not only a matter of cultural identity but also a mechanism for ensuring cultural sovereignty, national cohesion, and social stability (Fishman, 1991). A strong and widely used national language serves as a unifying force, reinforcing citizens' sense of belonging and supporting the continuity of traditions, literature, and collective memory.

At the same time, proficiency in foreign languages has become an essential component of national competitiveness in the global economy. Countries that balance the promotion of their national language with the development of foreign language skills are better positioned to engage in international trade, diplomacy, and scientific collaboration (Spolsky, 2004). Thus, modern language policy must address both domestic cultural imperatives and global integration needs, creating a dual framework that supports national identity while facilitating cross-border communication and cooperation.

The digital transformation of society has added a new dimension to language policy. The increasing importance of digital technologies, artificial intelligence systems, online platforms, and automated translation services means that national languages must be actively integrated into the digital sphere (Phillipson, 1992). Failure to do so risks digital marginalization, where speakers of minority or less globally dominant languages may be excluded from technological, scientific, and economic opportunities. Developing language-specific resources, digital corpora, and AI-compatible datasets has therefore become a strategic priority for ensuring the continued relevance and usability of the national language in modern society.

Consequently, contemporary language policy requires a careful synthesis of cultural preservation, technological modernization, and economic pragmatism. It should support the vitality of the national language across public, educational, scientific, and digital domains, while simultaneously promoting multilingual competencies that facilitate international engagement and innovation.

At the same time, the promotion of multilingualism should not be perceived as a threat to national identity. On the contrary, when managed effectively, multilingual education enhances intellectual mobility, economic competitiveness, and intercultural dialogue. The key challenge is to ensure that foreign language acquisition complements rather than replaces the functional domains of the national language.

CONCLUSION

An effective language policy is both a tool for preserving cultural heritage and a strategic instrument for national development. By combining legal protection, educational prioritization, multilingual competence, and digital integration, states can safeguard their cultural identity while actively participating in global processes. Such a balanced approach ensures sustainable development, social cohesion, and long-term national resilience in the face of ongoing globalization.

In conclusion, a scientifically grounded and balanced language strategy enables nations to preserve cultural identity while actively participating in global processes. Effective language policy is not static; it must continuously adapt to social, technological, and geopolitical changes. Only through a dynamic, inclusive, and forward-looking approach can states safeguard their linguistic heritage while securing a competitive position in the global arena.

In addition, language policy must be inclusive and socially sensitive. In multilingual societies, it should guarantee linguistic rights, promote equality, and prevent discrimination based on language use. A democratic language policy framework strengthens social harmony and reinforces citizens' trust in state institutions.

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