

THE ROLE AND RELEVANCE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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Annotation

This article highlights the role of foreign languages in the education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan, their strategic importance, the reforms being implemented within the framework of state policy, modern methodological approaches, the international and national certification system, measures aimed at training competitive personnel, and integration processes in international cooperation. Furthermore, it substantiates that in the developing education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan, learning foreign languages is not only a necessity but also a vital foundation for progress.

Keywords: Law on Education, foreign languages, state education system, competitive personnel, international and national certificates (CEFR, IELTS, TOEFL, etc.), international cooperation, culture.

Introduction: Like every other country, Uzbekistan has its own education system and types of education. Corresponding national laws and new development strategies are being adopted to support its progress. The education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan also includes specific types of education, which are as follows. The Law on Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan was adopted by the Legislative Chamber on May 19, 2020, and approved by the Senate on August 7, 2020. The types of education in the Republic of Uzbekistan's education system include:

1. Preschool education and upbringing
2. General secondary and secondary specialized education
3. Vocational education
4. Higher education
5. Postgraduate education
6. Retraining and professional development of personnel
7. Extracurricular education

The types of education listed above are stated in Article 7 of the Law on Education. These types of education are interconnected, and for each of these areas, there are specific state education standards applied during the teaching process.

In the 21st century, the rapid development of information technologies, the expansion of international relations, and the integration of scientific and technical

achievements have made foreign language proficiency a necessity. Especially for developing countries, including Uzbekistan, mastering foreign languages and integrating them into the education system has become a means to strengthen their position on the global stage. As our country continues to develop, the demand for foreign languages is increasing. As a result, many young people are learning foreign languages with a particular interest and enthusiasm. This process will help us achieve further progress. As President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized: "A child who graduates from school knowing a profession and a language is a great success for our society; what they don't know becomes a problem."

In recent years, political and legal foundations for learning foreign languages have been established, and their practical application is contributing to a fundamental reform of the education system. In particular, based on the Presidential Decree No. PQ-5117 of May 19, 2021, a new phase in foreign language learning has been initiated. This document made the teaching of foreign languages mandatory and systematic, starting from preschool education to higher education. As a result, foreign languages are being introduced to children from preschool age, and effective measures are being taken to teach these languages using various methods. That is, by the time children reach school age, they will have some knowledge of foreign languages, which will make it easier for them to deepen their understanding of these languages in school. This is a reflection of the ongoing reforms. Most importantly, today, learning foreign languages opens up great opportunities for us. If you know a foreign language, you have the chance to meet new people, make new friends and colleagues, and communicate freely with foreign individuals. Another advantage of learning foreign languages is that it significantly enhances your cognitive and analytical abilities. Currently, various methods and approaches to language learning are being developed. For example, students are acquiring new language skills more quickly and effectively through innovative methods. Additionally, through games and interactive activities, students can communicate with one another and apply the language in practice. Therefore, foreign language education requires the subject teacher to have skills to develop the students' professional abilities. National and international certificates that determine the level of proficiency in foreign languages recognized for admission to secondary, vocational, higher, and post-graduate education:

1. Pedagogical staff conducting lessons in certain specialized subjects in educational institutions will receive allowances for their position salaries in accordance with the established procedure;
2. Teachers of foreign languages (English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Turkish, Persian, Hindi) in general secondary, secondary vocational, and professional educational institutions who hold a national or internationally equivalent certificate at least at the C1 level will have their knowledge

assessed during the next mandatory certification in terms of their specialized subject and professional standards, and will receive a maximum of 80 points for the qualification test in the subject area, and they will be exempt from this qualification test;

3. When determining the allowances for pedagogical staff working in higher education, the foreign language proficiency certificates used must correspond to the subject they teach;

4. For certificates with no specified validity period (unlimited), an allowance will be applied within a period not exceeding three years from the date of obtaining the certificate, in accordance with the procedures established by the legislative documents.

5. Candidates newly hired for foreign language teacher positions in general secondary education institutions must hold a national or internationally equivalent certificate at least at the B2 level;

6. Certificates obtained in accordance with the existing normative-legal documents before this decision comes into force will remain valid until the expiration date specified for them (for certificates with no specified validity period, the allowance will be applied for no more than three years from the date of obtaining the certificate).

Foreign language teachers working in general secondary, secondary vocational, and professional educational institutions with Teaching Knowledge Test (TKT), Teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL), Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) certificates, along with a B2 level certificate from the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) system, will be accepted and allowances will be paid to them according to the established procedure. All TESOL, TEFL, and TESL certificates must include at least 100 contact hours with an instructor and at least 40 hours of teaching-pedagogical practice, with the practical part being monitored and assessed by the instructor. For certificates with no specified validity period, the allowance will be applied for no more than three years from the date of obtaining the certificate, in accordance with the procedures established by the legislative documents. According to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan's decision No. 395, dated May 13, 2019, "Measures for the Application of National and International Evaluation System Certificates in the Admission to Higher Education Institutions," foreign language (English, German, French, Spanish, Turkish, Arabic, Persian, Dari, Hindi, Urdu, Chinese, Korean, Uyghur, Italian, Japanese) is included as the first (main) subject in the entrance exams (test exam or professional (creative) exam) for bachelor's programs. Applicants who submit documents for these programs and hold international certificates such as TOEFL, IELTS, CEFR, SAT General, SAT Subject, and others will be awarded the maximum score for this subject without having to take an exam. Starting from the 2020/2021 academic year, all applicants applying for bachelor's

programs with foreign language as part of their test exams (professional (creative) exam) who hold national or international certificates at the following levels will be awarded the maximum score for this subject without the need to take an exam. Moreover, any individual who knows foreign languages can find their place in the modern world. Our era demands individuals who are proficient in multiple languages and have a sound mind. Such individuals will undoubtedly be recognized as competitive professionals. Research shows that knowing a foreign language enhances the speed of thinking in the brain, boosts creativity, and strengthens analytical skills. Additionally, mastering foreign languages introduces individuals to valuable scientific and artistic sources in other languages, thereby expanding their intellectual potential. Large-scale global scientific research, new technologies, and innovative developments are often conducted in foreign languages. Scientific articles, technical documents, and most leadership communications are created in English, German, French, or Chinese. Therefore, knowing a foreign language opens doors to the world of modern science, fosters scientific collaboration, and enables the integration of innovations into national economies. In today's digital economy, knowing foreign languages has become one of the key factors for career success. Active participation in international business practices, gaining experience abroad, and bringing innovations back to the country all rely on foreign language skills as a strategic tool. Moreover, countries actively promote the learning of foreign languages to enhance their export potential and develop the tourism industry, which contributes to the diversification of the national economy. Today's world has evolved into a multifaceted cultural space, where foreign languages play an unparalleled role in ensuring international cooperation and peace. Learning foreign languages not only brings people closer together but also encourages them to understand and respect other cultures. This is crucial for broadening worldviews, protecting national interests on the international stage, and strengthening new diplomatic ties. The reforms mentioned above and those being implemented are not in vain; all contribute significantly to the development and progress of our nation. At the same time, the development of intercultural communication helps the peoples of the world understand each other and contributes to ensuring global stability. Foreign languages, as the primary means of intercultural exchange, promote respect and compassion between people. The study of foreign languages will continue to be an inseparable part of global development in the future.

Conclusion

Learning foreign languages expands an individual's intellectual potential, enhancing their thinking abilities and cognitive processes. Multilingual individuals, by learning one language, come to understand other cultures, values, and worldviews, elevating their social and personal development to new heights. Foreign languages also help increase respect for cultural diversity between societies, playing a crucial role in

ensuring integration and stability within communities. Multilingual people have significantly more opportunities for interaction and are able to find solutions to social issues with more approaches. This contributes to the development of society based on mutual respect, stability, and prosperity.

Foreign languages are viewed as essential tools for private and intergovernmental relations in the process of globalization. The importance of knowing a foreign language is increasingly critical for achieving success in foreign policy, economic cooperation, and scientific and cultural exchanges. Furthermore, it is vital for preparing our youth for international positions and ensuring the availability of well-trained professionals in our country.

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