

NATIONAL LANGUAGE AND LITERARY VARIANT

Abdulazizova Sevara Ganiyevna

*Teacher of the department of the
theoretical aspects of the English language
Andijan State Institute of Foreign Languages.*

Axmadjonova Oydinoy

No'monjonova Gulnoza

*Student of Andijan State Institute of
Foreign Languages*

This article explores the relationship between the national language and its literary variant, focusing on their roles in cultural identity, education, and national unity. While the national language represents the broader linguistic identity of a nation, the literary variant serves as its standardized and formal expression. The article highlights the distinctions and interdependence of these two forms and emphasizes the importance of promoting the literary variant in education, media, and public life. Challenges related to globalization and the influence of foreign languages are also discussed, along with suggestions for preserving linguistic heritage.

Key words: National language, literary variant, standardization, linguistic identity, education, culture, Uzbek language, language policy, dialects, linguistic unity.

Language is one of the most powerful tools in shaping the identity of a nation. It is not only a means of communication but also a vessel of cultural heritage, historical memory, and national pride. Every nation possesses a national language which reflects its unique worldview, traditions, and values. However, within the framework of a national language, there often exists a “literary variant” or “literary norm” that functions as a standardized, prestigious form used in official and educational contexts. This article aims to examine the role of the national language and its literary variant, their distinctions, interrelation, and significance in education, culture, and national unity.

A national language is typically the language that represents the identity of a nation. It is widely spoken by the majority of the population and is usually recognized by the state as the official language. The national language carries the soul of the people, embedding within it centuries of traditions, folklore, and historical narratives. It is used in all spheres of public life including media, politics, law, and education. The national language plays a vital role in unifying the population and strengthening national consciousness. For instance, the Uzbek language serves as the national

language of Uzbekistan, carrying immense cultural and historical significance. It is a means of transmitting traditional values and collective memory to future generations.

The literary variant of a national language is its standardized, polished form used in formal settings such as literature, science, media, and official documents. Unlike regional dialects or colloquial forms, the literary variant adheres to established grammar, vocabulary, and stylistic norms. It serves as a model for education and is considered the most correct and prestigious form of the language. The development of a literary variant is often associated with a significant figure in literature or history who systematizes the language. For example, in the case of English, figures like William Shakespeare and Samuel Johnson played a significant role in shaping its literary form. In Uzbek, the literary works of Alisher Navoi laid the foundation for the modern literary Uzbek language. The literary variant functions as a unifying element in multilingual or multi-dialectal societies. It reduces communication barriers, facilitates access to education and media, and promotes social mobility.

Differences Between National Language and Literary Variant

Although the national language and its literary variant are closely related, there are clear distinctions between the two:

1. Usage: The national language encompasses all forms, including dialects, colloquialisms, and regional variations, whereas the literary variant is reserved for formal and official use.
2. Standardization: The literary variant is codified and regulated by linguistic institutions, while the national language may include non-standard forms.
3. Function: The national language serves the purpose of daily communication among the general population, while the literary variant functions as the language of education, science, and administration.

Despite these differences, both forms coexist and influence each other. Everyday speech enriches the literary language with new expressions, while the literary variant elevates the status and prestige of the national language.

The Role of Education and Media

Educational institutions play a crucial role in promoting the literary variant of the national language. From primary school to higher education, students are taught the norms of the literary language, including grammar, orthography, and proper usage. This ensures that all members of society, regardless of regional background, can communicate in a unified linguistic standard. Mass media, including television, newspapers, and online platforms, also contribute to the dissemination of the literary variant. Through news broadcasts, documentaries, and literature, the population becomes familiar with standardized language forms, contributing to national cohesion.

Furthermore, the internet and digital communication have introduced challenges and opportunities for the literary variant. On the one hand, informal communication in chats and social media may erode linguistic standards. On the other hand, digital platforms allow for the broader dissemination of literary and academic content in the national language.

Challenges and Perspectives

One of the main challenges faced by many nations is maintaining the purity and status of the literary variant while also embracing the richness of dialects and regional speech. In some countries, the dominance of foreign languages in science and business may weaken the role of the national literary variant. For instance, the growing popularity of English as a global language sometimes threatens the usage of national literary languages in academia.

However, modern language policy can help address these challenges by supporting bilingual education, promoting the national language in scientific research, and encouraging literary production in the native tongue. It is also essential to promote national pride in the literary language and to raise awareness of its value as a cultural and intellectual treasure. Literature, poetry, and national media play a vital role in this process.

In conclusion, the national language and its literary variant are fundamental to the identity and unity of a nation. While the national language reflects the diverse linguistic realities of the people, the literary variant provides a standardized form that ensures effective communication in formal contexts. Together, they contribute to cultural preservation, national integration, and educational development. Recognizing their importance and maintaining their balance is key to sustaining a rich linguistic heritage for future generations.