



## DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHING AND LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN UZBEKISTAN

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**ABSTRACT:** - This article describes the latest developments in the field of language teaching in Uzbekistan, reforms and their implementation, presidential decrees, as well as language teaching and learning institutions established in our country.

**KEYWORDS:** The methodology of teaching , foreign languages , learning , globalization, presidential decrees.

### INTRODUCTION

In today's process of globalization, the effect of the radical reform of the education system of Uzbekistan is evident in all areas related to this area. The state pays special attention to the teaching and further development of foreign languages in the education system, which is a key sector of socio-economic, political and cultural life of the country, one of the vital factors that directly affect the morale of the population. at the policy level.

During last two decades the question of foreign language teaching received a closer attention in Uzbekistan. It is evidenced by the adoption of the National Programme for

Personnel Training and a number of subsequent documents that have created favorable conditions for the development of methods in language teaching. Resolution "On measures for further improvement of the study of foreign languages" has been adopted just recently. According to the new document, the study of foreign languages, mainly English, gradually will start in elementary schools in the form of gaming lessons and lessons in speaking in the first grade, and in the form of learning the alphabet, reading and spelling in the second grade. In future, teaching special subjects in

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universities, especially in engineering and international specializations, will be conducted in foreign languages.

Today, there is a so-called independent Uzbekistan in the world, which has its own high potential and unique prestige, and a high-spirited nation with a rich culture lives in this country. Emphasizing that the role, prestige and position of this nation in the world community are changing radically, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev said: we will mobilize all the forces and capabilities of our state and society". Therefore, in the above-mentioned video conference, the real situation in some parts of the country does not correspond to the planned grand plans, in particular, the vacancy of more than 2,000 foreign language teachers in the education system, the absolute unsatisfactory quality of foreign language teaching in 1,400 schools. It was noted that only 4% of teachers had a national and international language certificate, and 49% did not pass the test. This is a sad situation, of course. Uzbekistan's policy of openness, active entry into the world market, expanding international cooperation in all areas increase the need for knowledge of foreign languages. Today, 25 higher education institutions in the country teach in foreign languages. In 2016, there were only 7 of them. The number of graduates who have received an international language certificate has increased 10 times in the last 3 years. In 2021 alone, 350 students were awarded scholarships to study at prestigious foreign universities through the El-Yurt Umidi Foundation. This is 5 times more than in previous years. However, the situation on the ground is not in line with the intended grand plans. In particular, more than 2,000 foreign language teachers remain in the education system. The quality of foreign language teaching in 1,400 schools is absolutely

unsatisfactory. Only 4% of teachers in this system have national and international language certifications.

At the current stage of societal development, it is important for academia to educate the personality of a student aiming at the maximum of his/her educational potential opened to the perception of new experience, capable of informed and responsible choices in different life situations. In order to raise such an individual, first of all, it is necessary to teach students to solve certain communication problems in different areas and situations with different linguistic means, i.e. form their communicative competence. Educated in such conditions one should ultimately reach the level defined as the level of the "linguistic personality".

As a result of the transformation taking place in the Republic of Uzbekistan, the process of language teaching today can evolve to meet the needs of people and gain more tangible practical and communicative orientation. Preparation of a person to communicate in target foreign languages is equivalent today to preparation for intercultural dialogue.

Such a situation can be generally noted as a positive development because it indicates an increase in people's interest in foreign languages. On the other hand, society itself is interested in such university graduates who could be recognized by the international community. Accordingly, the practice of language teaching should respond to this situation and to work out best solutions to emerging problems.

The process of foreign language teaching takes place in different ways in different countries. Within the post-Soviet area, this process has its own specific characteristics. In particular, the main problem of foreign language teaching is the lack of rhetoric

classes in schools and colleges in several countries. This approach to language learning and teaching has developed due to the abolition of rhetoric classes in Russian schools in the late nineteenth century. From ancient times, the teaching of the native language was conducted simultaneously in two directions – education of rhetoric skills and the study of the theoretical foundations of the language. In the twentieth century methods of foreign language teaching in schools were based on techniques of teaching of the native (Russian) language in Russian schools. This fact has led to a tangible difference in the approaches to the problems of language teaching in our country and in other European countries. This was proved with the excessive grammatical focus of the process of foreign language teaching in our methodology. This situation, no doubt, was reflected in the practice of foreign language teaching, since for a long time foreign language teaching copied main rules of native language teaching. In the end it appeared that many graduates, having a large amount of theoretical knowledge, were helpless in communicating in studied language. It continued until the end of the twentieth century. Currently perspective directions of development of foreign language teaching methods are communication skills and implementation of innovative technologies, humanization of the educational process. Optimization of the process of foreign language teaching involves the development of certain areas of methodical science. Significant changes are taking place in the methodology of foreign language teaching. From this point of view the identification of new ways in developing the technique of language teaching becomes an important problem of modern methodical science.

We believe that the development path of methodical science requires deep analysis and reflection. Special attention should be given to the question of incorporation of the effective, constructive and rational innovative teaching techniques in the process of education. It should be noted that there is a gap in the literature devoted to this subject. Starting in 2022, all government agencies will require new hires to know at least one foreign language. The requirement also applies to current workers in government agencies who want a promotion. Mirziyoyev last May created the Agency for Promoting Foreign Language Learning, which is under the Cabinet of Ministers and is tasked with implementing teaching methods and developing effective programmes and textbooks at all stages of education.

As part of the effort, the government has selected 10 languages expected to raise the competitiveness of Uzbek citizens and of the country more generally.

English is at the top of the list, followed by Russian, German, French, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Turkish, Arabic and Farsi. Uzbek is the official language of Uzbekistan, while Russian is the second most widely spoken language, especially in the capital and large cities. English, however, is growing in popularity among Uzbek youth. While the country has no public schools with a purely English curriculum, English language courses are popular -- but they do not come cheap. For example, in Tashkent, one learning centre charges between \$180 and \$200 (1.9 million UZS to 2.2 million UZS) for a three-month course. In contrast, the minimum monthly wage in Uzbekistan is just 822,000 UZS, about \$80.

Today 650 American Spaces -- which provide English lessons, computer technology lessons,

internet access and digital libraries -- operate in 150 countries across the world. The United States is also helping Uzbek teachers and students by providing textbooks for schools. The textbooks, which were developed by Cambridge University Press and are valued at \$10 million (108.4 billion UZS), will support the teaching of information and communications technology (ICT) for grades 5 to 11 and English as a foreign language for grades 1 to 11.

“The time has come to create in Uzbekistan a new system of teaching foreign languages, which will become a solid foundation for the future. Since we set ourselves the goal of building a competitive state, from now on, graduates of schools, lyceums, colleges and universities must be fluent in at least two foreign languages. This strict requirement should become the main criterion for the work of the head of each education institution”, Shavkat Mirziyoyev said. It was noted that an Agency for the Promotion of Learning Foreign Languages will be created under the Cabinet of Ministers. The agency will be engaged in the introduction of proven methods, programs and textbooks into the education system, and will organize training in at least 10 foreign languages based on the needs of educational institutions, industries and regions. One of the main tasks of the structure will be the creation of methods for professional translation from the state language into foreign and from foreign languages into the state. The agency will also maintain a rating of foreign language proficiency, develop qualification requirements and criteria for assessing foreign language teachers and assign qualification categories to them. In general, the main activity of the Agency will be the development and implementation of methods, recommendations and textbooks for all categories of the population along the

chain “kindergarten – school – higher education – enterprise” In addition to Tashkent State Universities of World Languages and Oriental Studies, the Samarkand Institute of Foreign Languages, one university in each region will be determined as the base for the study of foreign languages. The Head of the state emphasized the need for creating decent conditions for teachers and stimulating them based on their qualifications.

207 schools in districts and cities will specialize in in-depth teaching of foreign languages. These schools will be given the freedom to choose foreign-made books, advanced curricula and methodologies, teaching will be conducted in a foreign language. The importance of attracting foreign teachers – native speakers to specialized schools and specialized higher education institutions, organizing training for teachers of foreign languages abroad was emphasized.

The Head of the state proposed to establish a President’s Award to determine the best schools teaching foreign languages. The competition will be held at the district, city, regional and republican levels. The schools that won first place at the district and city levels will receive 100 million UZS as a prize, the winners of the regional stage – 250 million UZS, and the best school in the country – 500 million UZS. Accordingly, the owners of the second and third places at the national level will also be awarded. The principals and teachers of these schools will be nominated for state awards. The quality of teaching also depends on textbooks and teaching aids, which must comply with international standards. Therefore, the task was set to approve English textbooks from the Cambridge University publishing house in 200 schools. Similar activity will be carried out

for textbooks in Russian, German, Korean, Chinese and French.

At the same time, starting next year, a requirement for an international certificate will be introduced for applicants for master's and doctoral studies. The teaching of specialized subjects in a foreign language will be gradually introduced in higher education institutions. Free use of foreign textbooks and manuals on natural and technical subjects will be introduced. 20 specialists will be sent abroad annually for doctoral studies through the El-Yurt Umidi Foundation to increase the scientific and pedagogical potential in this sphere. The importance of further strengthening cooperation with such foreign organizations as the British Council, Goethe-Institut, Alliance Française, KOICA, JICA, Confucius Institute, and expanding the network of non-governmental training centers was emphasized. The need was noted for stimulating the study of languages in every ministry, agency, state company and large private enterprises, to introduce a special day for the study of foreign languages there and create the necessary conditions for this. Instructions were also given to create video lessons, educational films and broadcasts, as well as the development of e-programs.

## CONCLUSION

Language policy in Uzbekistan is a reflection of the needs of society and the desire of the population to learn foreign languages. Methods of teaching foreign languages as the science will continue to develop in the future with the flux of technology and demands of time. The methodology of teaching languages as science, is connected with the needs of society and the process of integration that occurs in the global world of science. The successful development of methods of

teaching foreign languages is connected, on the one hand, with the research and study of language teaching techniques and experiences in other countries, and on the other — with the encouragement and support of innovative research in within the country.

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