

ISSUES OF STRENGTHENING THE STATUS OF THE STATE LANGUAGE IN THE POLITICAL DISCOURSE OF UZBEKISTAN DURING THE INDEPENDENCE PERIOD

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Abstract

This article examines the issues of strengthening the status of the state language in the political discourse of Uzbekistan during the independence period. After gaining independence, the Uzbek language became not only a means of communication but also an important symbol of national identity, state sovereignty, historical continuity, and cultural renewal. The study analyzes how political texts, official speeches, legislative documents, public appeals, and ideological concepts have represented the role of the state language in social and political life. Particular attention is paid to the connection between language policy, national self-awareness, public administration, education, and cultural modernization. The article argues that the strengthening of the state language has been one of the key directions of post-independence nation-building. At the same time, the development of the Uzbek language in political discourse requires systematic terminological enrichment, consistent implementation in official communication, and deeper integration into higher education, science, media, and digital communication. The research highlights that political discourse has played a significant role in legitimizing the social importance of the state language and in shaping public attitudes toward its prestige and functional expansion.

Keywords: State language, political discourse, language policy, national identity, independence period, Uzbek language, official communication, linguistic modernization.

Introduction

MUSTAQILLIK DAVRI O‘ZBEKISTON SIYOSIY DISKURSIDA DAVLAT TILI MAQOMINI MUSTAHKAMLASH MASALALARI

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Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada mustaqillik davri O‘zbekiston siyosiy diskursida davlat tili maqomini mustahkamlash masalalari tahlil qilinadi. Mustaqillikka erishilgandan so‘ng o‘zbek tili nafaqat aloqa vositasi, balki milliy o‘zlik, davlat suvereniteti, tarixiy davomiylik va madaniy yangilanishning muhim ramziga aylandi. Tadqiqotda siyosiy matnlar, rasmiy nutqlar, qonunchilik hujjatlari, ommaviy murojaatlar va mafkuraviy konsepsiyalarda davlat tilining ijtimoiy-siyosiy hayotdagi o‘rni qanday ifodalangani yoritiladi. Til siyosati, milliy o‘zlikni anglash, davlat boshqaruvi, ta’lim va madaniy modernizatsiya o‘rtasidagi bog‘liqlikka alohida e’tibor qaratiladi. Maqolada davlat tili maqomini mustahkamlash mustaqillikdan keyingi milliy davlatchilikni shakllantirishning asosiy yo‘nalishlaridan biri bo‘lgani asoslanadi. Shu bilan birga, siyosiy diskursda o‘zbek tilining rivoji izchil terminologik boyish, rasmiy muloqotda barqaror qo‘llanish, oliy ta’lim, fan, ommaviy axborot vositalari va raqamli kommunikatsiyaga chuqur integratsiya qilishni talab etadi. Tadqiqot siyosiy diskurs davlat tilining ijtimoiy ahamiyatini asoslash va uning nufuzi hamda funksional imkoniyatlariga nisbatan jamoatchilik munosabatini shakllantirishda muhim rol o‘ynaganini ko‘rsatadi.

Kalit so‘zlar: davlat tili, siyosiy diskurs, til siyosati, milliy identiklik, mustaqillik davri, o‘zbek tili, rasmiy muloqot, lingvistik modernizatsiya.

Introduction

The question of strengthening the status of the state language occupies a central place in the political, cultural, and linguistic development of Uzbekistan during the independence period. Language is not only a communicative instrument but also a powerful social institution through which national identity, historical

memory, state sovereignty, and civic consciousness are expressed. For this reason, the development of the Uzbek language as the state language has become one of the most important directions of national policy after independence. In the political discourse of Uzbekistan, the state language has been interpreted as a symbol of independence, a factor of social unity, and a means of preserving the spiritual heritage of the nation while ensuring its integration into modern administrative, educational, scientific, and digital spheres.

The independence period created new historical conditions for the functional expansion of the Uzbek language. In the Soviet period, the Uzbek language existed in a complex sociolinguistic environment in which its use in state administration, science, higher education, and official documentation was limited in many respects. After independence, the need to restore the full social prestige and practical role of the Uzbek language became a natural component of state-building. Political speeches, official documents, legislative acts, educational reforms, and public discussions began to emphasize the importance of the state language as a guarantee of national self-awareness and cultural continuity. Thus, political discourse became one of the main platforms through which the symbolic and practical value of the Uzbek language was articulated.

The strengthening of the state language is closely connected with the formation of national identity. In political discourse, the Uzbek language is frequently presented as a source of historical memory, moral values, national pride, and cultural independence. This approach reflects the idea that language preserves the worldview, traditions, customs, and intellectual experience of the people. At the same time, the state language is not viewed only as a cultural symbol; it is also understood as an essential mechanism of governance, education, legal communication, and social participation. Therefore, the development of the Uzbek language requires not only emotional respect but also systematic institutional support.

In contemporary conditions, the issue of the state language has gained new relevance due to globalization, digitalization, migration, multilingual communication, and the expansion of international relations. The Uzbek language must respond to the needs of modern science, technology, economics, law, diplomacy, media, and information technologies. Political discourse increasingly stresses the necessity of enriching Uzbek terminology, improving the quality of

official language, developing language culture among public servants, and ensuring the active use of the state language in digital platforms. These processes show that language policy is not a static phenomenon but a dynamic field that changes together with society.

The relevance of this research is determined by the need to analyze how the status of the state language is represented, legitimized, and developed in the political discourse of the independence period. The study focuses on the relationship between language policy and political communication, paying attention to the ideological, sociolinguistic, cultural, and institutional aspects of this process. For philological research, this topic is important because it allows one to examine the Uzbek language not only as a linguistic system but also as a social and political phenomenon. The analysis of political discourse helps to reveal how language-related ideas influence public consciousness, national development, and the practical implementation of state language policy.

Methods

The methodological basis of this research is formed by an interdisciplinary approach that combines discourse analysis, sociolinguistic interpretation, linguistic observation, and historical-comparative study. Since the topic concerns the strengthening of the status of the state language in the political discourse of Uzbekistan during the independence period, the study requires the examination of both linguistic and extralinguistic factors. The Uzbek language is analyzed not only as a system of phonetic, lexical, grammatical, and stylistic units, but also as a social institution functioning within political communication, public administration, education, law, culture, and mass media. Therefore, the research method is directed toward identifying how political texts reflect the goals, principles, and practical mechanisms of state language policy.

The main method used in the study is discourse analysis. Through this method, official speeches, presidential addresses, legal documents, government programs, public statements, media texts, and educational materials are examined as forms of political communication. Special attention is paid to the concepts, key expressions, evaluative vocabulary, and ideological meanings used in relation to the state language. In political discourse, such expressions as state language, national identity, spiritual heritage, independence, cultural continuity, language

prestige, official communication, and civic responsibility often function as semantic centers. Their repeated use helps to reveal how the political importance of the Uzbek language is explained and legitimized in public consciousness.

The sociolinguistic method is also important for the research because the status of the state language is connected with real social practice. This method makes it possible to analyze the relationship between language and society, including the use of Uzbek in state administration, education, legal documentation, higher education, science, media, and everyday official communication. The sociolinguistic approach helps to understand how political discourse influences the expansion of the functional spheres of the Uzbek language. It also allows the study to consider issues such as bilingualism, multilingual communication, language culture, terminology development, and the interaction between national and global linguistic processes.

The historical-comparative method is applied to compare different stages of language policy during the independence period. This approach helps to identify changes in the interpretation of the state language from the early years of independence to the present stage of national development. In the first years after independence, political discourse mainly emphasized the restoration of national identity, historical memory, and cultural sovereignty. In later periods, the discourse gradually expanded toward institutional implementation, official language standards, educational reforms, terminology enrichment, and digital communication. This comparison shows that the strengthening of the state language has developed from symbolic recognition to practical modernization.

The descriptive-analytical method is used to classify and interpret linguistic materials according to their thematic and functional features. The study analyzes how the state language is represented in political texts as a symbol of sovereignty, as a tool of governance, as a factor of social unity, and as a condition for cultural development. The method also helps to identify stylistic features of political discourse, including solemn tone, persuasive expression, normative vocabulary, and value-based argumentation.

The research materials include political speeches, legislative acts related to language policy, educational and cultural policy documents, media discussions, and scholarly works on Uzbek linguistics, discourse studies, and sociolinguistics. These materials are studied qualitatively, with emphasis on meaning, context, and

communicative function. The selected methods make it possible to reveal the linguistic, ideological, and institutional dimensions of strengthening the status of the state language in the political discourse of independent Uzbekistan.

Results

The analysis shows that the status of the state language in the political discourse of Uzbekistan during the independence period has been represented through several interrelated semantic directions. The first major result is that the Uzbek language is consistently presented as one of the principal symbols of national sovereignty. In political texts and official speeches, the state language is closely associated with independence, historical justice, national dignity, and cultural self-determination. This demonstrates that language policy after independence was not limited to a purely linguistic issue; it became part of a broader political and cultural process aimed at strengthening national statehood and restoring the social prestige of the Uzbek language.

Another important result is connected with the role of the state language in the formation of national identity. Political discourse frequently emphasizes that the Uzbek language preserves the historical memory, worldview, traditions, and spiritual values of the people. In this sense, the language is interpreted as a cultural code that unites different generations and ensures continuity between the past and the present. The repeated use of concepts such as mother tongue, national values, spiritual heritage, cultural revival, and self-awareness shows that the state language is regarded as a central factor in shaping civic and national consciousness. This confirms that political discourse has contributed to the ideological strengthening of the Uzbek language as an important element of collective identity.

The study also reveals that the strengthening of the state language has gradually moved from symbolic recognition to institutional implementation. In the early years of independence, the discourse mainly focused on the restoration of the Uzbek language's social status and its role in national revival. In later stages, greater attention was paid to its practical application in public administration, legal documentation, education, science, mass media, and digital communication. This shift indicates that the development of the state language requires not only declarative support but also consistent organizational, legal, educational, and

methodological mechanisms. The functional expansion of the Uzbek language became one of the important indicators of the maturity of language policy.

The analysis of political discourse also demonstrates that the issue of language culture occupies a significant place in strengthening the state language. Official communication requires clarity, accuracy, stylistic correctness, and terminological consistency. Therefore, political texts increasingly raise the need to improve the linguistic competence of public servants, specialists, teachers, journalists, and students. The prestige of the state language depends not only on its legal status but also on the quality of its use in official and public communication. This result is especially important for philological education, because it shows that the development of language culture must be connected with professional training, academic literacy, and communicative responsibility. A further result concerns the modernization of the Uzbek language in response to contemporary social changes. Globalization, digital technologies, economic reforms, scientific development, and international cooperation create new communicative needs. Political discourse reflects the necessity of enriching Uzbek terminology, adapting the language to modern fields, and expanding its use in electronic government, digital media, online education, and scientific communication. This process shows that strengthening the state language does not mean isolating it from global linguistic processes. On the contrary, it requires making Uzbek capable of expressing modern concepts accurately and effectively. The research also indicates that political discourse performs a legitimizing function in relation to language policy. Through official speeches, legal texts, public appeals, and media communication, the social importance of the state language is explained to citizens and institutions. Political discourse forms public attitudes toward the Uzbek language, encourages respect for it, and defines its role in national development. At the same time, the analysis reveals that the successful strengthening of the state language depends on the harmony between political will, legal regulation, educational practice, terminological development, and everyday communicative usage.

Discussion

The results of the research show that the strengthening of the state language in the political discourse of Uzbekistan during the independence period is a

multidimensional process that includes symbolic, legal, cultural, educational, and communicative aspects. The Uzbek language has become one of the central markers of national statehood, and its political interpretation is closely connected with the ideas of independence, sovereignty, historical memory, and national revival. This indicates that language policy is not only a technical field concerned with norms and official procedures, but also an important ideological and cultural mechanism through which society defines its values, identity, and future development priorities.

One of the most significant features of the political discourse of the independence period is the transformation of the Uzbek language from a cultural symbol into an active instrument of public administration and social modernization. In the early years of independence, the emphasis was mainly placed on restoring the historical prestige of the Uzbek language and affirming its role as the state language. This was necessary because the language had to regain its full public function after a long period in which many spheres of official, scientific, and administrative communication were dominated by other linguistic practices. However, later political discourse began to focus more on practical implementation, including the use of Uzbek in documentation, education, legal relations, state institutions, media, and digital services.

This transformation shows that the status of a state language cannot be strengthened only through legislative recognition. Legal norms create the foundation, but the real authority of a language is determined by its active and correct use in all important spheres of social life. For this reason, the political discourse of Uzbekistan increasingly emphasizes responsibility for language culture, terminological accuracy, and the professional use of the state language. In this regard, philological education has a special role. Future specialists in Uzbek language and literature should not only study the grammar, history, and stylistics of the language, but also understand its social function, political significance, and role in public communication.

Another important issue is the relationship between the state language and multilingual reality. Uzbekistan is a multiethnic and multilingual country, and this factor gives language policy a balanced and sensitive character. Strengthening the status of the Uzbek language does not require the weakening of other languages; rather, it should be understood as creating conditions for the full functioning of

the state language while respecting linguistic diversity. Political discourse often presents the state language as a factor of civic unity, not as a means of exclusion. This approach is important for maintaining social harmony and ensuring that the Uzbek language serves as a common communicative space for citizens.

Modern globalization and digitalization have created new challenges for the Uzbek language. The language must be able to express concepts from economics, law, information technology, international relations, science, and culture with precision and clarity. If terminology is not systematically developed, foreign terms may enter the language chaotically, causing inconsistency in official and academic communication. Therefore, strengthening the state language today requires terminological research, high-quality translation, digital language resources, electronic dictionaries, corpus linguistics, and modern teaching methods.

Overall, the discussion confirms that political discourse has played a decisive role in shaping public understanding of the state language. It has explained the symbolic value of Uzbek, supported its institutional development, and encouraged society to recognize language as a national resource. At the same time, the effectiveness of this discourse depends on practical results: the quality of official texts, the linguistic competence of specialists, the development of Uzbek scientific terminology, and the consistent use of the state language in digital and educational environments. Thus, the future strengthening of the state language requires a unity of political support, philological research, educational practice, and everyday language culture.

Conclusion

The study of issues related to strengthening the status of the state language in the political discourse of Uzbekistan during the independence period shows that the Uzbek language has become one of the fundamental symbols and practical instruments of national development. After independence, the question of language policy acquired special political, cultural, and social importance, because the state language began to represent the ideas of sovereignty, national identity, historical continuity, spiritual renewal, and civic unity. In this process, political discourse played an essential role by explaining the social value of the

Uzbek language, legitimizing its public status, and encouraging its wider use in official, educational, cultural, scientific, and communicative spheres.

The analysis demonstrates that the strengthening of the state language cannot be understood only as a legal or administrative issue. Although legislation provides the necessary normative basis, the real development of the Uzbek language depends on its active functioning in social practice. Political speeches, state programs, official documents, media texts, and public discussions have formed a discourse in which the state language is presented as a national resource and as a condition for the development of independent statehood. This shows that language is not only a means of communication but also a mechanism of social organization, cultural memory, and political self-expression.

One of the main conclusions of the research is that the Uzbek language has gradually moved from symbolic recognition toward functional expansion. In the early years of independence, political discourse emphasized the restoration of national pride, historical justice, and cultural identity through the state language. In later stages, the focus shifted toward practical tasks: improving official documentation, developing terminology, raising language culture, strengthening the role of Uzbek in education and science, and adapting the language to digital communication. This development reflects the natural evolution of language policy in a modernizing society.

The research also confirms that philological education has a direct connection with the implementation of state language policy. Specialists in Uzbek language and literature are responsible not only for preserving linguistic norms but also for developing scientific terminology, improving the quality of official and academic texts, preparing educational resources, and forming a respectful attitude toward the language among younger generations. Therefore, the strengthening of the state language requires continuous cooperation between linguists, teachers, public officials, journalists, translators, and researchers.

At the same time, the future development of the Uzbek language should be based on balance and openness. Strengthening the state language does not mean rejecting multilingualism or international communication. On the contrary, the Uzbek language must develop as a modern, flexible, scientifically rich, and socially active language capable of expressing contemporary knowledge and participating in global intellectual exchange. For this purpose, it is necessary to

create electronic dictionaries, national language corpora, terminological databases, high-quality translation systems, and digital educational platforms.

In conclusion, the political discourse of Uzbekistan during the independence period has significantly contributed to raising the prestige and expanding the functions of the state language. However, the full strengthening of its status requires consistent practical work, high language culture, terminological accuracy, institutional responsibility, and the active participation of society. The Uzbek language, as the state language, remains a key factor in national identity, public communication, cultural development, and the sustainable progress of the country.

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