

STATE POLICY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TURKIC LANGUAGE DURING THE ERA OF AMIR TEMUR: ANALYSIS OF INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS**Gulsanam Maksutovna Norova**Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Philology, Associate Professor
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Abstract: This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the interrelationship between state policy and the development of the Turkic language during the era of Amir Temur, based on an institutional approach. The study examines, on a solid scientific basis, the mechanisms of the development of the Turkic language through the centralized governance system, the advanced cultural environment, and the activities of educational institutions formed in the Timurid state.

The article also analyzes how the functional capacities of the Turkic language expanded and how its socio-political status was strengthened through state administration practices, documentation systems, military organization and terminology, as well as processes of integration among various cultural layers.

The research substantiates that the Turkic language functioned not only as a means of communication but also as an important institutional factor ensuring state governance, military organization, and cultural unity. The results demonstrate that language policy during the Timurid period had a systematic nature and laid a solid foundation for the later formation of the classical Turkic literary language.

Keywords: Turkic language, state policy, Amir Temur, institutional approach, language development, Timurid state, cultural integration, military terminology, administrative system, linguistic identity.

The state established by Amir Temur (1336–1405) holds a special place in history not only from a political and military perspective but also in terms of cultural, social, and language policy aspects. The centralized governance system he created served to unite various ethnic and cultural groups within a single political space, where language played a crucial role as both a communicative and administrative tool.

In his state policy, Amir Temur paid special attention not only to ensuring economic stability, developing trade routes, and improving cities and scientific centers, but also to strengthening cultural unity. In these processes, the Turkic language, in particular, was actively used in various spheres of social life and became not only a means of daily communication but also an important factor in state administration, the military system, and cultural integration.

Thus, during the Timurid period, language policy was formed as an integral part of state policy, playing a key role in creating a unified information space in society, increasing governance efficiency, and ensuring mutual understanding among different social groups.

In 1370, Amir Temur established a centralized state and succeeded in uniting peoples of different ethnic and linguistic backgrounds within a single political framework. This process not only ensured political stability but also stimulated interlingual communication and cultural

integration. Within this centralized system, interactions among populations speaking different languages intensified, leading to the formation of functional distribution among languages.

In the Timurid state, Turkic, Persian, and Arabic languages coexisted, but their social and functional roles were clearly differentiated. Arabic was mainly used for religious sciences, including tafsir, hadith, fiqh, and scholarly works, serving as the primary medium of scientific and religious discourse. Persian was widely used in court literature, historiography, diplomatic correspondence, and official documentation, forming a prestigious written tradition.

However, the Turkic language gained particular prominence in everyday and practical life, especially in military administration, administrative activities, and social relations. This indicates that Turkic functioned not only as a spoken language but also as a practical tool of governance.

In particular, the structure of the Timurid army, military ranks, and administrative units were largely expressed through Turkic terminology, highlighting its leading role in military organization. At the same time, Turkic was widely used as a means of communication among different social strata, becoming a key factor in ensuring understanding and integration within a multiethnic society.

Moreover, the widespread use of Turkic contributed to its gradual rise in social status and later its formation as a literary language. These functional and social processes that emerged during the Timurid period became an important stage in the subsequent development of the Turkic literary language.

For example, in the work "*Temur Tuzuklari*" (The Code of Temur), many concepts related to state administration and the military system are expressed in Turkic, demonstrating its functional dominance. Terms such as *lashkar* (army), *tuman* (ten-thousand military unit), *no'yon* (military commander), *qo'shin* (armed forces), and *sarkarda* (commander) represented the core structural units of the military organization.

Similarly, terms like *yuzlik* (hundred-unit), *minglik* (thousand-unit), and *o'nlik* (ten-unit) also reflect a strictly hierarchical military structure. Each *tuman* consisted of thousands, each thousand of hundreds, and each hundred of tens, indicating a clearly organized system of command.

Additionally, administrative terms such as *devon* (government office), *farmon* (royal decree), *yarlik* (official document), and *ulug' amir* (high-ranking official) further confirm the active use of Turkic in governance.

For instance, the phrase: "*Each commander of a tuman must maintain order in his army and obey the orders of the amirs*" clearly demonstrates the use of Turkic terminology in administrative and military communication.

Similarly, Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi's "*Zafarnoma*" describes the structure of the army, military campaigns, and governance system, frequently employing Turkic terms such as *amir ul-umaro*, *no'yon*, *bahodir*, *sipoh*, *lashkar*, and *tuman*. These terms reflect the hierarchical organization of the military and the central role of Turkic in strategic communication.

For example: "*The amirs lined up the army in order, and each tuman took its designated place.*"

Another example states: “*The brave warriors and commanders demonstrated courage and played an important role in leading the army.*”

The consistent use of such terminology indicates a process of standardization within the language.

Furthermore, according to B. Ahmedov, the Turkic language played a crucial role in facilitating communication and practical relations among the population in the Timurid state. Despite ethnic and linguistic diversity, everyday interactions, economic activities, and administrative relations were largely conducted in Turkic.

This demonstrates that Turkic served as a widely understood communicative medium across various social groups—from ordinary people to military personnel and administrators. It was especially important in taxation, land management, mobilization, and regional administration, contributing to governance efficiency.

In trade, crafts, and daily economic activities, Turkic functioned as a common lingua franca, particularly in markets, caravan routes, and trade centers, strengthening economic integration.

The widespread use of Turkic increased its social prestige and laid the groundwork for its later development as a literary language.

According to B. Usmonov, the centralized governance system of the Timurid state also contributed to language standardization, leading to the emergence of unified administrative language norms and structured documentation practices.

The Timurid period is also notable for its advancements in science and education. Cities such as Samarkand, Herat, and Bukhara became major scientific centers. The educational system included not only religious sciences but also mathematics, astronomy, history, philosophy, and literature.

In particular, the madrasa and observatory established by Mirzo Ulugbek in Samarkand played a significant role in scientific development.

This era is often referred to as the “Timurid Renaissance,” characterized by flourishing science, literature, art, and architecture. During this time, the Turkic language gradually evolved into a literary language, expanding its expressive and aesthetic capabilities.

This process reached its peak in the works of Alisher Navoi, who elevated Turkic to a fully developed literary language.

Research findings indicate that the development of the Turkic language during Amir Temur’s era was not accidental but the result of well-established institutional mechanisms. These included state governance, military organization, educational institutions, and cultural environment, all of which collectively enhanced the functional capacity of the language.

The centralized administrative system led to the development of documentation practices and standardization of terminology. Terms such as *farmon*, *mansab*, *viloyat*, *bek*, *amir*, and *dargoh* were used systematically, reflecting linguistic normalization.

The military system, as a key institution, required clarity and efficiency in communication. Turkic served as the primary language for commands and operations. Historical sources note that commands were concise and clear, ensuring discipline and rapid response in battle.

Terms such as *mingboshi*, *yuzboshi*, *bahodir*, *qorovul*, *sarkarda*, and *no'yon* illustrate the structured hierarchy of the military.

From a modern linguistic perspective, the institutional language policy of the Timurid era aligns with contemporary sociolinguistic theories that emphasize the relationship between language, society, and state institutions.

In today's globalized world, developing national languages and enhancing their functional capacity remains a key issue. The Timurid model—integrating language with governance, education, and culture—offers valuable methodological insights.

In conclusion, the language policy formed during the Timurid period holds not only historical significance but also practical importance for modern language development, ensuring its active use in all spheres of society and enhancing its competitiveness.

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