

THE CURRENT STATE OF THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE IN UZBEKISTAN AND ITS INTEGRATIVE CULTURAL ROLE**Temirova Shoira Gaybullaevna.**Samarkand State University named after
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orifzoda0606@gmail.com**Annotation:**

This scholarly article is devoted to defining the role of the Russian language in the development of intercultural dialogue in the multinational society of Uzbekistan. It is shown that, while preserving its integrating function (a "bridge"), the Russian language is adapting to current challenges of the time, including digital transformation, youth cultural trends, and the expansion of international contacts. As a key conclusion, the necessity of finding a balance between strengthening national-cultural identity and using the Russian language as a strategic resource for further development is substantiated.

Keywords: digital transformation, intercultural communication, integration, educational projects, cultural dialogue.

Introduction

In multilingual Uzbekistan, where Uzbek, Tajik, and many other languages coexist side by side, the Russian language retains its unique significance. In the era of globalization, it becomes a reliable bridge for intercultural communication, enabling an effective exchange of knowledge and experience. The Russian language unites people, creating a space for interaction and mutual enrichment of different cultures and traditions. Thanks to it, access is opened to a great cultural heritage—from Russian literature and art to scientific achievements - which invariably leads to the strengthening of friendship and mutual understanding between peoples. That is why the topic of the Russian language in Uzbekistan remains acutely relevant: today it is not just a tribute to history, but a living catalyst of cultural dialogue.

Having undergone a long and multifaceted path of development in Uzbekistan, the Russian language maintains significant positions in the republic's public life. Despite the transformations of the post-Soviet period, its influence remains substantial. This work analyzes the level of Russian language proficiency among various population groups, as well as its official status and functional load in the spheres of education and mass media.

Materials and Methods

The level of Russian language proficiency in Uzbekistan is differentiated depending on territorial affiliation, age characteristics, and the social position of citizens. According to sociological surveys, about 20–30% of the population possess fluent Russian language skills, while a significant proportion of citizens have it at the level of basic communication. The greatest demand for the Russian language is recorded in urban environments with a higher density of the Russian-speaking population compared to rural areas [1, p. 256].

Among the youth, there is a tendency towards a decrease in motivation to learn the Russian language, due to the strengthening role of the Uzbek language as the state language and changing priorities in educational policy. At the same time, Russian has not lost its importance as a tool for professional development, especially in fields such as science, technology, and entrepreneurship.

A significant number of young people recognize the need to know Russian for building a successful career and maintaining professional contacts with partners from CIS countries.

The Russian language in Uzbekistan does not have an official status, but it is recognized as a language of interethnic communication. According to the country's legislation, Russian can be used in state institutions and educational institutions alongside the Uzbek language.

In the education system, Russian continues to be taught as a foreign language in schools and universities. Many educational institutions offer programs in Russian, especially in fields related to engineering, medicine, and the humanities [2, p. 180].

Regarding the media, Russian is still widely used in print publications, television, and radio. In large cities, one can find many Russian-language newspapers and magazines, as well as TV channels that broadcast programs in Russian. The internet has also become an important platform for Russian-language content, where users can find information and communicate in Russian.

Uzbekistan has over 800 schools with Russian as the language of instruction, and branches of leading Russian universities, such as the Plekhanov Russian University of Economics and Lomonosov Moscow State University, have been opened in the country's higher education institutions. These institutions not only teach the language but also train specialists for joint economic projects.

Furthermore, online platforms are gaining popularity. For example, the project "Open Education in Russian," launched by the Pushkin Institute, provides Uzbekistanis with access to free courses on the Russian language and culture [3, p. 144].

The Russian language remains an important element of dialogue between Russia and Uzbekistan, contributing to the mutual enrichment of cultures. Historical commonality, educational projects, and creative initiatives create a solid foundation for cooperation in an era where intercultural understanding becomes the key to solving global challenges. By preserving and developing these traditions, both countries strengthen not only linguistic but also human ties.

The Russian language, while maintaining its role as a tool for intercultural communication, is now taught taking into account current educational trends. Modern methods and projects make the learning process more effective and engaging, and the integration of technology and social initiatives help overcome the boundaries between the classroom and real life.

Results and Discussion

Classical approaches to language learning are being supplemented with innovative methods aimed at developing communicative skills. For example, the "flipped classroom" is gaining popularity: students independently study theory through video lessons, and then practice speaking in dialogues and role-playing games during classes. This allows teachers to devote more time to individual work [4, p. 34].

Another trend is project-based learning. Students create presentations, video blogs, or collages in Russian, exploring topics of culture, history, or current social problems. This approach not only improves language skills but also stimulates critical thinking.

Digital tools have become an integral part of the educational process. Platforms like Skyeng, Duolingo, or Busuu offer interactive Russian language courses with gamification elements, where progress depends on completing tasks and participating in quizzes. For in-depth study, virtual classrooms (Zoom, Microsoft Teams) and specialized resources are used, such as the "Russian Electronic School" — a library of video lessons and tests.

Language clubs have become a space for informal communication. In Uzbekistan, for example, the project "Russian Thursday" brings together students and teachers for discussions in Russian about literature, cinema, and science. Similar initiatives, such as the "RFL Conversation Club," operate online, attracting participants from different countries [5, p. 22].

Universities in Russia and Central Asia regularly hold summer schools (for example, "Russian Summer" in Tashkent), where students combine language learning with excursions and masterclasses.

Cultural events like the "Days of the Russian Language" festival in Nukus or the "Pushkin Season" in Samarkand include theatrical performances, poetry recitation contests, and exhibitions, turning learning into a vibrant creative process.

Modern Russian language teaching is a synthesis of innovation and cultural dialogue. Technologies simplify access to knowledge, and social projects create an environment where language becomes a living tool of communication. Such practices not only maintain interest in Russian but also strengthen interethnic ties, proving that learning a language is a path to mutual understanding and cooperation [6, p. 56].

Conclusions

Thus, the Russian language in Uzbekistan continues to play a unique role as a connecting link between cultures, eras, and peoples. Retaining its status as a language of interethnic communication, it not only reflects a common historical heritage but also becomes a tool for solving contemporary challenges—from educational and economic to humanitarian.

Current practices, such as joint educational projects, cultural festivals, and digital initiatives, demonstrate that the Russian language remains in demand in the context of globalization. State support, expressed in programs for the development of teaching, and societal activity, manifested in literary translations, media, and creative collaborations, create a solid foundation for its preservation.

The Russian language acquires special value as a bridge for dialogue: through it, Uzbekistanis get acquainted with global trends, and the culture of Uzbekistan becomes closer to the Russian-speaking audience. Examples of successful cooperation—from branches of Russian universities to international forums—confirm that bilingualism does not contradict national identity but enriches it, opening up new opportunities for integration into the global space.

The prospects for the Russian language in Uzbekistan are linked to a balance between national identity and integration into the global world. With the support of the state, society, and intercultural initiatives, it can become not only a symbol of the past but also a resource for the future, uniting peoples and opening new horizons for cooperation.

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