



THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLICIST GENRES IN COVERING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW "ON THE STATE LANGUAGE"

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Abstract

This article discusses the role of journalism in the implementation of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the State Language", the importance of journalistic genres in covering existing problems.

Keywords: State language, law, journalism, publicism, news, analytical genres, article, interview.

Introduction

Uzbekistan is developing as an integral part of the global world in the 21st century. Every idea, discovery, invention, and many other innovations resulting from global development continue to be reflected in the language.

Historical data demonstrates that lagging behind modern knowledge and changes negatively impacts a nation's development. However, we must not forget the problem of preserving language, a symbol of freedom and the nation's great wealth. After all, the statement of the flag bearer of Turkish literature, statesman Alisher Navoi, "Indifferent to the language - indifferent to the people"¹ itself showed the urgency of the issue. In addition, according to the 2021 data of the International Organization UNESCO, 2,500 languages are at risk of extinction in the world.²

Foreign countries have accumulated diverse experiences in developing their official languages. For example, France's language policy, which we studied, is

¹ <https://ziyouz.uz/hikmatlar/aforizmlar/alisher-navoiy-hikmatlari/>

² Salimov S. YUNESKO yuzlab tillarning yo'qolib ketishidan xavotirda. <https://ziyouz.uz/author/sobir/>



quite indicative. The government focused its efforts on promoting the widespread use of French among the French-speaking population and internationally. In 1992, the French Constitution established French as the official language. To implement the constitutional amendments, French Minister of Culture Jacques Toubon initiated the "Law on the Use of the French Language"³. This later became known as the "Toubon Law".⁴ The government is actively working to develop the French language based on this document.

The work carried out in the Republic of Turkey is also noteworthy. Language policy in the Republic of Turkey began in the first half of the last century during the reforms of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. The development of the Turkish language, its liberation from the influence of foreign languages, and the improvement of literacy were central tasks. First of all, after the establishment of the Turkish Republic in 1923, Turkish was declared the state language.⁵ The use of this language exclusively became mandatory in all official documents, government agencies, and educational institutions. To purify the Turkish language and free it from foreign influence, the Turkish Language Society (Türk Dil Kurumu) was established. With the help of this organization, many foreign words were removed from the Turkish language, and their original Turkish equivalents were developed in their place. The most important was the abandonment of the Arabic alphabet and the adoption of the Latin alphabet. To this end, the "Turkish Alphabet Reform Law" was passed in 1928. By this time, Turkey had already implemented various programs to support and develop the Turkish language, which is the official state language. The aforementioned Turkish Language Society continues to develop new words and ensure the purity of the Turkish language. Furthermore, Turkey promotes the Turkish language internationally through the Yunus Emre Institute⁶ and other educational programs.⁷

Experts note that after gaining independence in the Republic of Azerbaijan, the practice of dual writing – Latin-Cyrillic – prevailed until 2001, as in the current situation in Uzbekistan, where whoever wanted wrote in Cyrillic, whoever

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toubon_Law

⁴ <https://ru.knowledgr.com/00165802/JacquesToubon>

⁵ https://flickr.com/photos/tarjimonlar_byurosi/50236949541/

⁶ <https://www.yee.org.tr/tr/kurumsal/yunus-emre-enstitusu>

⁷ <https://uza.uz/uz/posts/samar-andlik-olimning-khizmatlari-turkiyada-etirof-etildi-14-08-2020>



wanted – in Latin, and it was difficult to abandon the Cyrillic alphabet. On June 18, 2001, by the decree of President Heydar Aliyev “On improving the use of the state language”, it was envisaged to introduce the Latin alphabet throughout the country from August 1, and by his decree of August 9, “August 1 – Day of the Azerbaijani Language and Alphabet” was declared.⁸

In general, today, countries influenced by other languages are taking serious national measures to develop their own languages.

One of the key characteristics of a modern, comprehensively developed media space is the level of engagement in the overall media space and its successful planning. This reaches a broad audience and allows those who manage this space to influence it. Therefore, a single media space—the media environment—is an extremely important factor in ensuring the implementation of the Law "On the State Language."

We will examine the extent to which our research fulfills its mission of highlighting the issue and problems of the state language using the example of the publications "Yangi O‘zbekiston" and "Ma'rifat".

The newspaper "Yangi O‘zbekiston" is a daily publication published under the auspices of the Cabinet of Ministers. It is also known as the government newspaper. During the 2019-2024 period, which we studied, this publication published 58 articles in various genres. The weekly newspaper "Ma'rifat," co-founded by the Ministry of Preschool and School Education of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation of Uzbekistan, and the Republican Council of the Trade Union of Education and Science Workers of Uzbekistan, published over 300 articles in various genres during this period. Another unique feature is that the newspaper dedicated 30 issues to the state language. This newspaper is called the publication of the people's intelligentsia. The development of information technology has led to the disappearance of most information genres from the press, especially news. Daily newspapers have begun to shift toward analytical and journalistic genres, which are difficult to read on mobile devices.

⁸ Azimov I. Ortga qaytayotgandekmiz... // “Ma’rifat” gazetasi, 2023- yil 7- iyul.



Of the 58 journalistic articles published in the “Yangi O‘zbekiston” newspaper, 23 were news items. Some were published in the newspaper itself, while others were on its website. For example, a news item headlined "Objections raised regarding the bill have been resolved" reported that on May 24, 2021, at a regular meeting of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, deputies considered the second reading of the draft law "On Amendments and Additions to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan 'On the State Language.'" As a result, the objections raised during the previous reading were resolved. Furthermore, the bill introduces corresponding amendments to Article 42 of the Code of Administrative Responsibility, increasing administrative penalties for violations of state language legislation, specifically for violating citizens' rights to freely choose their language of upbringing and education, impeding and restricting language use, and disdainful attitudes toward the state language, as well as toward the languages of other nationalities and ethnic groups residing in the Republic of Uzbekistan. The document stipulates that such actions entail a fine of three to five basic units.⁹

The news article "Draft National Curriculum Presented"¹⁰ reports on the presentation of the draft National Curriculum for Native Language and Literature at the Alisher Navoi University of Uzbek Language and Literature.

An analysis of the two texts reveals that the news article by journalist B.Otajonova, who was directly involved in the events, differs radically from the official style of the press release issued by a representative of the press service of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis.

The interview also constitutes a distinct genre. Research has shown that, despite numerous highly relevant and practical issues, the interview genre is rarely used in relation to the topic of the state language. This genre is rarely used in either the newspapers "Yangi O‘zbekiston" or "Ma'rifat."

Due to the small number of journalists specializing in the state language, analytical articles in the press were written primarily by specialists. In this case, the editorial board commissions linguists or philologists to write articles in a popular format. Naturally, the style of these scientists' research is scholarly. Due

⁹ <https://yuz.uz/news/qonun-loyihasi-yuzasidan-bildirilgan-etirozlar-bartaraf-etildi>

¹⁰ <https://yuz.uz/news/milliy-oquv-dasturi-loyihasi-taqdim-etildi>



to the complexity of scientific terminology, they appear boring to newspaper readers. Therefore, most editorial boards avoid using such materials. However, their uniqueness and necessity cannot be denied. Journalistic works in this style are often found in analytical genres. However, the topic of the state language is an issue related to the nation's prosperity, requiring serious consideration and analysis.

The newspaper "Yangi O'zbekiston" contains more propaganda, scientific, and educational articles than analytical-critical, problematic, and debatable ones. The author of the article "The Relationship between Language and Society" is the head of the department of the Institute of Uzbek Language, Literature, and Folklore of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Doctor of Philological Sciences Yorkinjon Odilov. An excerpt from the article "The creation of the Terminology Commission under the Department for the Development of the State Language is the result of this need, and one of its main tasks is the nationalization and streamlining of terminology using the intrinsic capabilities of the Uzbek language"¹¹ resembles a commentary or response to the publication of a decree or resolution, and in terms of genre, it is a propaganda type of analytical journalism. Although the title of the article by Shukhrat Kuchimov, a professor at Tashkent State Law University and Doctor of Philological Sciences, "A New System for Introducing the State Language"¹², appears to be a commentary on a document, it contains critical judgments and well-reasoned proposals. The article "Blind Imitation is Ignorance"¹³ is written in the religious and educational genre of analytical journalism. Also rich in critical statements is the article by Shakhnoza Soatova, a blogger and civil servant known for her thoughtful and critical opinions, entitled "Each of Us is Responsible for Ensuring the Purity and Preservation of Our Native Language".¹⁴

¹¹ <https://yuz.uz/news/til-va-jamiyatning-ozaro-munosabati>

¹² <https://yuz.uz/news/davlat-tilini-joriy-etishda-yangi-tizim>

¹³ <https://yuz.uz/news/kor-korona-taqlid-johillik>

¹⁴ <https://yuz.uz/news/ona-tilimizning-sofligi-va-boqiyiligini-taminlashga-har-birimiz-masulmiz>



The title of the article, "An Institute for Coordinating Language Policy is Necessary"¹⁵, published in the newspaper "Marifat", clearly indicates that it contains analysis, criticism and proposals.

The newspaper "Ma'rifat" has a very wide range of analytical articles dedicated to the problems of the state language. "If there is a mistake in the spelling dictionary itself..." (11.05.2019.), "How many pronunciations are there in a speech?..." (11.05.2019.), "Or how should pronunciation be taught in continuing education courses?" (03.08.2019.), "Are you ready to work with the "Word Composition Educational Dictionary"? (15.01.2020.), "Another problems in the "mother tongue" textbook" (19.02.2020.), "The Uzbek language that has become a food for grammar" (10.06.2020.), "The language of the media has been cut off from life" (24.06.2020.), "The state gave an order, why are there no results?" (02.12.2020.), "It's time to achieve unity in Uzbek writing!" (10.02.2021.), "2023 is almost here... will we have time to fully switch to the Latin alphabet?" (23.11.2022.), "Is our alphabet ready to become a "computer alphabet"?" (15.03.2023.), "The conflict over one letter" (01.11.2023.) are evidence of our opinion.

Among the authors who frequently utilize literary and journalistic genres is the renowned journalist Akhmadjon Meliboyev. His view of this genre as a practice is quite revealing: "Publicism is the product of creative and analytical thinking, quickly responding to social life and events. This genre, especially literary journalism, has a rapid impact on the reader's consciousness, shaping public opinion on a national task or issue and developing it in the desired direction".¹⁶

Although the newspapers that served as the source for our study contain comparatively few literary works on the topic of language, it is appropriate to emphasize their importance. Revealing the scale of the problem, the authors write not only about their own thoughts, but also about their own reflections, which themselves are generously illustrated with artistic expressions consonant with the spirit of the times: "Language penetrates the human psyche through the native language and fosters nationalism. Language is the mirror of the nation, in which

¹⁵ Odilov Yo., Azimov I. Til siyosatini muvofiqlashtirib boradigan muassasa zarur // "Ma'rifat" gazetasi, 2019-yil 25-yanvar.

¹⁶ Meliboyev A. Badiiy publisistikada davr ruhi // "Jahon adabiyoti", 2011-yil, 4-son.



history comes to life—the past and the future” or “The word is an instrument of thought; the more words a person knows, the broader his horizons and worldview”¹⁷. “The Uzbek language is not our national wealth or pride. It is not one of the symbols, like a flag, coat of arms, or anthem. Because all of them can be changed if circumstances require it. However, how can you change your language? Language is the soul of the nation. Without this language, there are no Uzbeks, no Uzbekistan” (Zukhriddin Isomiddinov)¹⁸.

An excerpt from a journalistic work by Ulugbek Hamdam, published in the newspaper "Ma'rifat" under the title "Our Language – Our Identity"¹⁹: "There are languages in the world spoken only by husband and wife. After them, the language too is left without a master... the language dies. The body of the people lives, but the name fades, the word dies, the memory is forgotten."

Let's pay attention to the words and expressions used. Does language also die? Can language be left without a master?

Obviously, such touching words, deeply rooted in the human consciousness, are rarely found in either informational or analytical genres, and they demonstrate the uniqueness of artistic journalistic genres.

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¹⁷ Ibodova N. Qalbimiz ruhimizga ko’zgu til // <https://yuz.uz/news/qalbimiz-ruhimizga-ko-zgu-til>

¹⁸ <https://yuz.uz/news/til--millatning-songgi-qorgoni>

¹⁹ Hamdam U. Tilimiz - o’zligimiz // “Ma’rifat” gazetasi, 2019-yil 8-may.



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