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**E. N. Orazaliyeva,**  
*The head of the State and foreign languages  
Department of the Academy of public administration  
under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.  
Doctor of philological sciences, professor.*

## THE LANGUAGE POLICY: KAZAKHSTAN AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Abstract

The article covers issues of language policy, defining the role of public administration in the system of language reforms and political processes. Actualization of concepts such as national identity and interethnic tolerance described the main stages of the language situation in Kazakhstan. The same analysis of the international situation in the UK and the European Union helps to describe the linguistic interaction as one of the keys in economic and socio-political issues.

**Key words:** Message, government, civil society, policy, public administration, language policy, language situation, identity, multilingualism

### Аңдатпа

Мақала тілдік реформалар мен саяси процестер жүйесіндегі мемлекеттік басқарудың атқарар қызметін анықтай отырып, тілдік саясат мәселелерін жан-жақты талдауға негізделген. Қазақстандағы тілдік жағдай ұлттық ерекшелік пен этносаралық толеранттылық ұғымдары арқылы өзектеле қалыптасқан кезеңдермен дәйектелген. Тіл аралық байланыстың экономикалық, әлеуметтік-саяси мәселелердің шешілуіне қатысы Ұлыбритания мен Еуропалық Одақтағы халықаралық жағдаймен салғастырыла ұсынылған.

**Тірек сөздер:** Жолдау, мемлекеттілік, азаматтық қоғам, саясаттың қағидаттары, мемлекеттік басқару, тіл саясаты, тілдік жағдай, көптілділік

### Аннотация

Статья освещает вопросы языковой политики, определяя роль государственного управления в системе языковых реформ и политических процессов. Актуализация таких понятий, как национальная идентичность и межэтническая толерантность охарактеризовали основные этапы формирования языковой ситуации в Казахстане. Представленный же анализ международной ситуации на примере Великобритании и Европейского Союза послужил ключом к сопоставлению факторов языкового взаимодействия в решении экономических и социально-политических проблем.

**Ключевые слова:** Послание, государственность, принципы политики, государственное управление, языковая политика, языковая ситуация, идентичность, мультилингвизм

Language as a tool of communication and root of national heritage is an important part of our existing. We know that only a language can save our identity and history, which are significant for our future generation. Number of years before science about a language observed just problems of its structure and some questions of its development. But now linguistics concentrated on the social, psychological, political and national aspects of language relationships. And as a result of this assertion we can explain the deep connection between a language and society, including links with a culture, policy and economy. It has become an accepted truth that each language is realized its own opportunities differently. Because every language has different consequences for its usefulness, which normally is involved the special questions about language rights, role and communication areas of the life. This also means that in nowadays a language is a subject of sociopolitical issues. Moreover, its viable difference can also be considered with the help of more or less dominant positions in the world, where a privilege of a language has a direct connection with its users. Therefore the problem of language diversity retained all essential circumstances of policy making for mitigating language discrimination and advocating their equal rights. It is a mean to enhance the aspiration of people to save and enrich their native heritage without any tension.

Based on the evidence cited in linguistic materials, we also can retain a lot of facts about language fates, including dominant and minority languages and their rights. «The concept of language rights has had enormous appeal, finding a broad swath of support among linguists, sociologists, political philosophers, policy makers, and community activists», – interpreted Lionel Wee [1; 4]. The general assumption has been that a language is not the province of limited discussion. This problem needs the special co-decision, because the measure of this impact might keynote to all procedures of social and political continuum.

The main subject of this article is the language policy with its planning points. The idea of this work mainly concentrates on the comparative analysis of the situations in our country, in the UK, involving different parts, such as England, Ireland, Wales and Scotland, and also interesting and important situation in the European Union. We need to analyze them with the help of language situation in Kazakhstan. Diversity of nations with diversity of languages has sufficient number of proposals and amendments. However, it's vital and vivid problem of nowadays. Furthermore, we try to analyze a status of state or official languages, treating to language rights, ecology and ideology.

### **Language rights and a status of a state language: national dignity and heritage**

By lifting the restrictions controlling language situations, we «can't afford to rest on our laurels». The opportunities or equal statuses of each language need a wide and deep scope for prominent virtue. Currently a large part of the improvement can be attributed to an increase in relations among neighboring countries, which also can be considered as a result of a historical twist. The vast majority of these vested interests maintained by transferable argue about stability and entity. In fact, a just society is «a society whose members treat one another with equal respect» [2; 118].

Today Kazakhstan emergently and systematically develops its language situation, because as the Government with more than 130 ethnic minorities it invested in tolerant relationships. The positive nugget of this policy is in turn to create new with the deserved attention to the rights of others. Indeed, it's not easy to reify ideas without exacerbations in the whole world. On the other hand, Kazakhstan realizes its language planning step by step. Now we have the second state program for developing and functions languages in the Republic of Kazakhstan, which was prepared by Ministry of culture and information of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Thus, each act has been fulfilled by the special periods and discourses. According to the results of the yearly Messages of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan reconsidered the problems of social area. Namely: the employment, quality of the life of citizens, provision with flats, presence of quality services, pension system, education, training courses for providing necessary skills and so on. Sufficiently the Government coherently has treated to the main subject of social and economic policy a human resource, including its qualitative ups.

Likewise Kazakhstan tries to underpin the situation of developing languages. Most significantly, they have focused on enhancing usefulness of the state language. Pertaining to the first program we increased our infrastructure for studying Kazakh language, such as 1178 nurseries (it's more than in 2001 year for 876), 101 special language centers for learning and developing the state language, preparing and publishing 10 kind of dictionaries. And now with the special financial calculation next program's content treated to arrange the following problems: to keep up with all bearers of Kazakh language, to grow the usefulness of the state language in social communication, to save and go up the linguistic capital of the state language. Therefore the program has 4 main points of decision. Firstly, with the help of the qualitative methodology to increase the level of speakers, secondly, pay attention to popularization of the native bearers as a people with deep cultural values, then, to reach a high language culture and, the last one is to create all conditions for rising linguistic capital. In addition, this program focused on multilingualism too. We have special indicators about the parts of population, who have to create their communicational skills in English and three languages. For example, according to the future plans in 2014 the 10 % of the population of Kazakhstan will be good at English and then this number will be increased for every 2 years for 5 %. Nearly characteristics we are planning to reach in the number of people with three language skills: in 2014 – 10 %, in 2017 – 12 %, in 2020 – 15 % [3].

We observed some materials about the language policy in England. As a country with a population of 51, 8 million people and 16% belong to an ethnic minority group or are of mixed race [4]. England has its own position in the language policy. Furthermore, English as the «highly dominant language» has the special language planning system in all areas of life, such as in educational program, on the workplaces and in a social communication. It looks like as an «access to the standard prestige variety» or «the variety that they consider more useful for improving their socioeconomic prospects» [1; 6, 7]. In many linguistic projects English «has effectively become that lingua franca» [5; 28], it is explained by a reflection of geo-political reality. For example, according to Eurostat, already in 2006 and 2007 in the school system within the countries of the EU English was the language that pupils have to learn. On the other hand, as a country with high per cent of migration the English

tries to save its own traditional forms in the speaking and writing. It normally involves some kind of variants in the one language, which can affect to linguistic standards. Each language as an automatic mechanism is developed in our mind sometimes without our interruption and only with the help of hearing and repeating. It does mean that we cannot control everything with grammatical issues. Namely, it might be results of a new variant, like the «new Englishes». The process of migration, that can involve many social and political, also economic challenges, is completely spread in the world. It also justifies the central illustration of languages situations with affecting to their national and cultural solutions. Scholars described a global mobility as the special controversial political challenge like «a package of transnational flows of people, production, investment, ideas and authority» [6; 1].

The situation with Scottish, Irish and Welsh languages have their individual profile, because each of them has own territory, population and official language. According to the Statistic materials and Official documents every of these countries support their native languages. Therefore all public documents are prepared, first of all, in the official languages or languages under ECRML, which also «can have the status of official language, but this status will by definition be limited to the area in which they are spoken» [5; 68]. For example, The UK Government recognizes Irish and Ulster Scots in Northern Ireland under the ECRML (European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages) languages. This country has the different levels of learning additional languages at the primary, secondary schools and institutions. The Welsh language has official status in Wales after 2011 year. British Sign language has been recognized as a language in its own right but without directly related legislation. The Scots language also recognized under the ECRML, along with Ulster Scots. Moreover, it is interesting that the Scottish Government focuses on developing a Scots Language Policy and presenting Scotland as a trilingual country.

### **Language planning: society and multilingualism**

Applying the arguments considered in the preceding chapters, we can try to explain the language situation in European Union, which policy is concentrated on «protection linguistic diversity and promote knowledge of languages, for reasons of cultural identity and social integration, but also because multilingual citizens are better placed to take advantage of the educational, professional and economic opportunities». It means that each member of the modern society should understand the main idea of the multilingualism policy. They are not only communicational or practical skills. It includes culture, respect and tolerance. This project focused on improving and learning at least two foreign languages. We know that EU has major language policy agencies, namely they are the Unit for Multilingualism Policy within the Directorate-General of Education and Culture in the European Commission and the Language Policy Unit of the Directorate of Education in the Council of Europe. Among all necessary decisions we can see their common problems about the role of languages in the European economy, mutual understanding and communication, in encouraging the removal of barriers to intercultural dialogue and, especially, in realizing their opportunities to communicate in additionally in two or more languages [5; 4].

What is less widely recognizable is the strong connection between world stability, national security, cultural dignity and, really, language diversity. We believe that respect and attention to each language with their speakers are the main reason for everything. As a consequence, multilingualism argues that only people, who have possibility to be good at another language, can understand the sensitive linkage between them. Moreover, the social balance might be better if people try to hear their neighbors of another nationality. In nowadays the trilingual formula of languages connection has own popularity. According to the project results we can see how people in the world of mobility and migration realize this idea. Specialist institutions try to calculate and compare their aspirations. The statistic facts show us the results of the social researches: the different statements have the different per cent of agree or disagree. For example, 84 % people in Europe agree, that one additional language is necessary today, it's requirement of the each society. 72 % of them also agree that all languages spoken within the EU should be treated equally. But the other positions, such as the European institutions should adopt one single language to communicate with European citizens and everyone should be able to speak two additional languages, have only 55 % and 50 % of agree.

We have also received possibility to read Analysis and Proposals from the LETPP (Languages in Europe, Theory, Policy and Practice) Consultation and Review. This project is concentrated on some issues, which included explicit strategies at European, national and regional level which can promote

or inhibit linguistic diversity in social and economic life (Languages in Europe: 5). Additionally, the aspects of National Language Policies are considered as the connection of several significant points: the effects of language education on social policy, national identity, the potential for plurilingualism, the impact of English on multilingualism, the tension between the instrumental and educational purposes of language learning and so on. On the whole these questions go to show that the multilingual policy is significant language planning with tolerant issues and respectable relationships among all members of the world.

## Conclusion

By way of closing this article, we want to maintain the positions that underline the significant role of language policy and planning in the public administration. We think the viability of each ethnic group strongly depend on linguistic issues. Intrinsically, the dissociation between languages can create untenable tensions. Therefore the wise consensus in this special policy has vested interest among all members of the whole world. Indeed, an ethnic diversity with languages diversity can afford to spread the exacerbations, but also with the help of correct decisions to eliminate or mitigate some prominent and inherent flaws. Each country should properly understand the basis of sustainable and conscious content of language planning, because it affects to the problems of national dignity and cultural identity.

It is also equally arguable that sometimes the position of a language is acquired by historical twist or geo-political situation and it is not necessary to concentrate all state resources on saving. Nevertheless, some languages of ethnic minorities need to defend. It would appear from the research that the dominance of one language can be influence which leads to the future of another one, especially to its reasons for existence or disappearance. One possible answer to this question might be to suggest that each language needs rights for perpetuation and sometimes for reconstitution. Also there may be a role for speakers and their aspirations and wishes to save native languages as a tool of political, economic and social life.

To sum up everything, we considered the efficiency of the state or official language policy in society as a result of vital and conscious language planning. Thus, probably, every language can save its rights and realize its communicative potential. We see how Governments try to arrange the policy of linguistic diversity as a mutual decision. It is not easy to facilitate and encourage all retaining procedures of linguistic diversity. However, it is possible to create respectable relationship between languages with the help of the relevant and reputable treatment. Despite of the debatable position of this question in our global society, it has a certain degree of plausibility and reality. Therefore we hope that it will be assessed in detail and help us to make up our mind for maximizing its advantages in the future.

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