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MULTILINGUALISM

Abstract. This article is devoted to Multilingualism in Kazakhstan.

Аңдатпа: Бұл мақала Қазақстандағы көптілділікке арналған.

Аннотация. Эта статья посвящена многоязычию в Казахстане.

Keywords: multilingualism, nationality, globalization

Түйінді сөздер: көптілділік, ұлт, жаһандандыру

Ключевые слова: многоязычие, национальность, глобализация

Multilingualism is the use of two or more languages by speakers or by community of speakers. Now multilingualism is becoming a social phenomenon and cultural openness.

As is known, the native language is acquired without formal education due to natural causes. Children who acquire two languages in this way are also called bilinguals.

People who know more than one language are more skilled in language training than monolingual ones.

Bilingual people often have economic advantages over monolingual people. They can perform various important duties that monolinguals can not. They can communicate with interlocutors and maintain a conversation in the minority language.

When two people meet, negotiations are in progress. If they want to express solidarity and sympathy, they are looking for common features in their behavior. If people want to express even their dislike for the person with whom they speak, differences are sought. This mechanism also extends to the language.

The definition of multilingualism is a subject of debate in the very same way as the definition of language fluency. On one end of a sort of linguistic continuum, one may define multilingualism as complete competence and mastery in another language. The speaker would presumably have complete knowledge and control over the language so as to sound native. On the opposite end of the spectrum would be people who know enough phrases to get around as a tourist using the alternate language.

A multilingual person is someone who can communicate in more than one language, either actively (through speaking, writing, or signing) or passively (through listening, reading, or perceiving). More specifically, the terms *bilingual* and *trilingual* are used to describe comparable situations in which two or three languages are involved. A multilingual person is generally referred to as a polyglot.

Widespread multilingualism is one form of language contact. Multilingualism was more common in the past than is usually supposed: in early times, when most people were members of small language communities, it was necessary to know two or more languages for trade or any other dealings outside one's own town or village, and this holds good today in places of high linguistic diversity such as Sub-Saharan Africa and India.

Sociopolitical as well as socio-cultural identity arguments may influence native language literacy. While these two camps may occupy much of the debate about which languages children will learn to read, a greater emphasis on the linguistic aspects of the argument is appropriate. In spite of the political turmoil precipitated by this debate, researchers continue to espouse a linguistic basis for it.

Globalization has led the world to be more deeply interconnected. Consequences of this are that more and more companies are trading with foreign countries, and with countries that

don't necessarily speak the same language. English has become an important working knowledge mainly in multinational companies, but also in smaller companies.

Today, countries of the world are, basically, multilingual. Multilingual environment necessitates a common language; that is why international languages are used extensively. Moreover, the language is experiencing globalization. At present, English is recognized worldwide as the language of globalization. English language serves for integration of our country into the world economy and global society.

Kazakhstan is a multiethnic and multi-religious state, where live more than 126 representatives of different ethnic groups and use their ethnic languages in daily life. Officially, the Kazakh language is the state language. Russian language is the language of interethnic communication. Kazakh and Russian languages are used predominantly. Nowadays, more than 17 million people live in the country; 65.2% of them are Kazakhs, 21.8% are Russians and 13% are representatives of other ethnicities.

At the present stage in the development of Kazakhstani society, bilingualism is gradually turning into multilingualism. One of the most important strategic goals of the language policy of Kazakhstan is the necessity of speaking several languages: Kazakh, Russian and English. Kazakhstan is currently implementing overall modernization of the education system and embedding a multilingualism policy into the educational process as well. The experimental sites for multilingual education have been initiated in several Kazakhstani Universities and secondary schools. The young Kazakhstani generation brought up in independent Kazakhstan is involved in multilingual education process.

By decree №110 dated 29 June, 2011, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan approved the state program on the use and development of languages in the Republic of Kazakhstan for the years 2011-2020. This program aims at increasing the number of citizens knowing three languages (Kazakh, Russian, and English) at the following ratio.

2014-10%

2017-12%

2020-15%

The main objective of this program is to maintain an effective language policy that will preserve the languages of all ethnic groups living in Kazakhstan and ensure the extensive use of the state language as an important factor strengthening the national unity. The state organ responsible for the elaboration of this program is the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

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