

Ж. Маратов¹, Ф.И. Смаилова¹

¹Казахская академия транспорта и коммуникаций им. М. Тынышпаева, г. Алматы, Казахстан

«MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION»

Abstract. The article considers political, social and economic changes in Kazakhstan last decades, its active and fruitful cooperation with the western countries which have essentially affected expansion of a foreign language as the subject and the purposes which have led to reconsideration, problems and the maintenance of training to foreign languages.

Андатпа. Мақалада көптілді жан-жақты маманды дайындау және қалыптастырудың әдістемелік ұстанымдары жасау қажеттілігін талап етіп отырған тілдік жағдайдың Қазақстандық қоғам дамуының қазіргі кезеңде даму мәселелері қарастырылады.

Аннотация Данная статья рассматривает политические и социально-экономические изменения в Казахстане в последние десятилетия, его стремление активно и плодотворно сотрудничать с западными странами существенно повлиявшие расширение функции иностранного языка как предмета и приведшие к переосмыслению цели, задач и содержания обучения иностранным языкам.

Түйінді сөздер: экономикалық өзгерістер, шет тілдер, мақсат.

Keywords: economic changes, foreign languages, purpose

Ключевые слова: экономические изменения, иностранные языки, цель.

Multilingualism is the ability of an individual speaker or a community of speakers to communicate effectively in three or more languages. Contrast with monolingualism is the ability to use only one language. A person who can speak multiple languages is known as a polyglot or a multilingual [1].

Historical development of multilingualism in Kazakhstan consists of several stages. In the current times of rapidly developing technological progresses, the development of quality education and educated youth is very important. For this reason, a number of state projects and programs were developed in the education system. On the basis of these programs professional development courses for teachers of secondary schools were organized.

The multilingualism has been historically thoroughly investigated but nowadays it is studied as lingual essence of everyday lingual life. The problem of multilingualism is the topic of different investigations in the field of modern linguistics. They are focusing at the interaction of various ethnical groups cultures in the multinational societies. It is caused by intensification of inter-ethnic interaction, bilingualism being one of its main characteristics. The formation of the bilingualism and multilingualism is implemented in the conditions of the cultures mutual penetration which is a norm for a modern civilized society functioning. The interaction of languages predetermines the necessity of wide range practical measures aiming the inter-ethnic interaction improvement development.

Multilingualism is a concept widely spread in the vast multi-ethnic geographical space. The situation in Kazakhstan reflects this concept. Today, more than 130 nationalities live in Kazakhstan. The majority of people of Slavic origin mainly speak only one language, whereas the majority of Kazakhs speak two languages. Multilingualism is prevailing among Uighur, Uzbek, Dungan, Turkish, Azerbaijani, Tajik, Tatar, and other ethnic groups. In German, Korean, and Chechen communities, multilingualism is also more frequent phenomenon. Due to the recent government attention to the knowledge of multiple languages, multilingualism is growing among the Kazakhs, too. According to the 1989 data, in the former Soviet Union, 73 mln people

(23.4%) were bilingual; the Russian language was the second language of 61 mln people. A small group of them were multilingual (polyglot) [2].

Nowadays in Kazakhstan multilingualism becomes the trend with the English language gaining growing popularity alongside the two existing languages (i.e. the Kazakh as the only official language and Russian widely used as a language of interethnic communication). While English is regarded as a condition for successful integration into the global economy and becomes one of the priorities of the state policy, there are some concerns towards the role of English in the development of linguistic balance in Kazakhstan. The survey shows that English is currently mainly used at workplace and for specific purposes such as emails, writing a business letter, business trip abroad, etc. In terms of motives of learning English, developing international outlook, career development and personal growth have been mentioned as the most common reasons of English proficiency among Kazakhstani business professionals.

Continuing the above discussion, in today's world in general, and in megacities in particular, people are living in the multilingual environment. Such phenomenon as multilingualism is widespread. Our country is also experiencing this global process. One of the main directions of social-economic development of today's Kazakhstan is to develop an environment where the citizens would speak three languages.

Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev presented his idea of the use of three languages for the first time in 2006 in his speech at the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan. In his 2007 annual address themed "New Kazakhstan in a New World", the President proposed gradual implementation of the "Trinity of languages" cultural project. In the 2008 address, he declared that "the Government should accelerate the implementation of the "Trinity of languages" project and should urgently improve the quality of teaching the Kazakh language, as the state language that unites our entire society" [3].

Thus, the Kazakh language was determined as the state language, the Russian language is now the language of interethnic communication, and the English language serves for integration of our country into the world economy and global society. Apart from this, in his address to the people of Kazakhstan "Building the future together" in 2011, the President stated, "I always say that knowing three languages is essential for the success of every Kazakhstani. Our task is to raise the number of citizens speaking the state language up to 80% by 2017. I think, by 2020, the number of Kazakhstanis speaking English should reach 20%" [4].

After Kazakhstan gained the independence, the Constitution of the country declared the Kazakh language as the state language and the Russian language as the official language. The document's main purpose was to preserve the interethnic integrity and to avoid the dysfunction of the language environment of the society. That is why Russian was given the status of the language of friendship, peace and interethnic communication. In the context of globalization, the demand for the knowledge of English is undeniable.

Therefore, the education institutions are the main organs responsible for the implementation of the "Trinity of languages" policy in quantitative and qualitative terms. For the implementation of multilingual teaching, we should first solve a variety of issues, such as the study of international experience in multilingual education; the personnel training and their availability; availability of material resources, and etc. Until proper solutions to these issues are found, the implementation of the planned program will create a number of difficulties.

The program of development of education system in the Republic of Kazakhstan for the years 2011- 2020 was approved for the purpose of implementation of decree №922 of the President of Kazakhstan dated February 1, 2010 "On the strategic development of the Republic of Kazakhstan till 2020" [5]. According to this program, starting from 2011, the multilingual teaching staff training is carried out. For this training, the state compulsory education standard foresees the increase in number of credits for foreign languages in the cycle of basic classes; and changes are introduced to the education programs. It is expected to increase the number of teachers of natural sciences and mathematics speaking three languages up to 15% by 2020. The

network of specialized secondary schools for gifted children has been also formed. There are 33 schools teaching in three languages in the country today [6]. In these schools, mathematics, physics, chemistry, and biology are taught in English. Educational and cultural activities to increase students' interest in the discipline and to improve the level of education and self-discipline, as well as creative work weeks, creative work ten days, and other cultural events are carried out in three languages.

The development of teaching the Russian and English languages is planned as follows in this program: the share of citizens knowing Russian should reach 90% of total population by 2020; the share of citizens speaking English should be 20% by 2020. Head of State Nursultan Nazarbayev has said: "We must put all our effort on development of the Kazakh language as a main factor of unity of all Kazakhstanian people. Besides, we need to provide every opportunity to different nationalities living in our country to speak, learn and develop their own mother tongues".

Thus, the Kazakh language was determined as the state language, the Russian language is now the language of interethnic communication, and the English language serves for integration of our country into the world economy and global society. Apart from this, in his address to the people of Kazakhstan "Building the future together" in 2011, the President stated, "I always say that knowing three languages is essential for the success of every Kazakhstanian. Our task is to raise the number of citizens speaking the state language up to 80% by 2017. I think, by 2020, the number of Kazakhstanians speaking English should reach 20%" [4].

Nowadays the language policy is realized in accordance to the "Kazakhstan Republic Language Law" and Republic's Constitution. According to the law the status of the Kazakh language is determined as official. But nevertheless there is a complicated language situation in Kazakhstan: the Kazakh language is not functioning in full as an official one, the youth takes a fancy to foreign languages and actively learns them (especially English); the 'Pigeon' language is developing ('pigeon' means mixed, for example, Russian – Kazakh or Kazakh - Russian). In this connection we needed a fast qualitative-quantitative solution of the problem at all levels of official and non-official lingual communication.

The goals of state program on the development of languages in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2011-2020 are the following:

- Improvement and standardization of the teaching methodology of the state language;
- Development of infrastructure for teaching the state language;
- Stimulation of the process of learning the state language;
- Strengthening the status of the state language;
- Increasing the demand for the state language;
- Improvement and systematization of lexical resources of the Kazakh language;
- Enhancement of the language culture;
- Functioning of the Russian language in the communicative language space;
- Preservation of the linguistic diversity;
- Learning English and other foreign languages

In conclusion, we claim that multilingualism is the need of the globalizing world. We appreciate the trinity of languages as the phenomenon strategically significant for our independent country. To meet the needs of the society, we find the important knowledge of Kazakh, Russian and English languages. It should also be emphasized that in the language policy, the role of the state language – the Kazakh language – is especially significant. Without the state of preparation of experts translation - scientific, artistic, etc., teachers of foreign languages in the Kazakh language, and without dictionaries, textbooks can not be overcome isolation language and dependence on Russian as the language of translation and foreign language learning. Language situation complicates by the fact that the project "Trinity of languages" officially served as the three languages (the trinity of languages), i.e. Obligatory,

mass knowledge of three languages rather than as trilingual education. Trilingual education - the study of two foreign languages on the basis of the state language, which is in some European countries. This approach is more suitable for trilingual education in Kazakhstan. In England, we started in school to study two foreign languages on the basis of the English language. Of course, some of the pupils, students, professionals in Europe speak three languages.

By the way, this phenomenon occurs in many countries, including ours, but it does not have three languages. Unable to reach a real bilingualism in Kazakhstan started to trilingual education. After learning the Kazakh language in Russian schools does not give tangible results. While the study of two world languages on the basis of the Kazakh language in some linguistic gymnasiums gives good performance. Trilingual education is not contrary to the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, while the compulsory trilingual does not meet the constitutional standard of languages. "The Trinity of languages" needs careful sociolinguistic analysis; must be scientifically substantiating the educational language program as proposed by President Nursultan Nazarbayev on the study of three languages: Kazakh as the state, Russian as a language of international communication, English as the language of the world economy, is as a foreign language. For in this case - is a language specialist, not a mandatory language.

REFERENCES

- [1] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/.
- [2] The explanatory dictionary of terms of linguistics – Almaty. "Dictionary", 2005. ISBN 9965-409-88-9.
- [3] Nazarbayev N.A. "Increasing the well-being of the people of Kazakhstan is the main goal of the state policy" / The Address of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the People of Kazakhstan. February 6, 2008.
- [4] Nazarbayev N.A. "Building the Future Together!" / The Address of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the People of Kazakhstan.
- [5] The state program on development and use of languages in the Republic of Kazakhstan for the years 2011-2020.
- [6] The state program on development of education in the Republic of Kazakhstan for the years 2011- 2020. <http://www.edu.gov.kz>
- [7] Paustovsky K. Budagov R.A. Review. // The problems of linguistics. №4, 1981. – p. 132-135.
- [8] Shaimerdenova N.G. Lingual situation in Kazakhstan and translation problems. // Lingual translation problems. – Almaty, 1996. – p. 86-87.