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Методика преподавания иностранных языков

FROM NAVOI TO TIKTOK: HOW LANGUAGE SHAPES AND REFLECTS SOCIETY

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This article explores the intricate relationship between language and society. It delves into the history of language, its connection to society, and how they influence each other. Through this article, readers will gain insights into the role of language as a tool for communication, cultural preservation, and social cohesion. Additionally, the article highlights the impact of new technologies on language and society, with specific examples from the Uzbek context.

Key words: *language, society, history, communication, social groups, social relations, effects of technology, relationship between language and society.*

ОТ НАВОИ ДО ТИКТОКА: КАК ЯЗЫК ФОРМИРУЕТ И ОТРАЖАЕТ ОБЩЕСТВО

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В статье исследуется сложная взаимосвязь между языком и обществом. Она посвящена истории языка, его связи с обществом и тому, как они влияют друг на друга. Благодаря этой статье читатели получают представление о роли языка как инструмента общения, сохранения культуры и социальной сплоченности. Кроме того, в статье освещается влияние новых технологий на язык и общество на конкретных примерах из узбекского контекста.

Ключевые слова: *язык, общество, история, коммуникация, социальные группы, социальные отношения, влияние технологий, взаимосвязь между языком и обществом*

Language and Society

Language and society are two inseparable concepts that have shaped human civilization for centuries. To understand their connection, we must first define these terms and explore their functions, history, and interdependence.

What is Language?

Language is a system of communication that enables people to exchange ideas, convey information, and express emotions. It consists of words, grammatical rules, and symbols that vary across cultures. Language is not just a tool for communication; it is also a reflection of culture, history, and identity. For example, the **Uzbek language**, a member of the Turkic language family, boasts a rich history dating back to the Chagatai literary tradition. It serves as a symbol of national pride and cultural heritage for the Uzbek people.

What is Society?

Society refers to a group of individuals who interact within shared social, economic, cultural, and political systems. It is the foundation of human development, where people collaborate, meet their needs, and achieve common goals. As the Greek philosopher **Aristotle** once said, *"Man is a social being; he cannot live alone and develops through interaction with society."*

In Uzbekistan, society is deeply rooted in traditions such as **Navruz**, a celebration of the Persian New Year, and **Mahalla**, a neighborhood-based system of community support. These traditions highlight the collective nature of Uzbek society and its emphasis on unity and cooperation.

The Connection Between Language and Society

Language and society are deeply intertwined. Language serves as the primary means of communication in society, enabling the exchange of ideas, the transmission of culture, and the regulation of social relations. Conversely, society shapes language by influencing its development, usage, and evolution.

Language as a Reflection of Culture

Language is a mirror of a society's culture and history. In Uzbekistan, the Uzbek language preserves centuries-old traditions, proverbs, and folk tales. For instance, the epic "**Alpomish**" and the poetry of **Alisher Navoi** are integral parts of Uzbek cultural identity, passed down through generations via language.

Language and Social Groups

Different social groups often develop unique ways of speaking, leading to the creation of dialects and slang. In Uzbekistan:

- Urban youth in Tashkent frequently use **slang** and **borrowed words** from Russian and English, such as "*kompyuter*" (computer) or "*like*" (as used in social media).
- Regional dialects, such as the **Fergana Valley dialect** or the **Surxondaryo dialect**, reflect the country's geographical and cultural diversity.

Bilingualism and Diglossia in Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan is a multilingual society where **bilingualism** (the use of two or more languages) and **diglossia** (using different languages for formal and informal contexts) are common. For example:

- **Uzbek** is the state language, used in official settings, education, and media.
- **Russian** remains widely spoken, especially in urban areas like Tashkent, where it is used in business and interethnic communication.
- In regions like **Karakalpakstan**, the **Karakalpak language** is also recognized as an official language, reflecting the country's commitment to preserving linguistic diversity.

Language Change and Modern Trends

Language evolves in response to societal changes, particularly through technology and globalization. In Uzbekistan:

- The rise of social media platforms like **Instagram** and **Telegram** has introduced new vocabulary, such as "*post*" (публикация) and "*hashtag*" (хештег).
- English loanwords are increasingly integrated into Uzbek, especially in fields like technology (e.g., "*smartfon*" for smartphone) and pop culture (e.g., "*trend*" for trend).
- Globalization has also led to **code-switching**, where Uzbek youth mix Uzbek, Russian, and English in casual conversations.

Language Policy in Uzbekistan

Language policy plays a crucial role in shaping a nation's linguistic landscape. After gaining independence in 1991, Uzbekistan implemented policies to promote the **Uzbek language** as the state language, replacing Russian in official contexts. This was part of a broader effort to strengthen national identity. However, Russian remains influential, especially in urban areas, leading to ongoing debates about language use and policy.

The Role of Language in Social Cohesion and Inequality

Language can both unite and divide societies. It serves as a means of communication between social groups but can also highlight social inequalities. For example:

- In Uzbekistan, proficiency in **Russian** or **English** often correlates with access to better education and job opportunities, creating a divide between urban and rural populations.
- Efforts to promote the Uzbek language aim to bridge this gap and ensure equal opportunities for all citizens.

As **Nelson Mandela** once said, "*If you talk to a man in a language he understands, it goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, it goes to his heart.*" This quote underscores the importance of language in fostering understanding and unity within society.

In conclusion, Language and society are two fundamental concepts that complement and shape each other. Language serves as a tool for communication, cultural preservation, and social cohesion, while society influences the development and evolution of language. In Uzbekistan, the relationship between language and society is evident in the country's rich linguistic heritage, multilingualism, and ongoing efforts to promote the Uzbek language.

As we navigate the challenges of globalization and technological advancement, preserving and developing our language remains an essential task for society. By understanding the connection between language and society, we can better appreciate the role of language in shaping our identity, culture, and future.

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