



**TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN UZBEKISTAN:  
OPPORTUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES**

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A B S T R A C T	KEY WORDS
"In the article, it is argued that mastering a foreign language enables individuals to keep up with global developments. Simultaneously, it offers a means to disseminate the nation's culture worldwide. Currently, there is a pressing demand for children to be taught foreign languages seriously, provided that this does not compromise their national identity. In Uzbekistan today, there is considerable discussion about the opportunities available to young people fluent in foreign languages."	Foreign language, Decision, English, German, French, Spanish, Turkish, Arabic, Persian, future, country.

**Introduction**

"It is well-known that children learn their mother tongue in a living environment, meaning they acquire language within the family, in pre-school educational institutions, and directly from interacting with people. The mother tongue plays a crucial role in the development of thinking. Only those who have mastered their mother tongue can easily learn a second or other foreign languages; without this foundation, learning foreign languages may prove difficult. The second language is often seen as the language of neighboring or brotherly nations. Language serves as a vital factor and an invaluable tool for mutual understanding, friendship, and communication among people.

Historically, our country, situated at a busy crossroads of the Great Silk Road, has engaged in simultaneous interactions with many cultures. Our land is characterized by values of great cooperation, spiritual and cultural enrichment, and, most importantly, mutual understanding, attention, and respect. Tolerance has been a cornerstone of our people's mentality. Thus, from ancient times, foreign languages, primarily Anatakak (Sanskrit), Tabgach (Chinese), and Tokhri (Middle Persian), were taught in our country. By the Middle Ages, there was an increased need for teaching Arabic and Persian languages."

"People from different linguistic backgrounds began to learn each other's languages, customs, and ways of life as they established neighborly relations. The revival of trade and cultural ties spurred the study of foreign languages for practical and educational purposes. In ancient civilizations such as Syria, Egypt, Greece, and Rome, it became customary during periods of cultural development to learn the

languages of other nations. Examples of ancient culture were translated into Arabic and disseminated throughout the East, illustrating the long and complex journey of foreign language acquisition over more than two thousand years.

After gaining independence, Uzbekistan strived to align with global standards, aiming for a distinguished position among nations not only in socio-cultural, but also in economic and political realms. This era saw an increase in the demand for specialists well-versed in foreign languages and the socio-economic contexts of other countries, driven by the expansion of international cooperation and diplomatic relations. Consequently, Uzbekistan significantly altered its approach to foreign language education, prioritizing it as a key area within state policy. The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-401 dated May 12, 1992, No. PQ-1875 dated December 10, 2012, No. PQ-2228 dated September 3, 2014, and the Decision PQ-5117 dated May 19, have all significantly contributed to the sector's development."

"According to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan's Decision No. 395, dated May 13, 2019, titled 'On measures to implement national and international evaluation system certificates for admission to higher education institutions', significant changes have been introduced to the entrance examinations for higher education institutions starting from the 2019-2020 academic year. Specifically, the examination complex now incorporates foreign languages (including English, German, French, Spanish, Turkish, Arabic, Persian, Dari, Hindi, Urdu, Chinese, Korean, Uyghur, Italian, and Japanese) as a main subject for applicants to undergraduate courses. Those applicants who possess the specified levels of foreign language proficiency certificates or international certificates issued by the State Test Center are awarded the maximum points for this subject without the need to take exams."

"Starting from the 2022/2023 academic year, individuals possessing a national or international certificate at the requisite level have been eligible to participate in competitions for master's and post-higher education specializations. Specifically, a minimum of a C1 level national certificate or its international equivalent is mandated for philological fields, while a B2 level national certificate or its international equivalent is required for non-philological fields. These criteria aim to motivate young people to pursue foreign language studies diligently.

Furthermore, the government has decided to fully reimburse examination fees for those who achieve high scores (levels) according to international examination systems. This reimbursement is available exclusively to Uzbekistani citizens who have not reached the age of 31 at the time of taking the exam and to stateless persons permanently residing in Uzbekistan, who can apply for expense reimbursement through State Service Centers or the Unified Portal.

In conclusion, it is evident that reforms in foreign language education hold significant contemporary relevance and practical importance. Driven by the substantial support and incentives provided for language education in our country, experts in the field are making significant contributions towards the development of highly skilled, knowledgeable, and comprehensively developed personnel. These individuals are poised to contribute to the country's future and development, possessing competencies that are competitive in the global market and are in high demand."

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