

Language is the heart of the nation

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Abstract: *We must preserve our mother tongue, enhance its prestige, pass on its beauty and purity to future generations, and contribute to its promotion in the world. "If the language lives, the nation lives." If we sing to the world the beauty and richness of our language, our nation will be brighter and our unity will be stronger.*

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Introduction

Language is the heart, the pride, the symbol of independence, the future of the nation. No nation can be a complete nation without language. Without it, the homeland has no will. At the same time, the Uzbek language is the pride of our nation and a means of communication that contributes to the recognition of the world. In the 1980s, the great scholar Alikhantora Soguni wrote in his book *The Sorrows of Turkestan: We lost our homeland. We also lost our religion. Now, if we forget our language, who will we be?* " These words were true.

Although this sacred language, which we revered in the former Soviet Union, existed on paper, it did not exist in practice. For many years, we have been deprived of the language with which our great ancestors communicated and created world-famous historical works. We couldn't say what we wanted in our language.

October 21, 1989. This anniversary is marked in golden letters in the history of Uzbekistan, in the annals of the Uzbek nation. The law "On the state language" was adopted. The adoption of such a law during the dictatorship was truly courageous, it was a kind of spiritual revolution. This law came into being at a time when our generations have been dreaming for centuries, but their dreams have become a mirage, thundering and lightning. It was the boldest step towards our independence. The adoption of this law has not been easy.

The years when the former union was in decline. At the same time, the draft law "On the state language" was published in the press in early 1989 and put up for public discussion. It was clear that the bill was grossly drafted on the basis of violence. Although the person who read it was given the status of the state language in Uzbek, in fact, he looked like a man with his hands and feet tied. In public administration, in the leading ministries, all writing and speaking was still conducted in Russian, and only in remote areas was it conducted in part in the state language.

The emergence of the state language in the political arena was a great event in itself. The dictatorial regime had

enlightened the people, albeit to a lesser extent, and all the enlightened people began to enjoy the pleasant breeze of openness. We have been slowly articulating our rich history, our great scholars, our values that we have not been able to tell for more than a century. The world was changing, people's thoughts and words were encouraging, they were realizing themselves.

There were clear and bold comments in the press about the bill. There were many intellectuals and artists who boldly said that Uzbek should be the state language. However, there were those who wanted bilingualism and said that there was no life and development without Russian. That is why we, young journalists, creative people and progressive scholars, began to sharply criticize the bill, demanding that the Uzbek language be given the status of the state language. One such article was entitled *The Premature Baby*. The authors of this article, historians Kadyr Ernazarov and Utkir Amirov, analyzed the bill and sharply criticized many aspects of it.

At that time, the leadership of our state changed and a new leader, Islam Karimov, who was known for his work and words, came to the country. The new leader analyzed the views expressed in the press and put on the agenda the preparation of a new draft law on the state language. The composition of the Republican Commission for the preparation of a new bill has been completely updated.

The members of the commission were tasked with drafting a new law in a very short time. A new organization headed by Odil Yakubov, a well-known writer at the time, was also involved in this task. The members of the commission thoroughly analyzed all the opinions expressed in the press and in the people's movement, and in a very short period of time prepared a new bill and submitted it to the Oliy Majlis. Thus, after another public discussion, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the State Language" was adopted by the Oliy Majlis. Its first article read: "The state language of the Republic of Uzbekistan is Uzbek." This was a truly bold step towards nationalism at that time.

The law was revised after independence, and on December 21, 1995, the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted a new version of the Law on the State Language. A lot of work has been done, attention is growing.

The names of streets, districts, farms and schools were nationalized. The names of the real children of our people - world-famous scientists, poets, writers, famous commanders, great people of our religion have been restored. There were many obstacles and resistance. As required by law, the Uzbek language began to fully recover.

However, 30 years after the law was passed, Russian writing still prevails in many places. In particular, much of the work in the healthcare, railways, Uzbekistan Airways, military service, and advocacy systems is conducted in Russian. Sometimes letters from higher authorities and ministries are written in Russian. We can't get rid of the pressure of another language, and the process is very difficult.

It is true that we must respect our mother tongue and know it perfectly, without discriminating against other languages. No language should be used instead of the state language in our country.

We still do not appreciate our language. If you go out on the streets, we read foreign words everywhere, especially advertisements in Russian and English. Even in some prestigious organizations, if you do not write important documents in Russian, it will make you illiterate.

In this regard, our compatriots living abroad for centuries can serve as an example for us. They preserve their mother tongue from generation to generation and pass it on to future generations. Because a nation that does not know its language is not a nation.

I remember one incident well. Late 80s of last century. We, a group of young Uzbek tourists, went to ancient Egypt. Seeing the world-famous city of Cairo and its museums rich in unique exhibits, the magnificent pyramids of Cheops, Hafren and McKiren in the Jiza Valley, the ancient inscriptions on cigarette paper, we are convinced that this bright world civilization began from this land. Although these people have experienced many invasions since ancient times, they have not lost their language.

While in Alexandria, named after Alexander the Great (Alexander the Great), we saw a woman chasing us. For several hours he did not move away from us. After we were free from the spectacle, he dared to come to us.

He greeted us with tears in his eyes and introduced himself as Ergashoy in pure Uzbek. Ergashoy said she had studied in Moscow and married an Arab man who was a local classmate. Her husband is a professor, teaching young people at the city's university. Both of their daughters are fluent in Uzbek.

"When I see tourists from my homeland, I can't get past them," said Ergashoy-opa. I miss our language and songs very much. Every day at home I enjoy listening to the songs of my favorite singer Sherali Jo'rayev. When I met you, I felt like I was in Uzbekistan, in my native Margilan. Our language is so precious that you can't live in Uzbekistan and

appreciate it. If you live abroad, you know the value of your mother tongue very well, you want to miss and cherish it even more.

There is no explanation for these words. We feel a sense of responsibility not only when we see the representatives of our nation, but also when we see hundreds of foreigners studying and promoting the Uzbek language.

Behzod Mamadiyev, a compatriot living in the United States, writes: "There are many positive aspects that I love about American culture and try to master. My respect for them is boundless. But I am Uzbek, I am a Muslim. I have my own culture, I have my own worldview. In these matters, I am different from Americans. I want my children to appreciate what I value too. We need to teach our children from an early age to appreciate their mother tongue and to know it perfectly. Let them be proud that they are the inheritors of their language and their great generations. "

Six years ago, on October 21, 2013, Erkin Vahidov, a well-known Uzbek poet, wrote in the first Uzbek-language newspaper Vatandosh in the United States on the occasion of the adoption of the state language, "A living treasure or a word in the world." I envy the beauty and height of our native language in the time of Hazrat Navoi. I wish that the great poet's vocabulary would be at our disposal today.

... No one should deny that I am not a linguist or a writer. We are all owners and guardians of this gang. It is not surprising that the love and pride of our native language inspire the hearts and give them the strength to interpret the mountains. "

It is as if we are reaching the days that our master poet dreamed of. Recently, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev adopted a resolution "On the broad celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan" On the State Language ". The resolution emphasizes: "Uzbek, one of the oldest and richest languages in the world, is a symbol of national identity and independent statehood, invaluable spiritual wealth, a great value that plays an important role in the political, social, spiritual and educational development of our country."

The thirtieth anniversary of the status of the Uzbek language as the state language is widely celebrated not only in our country, but also abroad. We feel these happy moments as we did thirty years ago when the law was passed. We believe that the attention of the head of our state and the instructions given by him to celebrate this anniversary at the highest level will further enhance the prestige and importance of the Uzbek language. Congratulations to all of us on the national holiday of the Uzbek language!

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