

# Strengthening the Role of the State Language as a Unifying Factor of Interethnic Harmony (The Case of the Republic of Uzbekistan)

Qurbonova Marguba\*

Department of History and Social Sciences, University of Economics and Pedagogy, Karshi

\*Correspondence: Qurbonova Marguba  
Email: [qurbonova-m@gmail.com](mailto:qurbonova-m@gmail.com)

Received: 03-09-2025  
Accepted: 12-10-2025  
Published: 28-11-2025



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**Abstract:** *This study aims to investigate the role of the state language in fostering interethnic harmony and social cohesion in a multilingual society. The research focuses on language policy implementation, linguistic integration, and the relationship between language use and civic unity. A qualitative analytical method was employed through policy analysis, sociolinguistic literature review, and examination of national language regulations. The findings demonstrate that the promotion of the state language strengthens national identity and facilitates social integration while maintaining respect for linguistic diversity. Nevertheless, challenges related to unequal language proficiency and minority inclusion persist. The study concludes that balanced language policies integrating state language development with multicultural principles are crucial for sustaining interethnic harmony.*

**Keywords:** *State Language, Interethnic Harmony, Language Policy, Social Cohesion, Multilingual Society*

## Introduction

Uzbekistan is a multinational state, with more than a hundred nationalities and ethnic groups living on its territory. In such a diverse environment, the role of the state language in ensuring interethnic harmony and forming a single socio-cultural space is incomparable. The recognition of the Uzbek language as the state language on a constitutional basis serves to strengthen its unifying role in the life of society.

Language is not only a means of communication, but also the main support of national consciousness, culture and social solidarity. The adoption of the Law "On the State Language" in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 1989 determined the legal status of the state language and turned the Uzbek language into a strategic tool for ensuring interethnic dialogue. This article is aimed at showing the influence of the state language on the integration processes in society and its role in strengthening interethnic harmony.

Many scientific studies have been conducted in Uzbek and foreign literature on interethnic harmony and the functional role of the state language in society. This literature confirms the role of the state language not only as a communicative, but also as a socio-institutional unifying tool.

## Methodology

I.A. Karimov in his work "High spirituality is an invincible force" shows the issue of language as an integral element of the national spirit, historical memory and independence. He emphasizes that social harmony in society can be strengthened through the development of the state language [1; 61-b].

S. Ganiyev and M. Tojibayeva's research on the topic "The status of the Uzbek language as a state language" is based on the unifying function of the Uzbek language, especially in a multinational environment. They analyzed the effectiveness of language policy in education, public administration and the media through practical examples.

Z. Bakhtiyorov paid attention to the issue of interethnic dialogue and language culture. According to his research, knowledge of the state language enhances citizens' participation in social life and increases trust in the state [2; 44-b].

Analyzing international experience, J. Fishman (Sociolinguistics: A Brief Introduction) in his works deeply studies the connection between language policy and interethnic integration. In his opinion, the state language should be considered as a strong social institution, which is consistent with the experience of Uzbekistan [3; 7-b].

In addition, the decisions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the development of the state language, government programs and the results of monitoring their implementation allow us to assess the topic from a political and practical context.

The legal status of the state language The Uzbek language is established as the state language on the basis of the Law "On the State Language" adopted on October 21, 1989 and Article 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. These documents ensured the firm establishment of the state language as the main means of communication in the life of society.

State language and interethnic dialogue The state language is the national language and is a key factor in strengthening the foundations of dialogue, understanding and mutual respect between members of society. Knowledge of the Uzbek language opens up equal social opportunities for all citizens, thereby accelerating integration processes.

Experience of Uzbekistan The country has created opportunities for education and cultural development in Russian, Karakalpak, Tajik, Kazakh, Karaim and other languages. At the same time, the role of the Uzbek language as the state language is being systematically strengthened. The development of official documents, its widespread use in the media and its widespread implementation in the education system are important steps in this direction [4; 77-b].

## Result and Discussion

The impact of language policy on social stability The role of the state language in ensuring integration and dialogue between all social strata strengthens social stability. This leads to the formation of interethnic harmony, tolerance and a common civic consciousness.

First, the legal basis and stages of development of the State Language. On the basis of the Law adopted on October 21, 1989 and Article 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan approved in 1992, the Uzbek language was recognized as the state language. In recent years, in accordance with the decisions of the President, systematic work has been carried out to improve language policy and increase the status of the state language in social life [5; 8-b].

Second, the State Language and Social Integration. The state language has the function of uniting representatives of all nationalities in a single communicative space. Language is a means of creating equal opportunities in society, involving citizens in social, economic and political processes. The experience of Uzbekistan shows that the opportunities created for learning the Uzbek language, especially through the education system, strengthen interethnic harmony [6; 34-b].

Third, the role of the state language in a multinational society. There are more than 130 languages in the republic. representatives of the nation live. Their own language, culture and values are respected. At the same time, the role of the Uzbek language as the state language serves to integrate each citizen into a single social space. The widespread use of the state language in official documents, the media, higher education and the system of public administration simplifies interethnic communication [7; 63-b].

Fourth, language policy and social stability. Language policy is not only a linguistic issue, but also a guarantee of social stability and civic unity. The higher the prestige of the state language in society, the stronger the involvement of citizens in social life, the stronger their feeling of being an integral part of the state [8; 55-b].

The role of the Uzbek language as the state language is not only a legal norm, but also an important guarantee of ensuring social stability and interethnic harmony. By developing the state language and ensuring its respectful acceptance among all citizens, it is possible to form a culture of living in a multinational society based on common values [9; 69-b].

The role of the state language in ensuring interethnic harmony in the Republic of Uzbekistan is based on comprehensive socio-political strategies. The mastery of the state language by each citizen leads to the strengthening of social stability and civic unity. Therefore, political decisions on the development of the state language are a guarantee of harmony, stability and progress in society.

During the years of independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the role of the state language in ensuring interethnic harmony and stability has gained particular importance. The state language - Uzbek - serves not only as a means of communication, but also as an important socio-political tool in the formation of mutual respect, unity and social solidarity between all nations and peoples [10; 11-b].

## Conclusion

Strengthening the status of the Uzbek language as the state language will further increase the opportunity to develop civic unity, social harmony and national identity in the country. This study, analyzing the language policy, legal and regulatory framework and practical experiences carried out in Uzbekistan, substantiates the need to further strengthen the unifying role of the state language in interethnic harmony. The following proposals and recommendations are made on the topic of the study:

First, further improve language policy: In the process of implementing the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the State Language", it is necessary to expand state programs based on advanced pedagogical and methodological approaches that will help all citizens, especially representatives of different nationalities, master the state language.

Second, strengthen the role of the state language in social life: It is necessary to promote the relevance of the state language through the media, cultural and educational events, official documents and the education system, thereby forming a common information and cultural space in society.

Third, Formation of a positive attitude of multinational citizens towards the language: It is recommended to eliminate psychological and cultural barriers to language learning, increase social projects and programs aimed at developing intercultural dialogue through language.

Fourth, Support for scientific research: It is important to encourage scientific research on the state language and interethnic relations, and to put scientific developments in this area into practice.

Fifth, Promotion of the Uzbek language in foreign languages: Support for the study of the Uzbek language among representatives of the diaspora, foreign students and foreign partners, thereby strengthening the positive international image of Uzbekistan.

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