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SOCIOLINGUISTIC PRINCIPLES OF THE USE OF ENGLISH IN THE LANGUAGE ACTIVITY OF THE POPULATION OF UZBEKISTAN



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Abstract

The aim of the paper is to analyze the spread of the English language in Uzbekistan, its place in communicative relations in various socio-economic spheres, sociolinguistic and pragmatic status of English in Uzbekistan. Article addresses sociolinguistic principles of the use of English in the language activity of the population of Uzbekistan, by defining sociolinguistic and pragmatic features of the communicative role of the English language introduced in Uzbekistan, in order to determine the perspectives for its formation. In particular, the article establishes that citizens of the country use English as an international language of communication, it performs a communicative function, and Uzbek serves as a source of knowledge and retains its cognitive function. Besides, the article provides data from an experimental evidence to determine the specificity of thinking by members of different peoples and identifies the characteristic features of the Eastern way of thinking that affect the English language of the area. The author of the article also gives the results of comparative analysis of grammatical and lexical features of the media language on the example of newspapers “Uzbekistan Today” and “USNews and the World Report”.

Keywords: English language in Uzbekistan; sociolinguistics; pragmatics; language and thinking; lingua franca.

ЎЗБЕКИСТОН АҲОЛИСИ МУЛОҚОТ ТИЛИДА ИНГЛИЗ ТИЛИДАН ФЙДАЛАНИШНИНГ СОЦИОЛИНГВИСТИК ТАМОЙИЛЛАРИ

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Аннотация

Ушбу мақоладан мақсад Ўзбекистонда инглиз тилининг тарқалиши, турли ижтимоий-иқтисодий соҳалардаги коммуникатив муносабатларда тутган ўрни, Ўзбекистонда инглиз тилининг социолингвистик ва прагматик мақомини таҳлил қилишдир. Мақолада Ўзбекистон аҳолисининг лисоний фаолиятида инглиз тилидан фойдаланишнинг социолингвистик тамойиллари кўриб чиқилади. Ўзбекистонда жорий этилаётган инглиз тилининг шаклланиш истиқболларини белгилаш мақсадида унинг коммуникатив жиҳатдан социолингвистик ва прагматик хусусиятлари аниқланади. Хусусан, мақолада мамлакат фуқаролари учун инглиз тили коммуникатив вазифани бажариши ва ундан халқаро мулоқот тили сифатида фойдаланишлари, ўзбек тили эса билимлар манбаи сифатида хизмат қилиб, ўзининг когнитив вазифаларини сақлаб қолаётганлиги ҳақида сўз боради. Бундан ташқари турли халқлар вакилларининг фикрлаш хусусиятлари ва шарқона тафаккур тарзининг ўзига хосликлари, минтақанинг инглиз тилига таъсирини аниқлаш борасидаги тажриба маълумотлари келтирилади. Шунингдек, мақола муаллифининг “Uzbekistan Today” ва “USNews and the World Report” газеталари мисолида нашр тилининг грамматик ва лексик хусусиятларининг қиёсий таҳлили натижалари баён этилади. Муаллиф тил тизимларининг хилма-хиллиги дунёнинг лисоний турфа хиллиги манзарасида намоён бўлиши ва бу тафаккур тарзида ҳам акс этиши ҳақида фикр юритади.

Калит сўзлар: Ўзбекистонда инглиз тили; социолингвистика; прагматика; тил ва тафаккур; лингва франка.

СОЦИОЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКИЕ ПРИНЦИПЫ ИСПОЛЬЗОВАНИЯ АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА В ЯЗЫКОВОЙ ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТИ НАСЕЛЕНИЯ УЗБЕКИСТАНА

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Аннотация

Целью данной статьи является анализ распространения английского языка в Узбекистане, его места в коммуникативных отношениях в различных социально-экономических сферах, социолингвистического и прагматического статуса английского языка в Узбекистане. В статье рассматриваются социолингвистические принципы использования английского языка в языковой деятельности населения Узбекистана, выявляются социолингвистические и прагматические особенности коммуникативной роли английского языка, внедряемого в Узбекистане, с целью определения перспектив его формирования. В частности, в статье устанавливается, что граждане страны используют английский язык как международный язык общения, он выполняет коммуникативную функцию, а узбекский язык служит источником знаний и сохраняет свою когнитивную функцию. Кроме того, в статье приводятся данные эксперимента по определению специфики мышления представителями разных народов и выявляются характерные особенности восточного типа мышления, которые сказываются на английском языке данной местности. Автор статьи также приводит результаты сравнительного анализа грамматических и лексических особенностей языка печати на примере газет «Uzbekistan Today» и «USNews and the World Report». Автор приходит также к выводу, что многообразие языковых систем проявляется в многообразии языковых картин мира и это находит свое отражение в способе мышления.

Ключевые слова: английский язык в Узбекистане; социолингвистика; прагматика; язык и мышление; лингва франка.

In the course of time, the interest in the social and cultural essence of a language, its peculiar features arising in line with the society civilization development, increases in the world linguistics. The emergence of such paradigms in linguistics as sociolinguistics, pragmatic aspects of linguistics, cognitive linguistics and lingua-cultural studies has increased this interest, since on the basis of the study of new paradigms it becomes possible to find completely different criteria for determining the social value of the nature of the language and its functions. Scientific researches, providing for the purpose of determining the mechanisms ensuring the activation of language functions, are the priority tasks in determining the perspective of the science dealing with the language.

In Uzbekistan, after gaining its independence, the problem of the development of science has risen to the level of state policy. Actions aimed at studying foreign languages from a scientific point of view, a detailed analysis of their relationship with the native language makes it possible to raise the status of the national language and demonstrate its exceptional characteristics to the whole world. This, in turn, indicates the need for paying more attention to foreign languages, as well as analyzing their position in the social and economic life of our country and increasing the intellectual potential of the younger generation in the sociolinguistic aspect. Since the definition of the issues of “encouraging scientific-research and innovation activities, creation of effective mechanisms to introduce achievements in the field of science and innovation into practice, organization of specialized scientific and experimental laboratories, high-tech development centers and technology parks at higher educational institutions and research institutes” in the Strategy for further development of the Republic of Uzbekistan as a priority strategic direction requires expansion of scientific researches in the field of theoretical linguistics (18).

Various interpretations are expressed in the scientific schools of world linguistics about the social role of the English language, which managed to get the status of an international language, but in these interpretations they remain spiritualized, being reflected in the philosophical ideas and points of view of different authors. However, the distinctive aspects of the social status of a language on the territories of different countries and their linguistic indicators are overlooked. It becomes more difficult to comment on the factors that ensure the interrelation of the language, as a phenomenon developing in an objective way and under the control of synergetic patterns, with thinking. The reasons of how the thinking and worldview of representatives of Uzbek nationality influence their communicative act in English are not fully analyzed, as well as the incomplete picture of the English mentality in the linguistic consciousness of Uzbeks. To solve these problems, it is necessary to study sociolinguistic and pragmatic indicators that determine the level of variation in the English language currently spread in Uzbekistan using modern methods

of theoretical linguistics. A thorough discussion of these issues on scientific basis determines the level of topicality of the topic of this study.

The immensity of the popularity of the English language in Uzbekistan and the growing need to study this language focuses on the questions of typological research and the phenomenon of linguistic universals. This, in turn, helps to accelerate the discussion of topical issues of linguistics, and is also the basis for developing a set of methodological activities that determine the perspectives for teaching English. Most importantly, while carrying out this type of research, it is important to avoid a superficial approach in comparing languages and highlighting their specific characteristics, as well as avoiding superficial conclusions.

We decided to undertake a comparative analysis of the texts created by representatives of the Uzbek and other nationalities for determining the peculiarities of the discourse activity of the English language users as a lingua franca. It is known that the integrity of the text and its informative function are related to compliance with the requirements of cohesion and cogeneration. In order to determine the level of compliance with the requirements of cohesion and cogeneration, we carried out an experiment, asking the participants in the experiment to write a story on the topic “Friendship”, consisting of approximately three thousand linguistic signs. Five masters-department students from the Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages and the Nukus State University (Uzbekistan), the Voronezh University (Russia), the Kiev Linguistic University (Ukraine), the University of Jeju (South Korea), the Shanghai University of Foreign Languages (China) and the University of Siena (Italy) participated in the experiment. After the stories on the basics of true friendship were received by e-mail, the best texts were selected and analyzed by the experts. The focus of this analysis was on the distinctive aspects of texts created by Uzbek students-masters.

The results of the analysis show that the content of the phenomena of cohesion and cogeneration has universal features for all languages, as well as the objectification of three types of content, namely of parallel progress (the topic of interrelated sentences is the same), of consistent progress (a combination of sentences with different topics), an expanded parallel progress (the first and last themes of the text fragment coincide, but between them there will be also an expanded progress). The difference in the variants of the collected texts is manifested in the sequence of exactly these types of content progression.

One of the most common ways of Chinese written culture is to follow the four-part model of the thought presentation. The model, which experts consider as a system of *qi-cheng-jun-he*, is interpreted as follows:

qi — to prepare a reader for understanding the theme (topic); *cheng* — to declare and develop the theme; *jun* — to remind about the event, seemingly unrelated to the general theme; *he* — to draw a conclusion (1, 5–19). It is also expected that the habit of following the requirements of this particular model will be reflected in the texts created by Chinese students in English. Moreover, in the texts that we have collected, there is a strong influence of the above-mentioned traditional Chinese model of presentation, and there are also relatively few cases of merging of several sentences around one topic sentence, typical of the English style of expression.

In the process of studying the text, an English student looks for formal indicators showing a contextual connection between parts and means of ensuring the integrity of the text. The student tries to include “intermediate” definitions that unite the details. The use of such “intermediate wires” in the eastern texts is rare. This is evidenced by the analysis of texts compiled by Uzbek and Korean students-masters. They did not completely abandon the non-linear method of presentation, although they mastered the new methods of written presentation of the thought in the course of learning English, peculiar to the Anglo-American tradition. In addition, the “goal + its rationale + conclusion” model, typical of the English tradition, was found only in two texts written by Uzbek and Korean students.

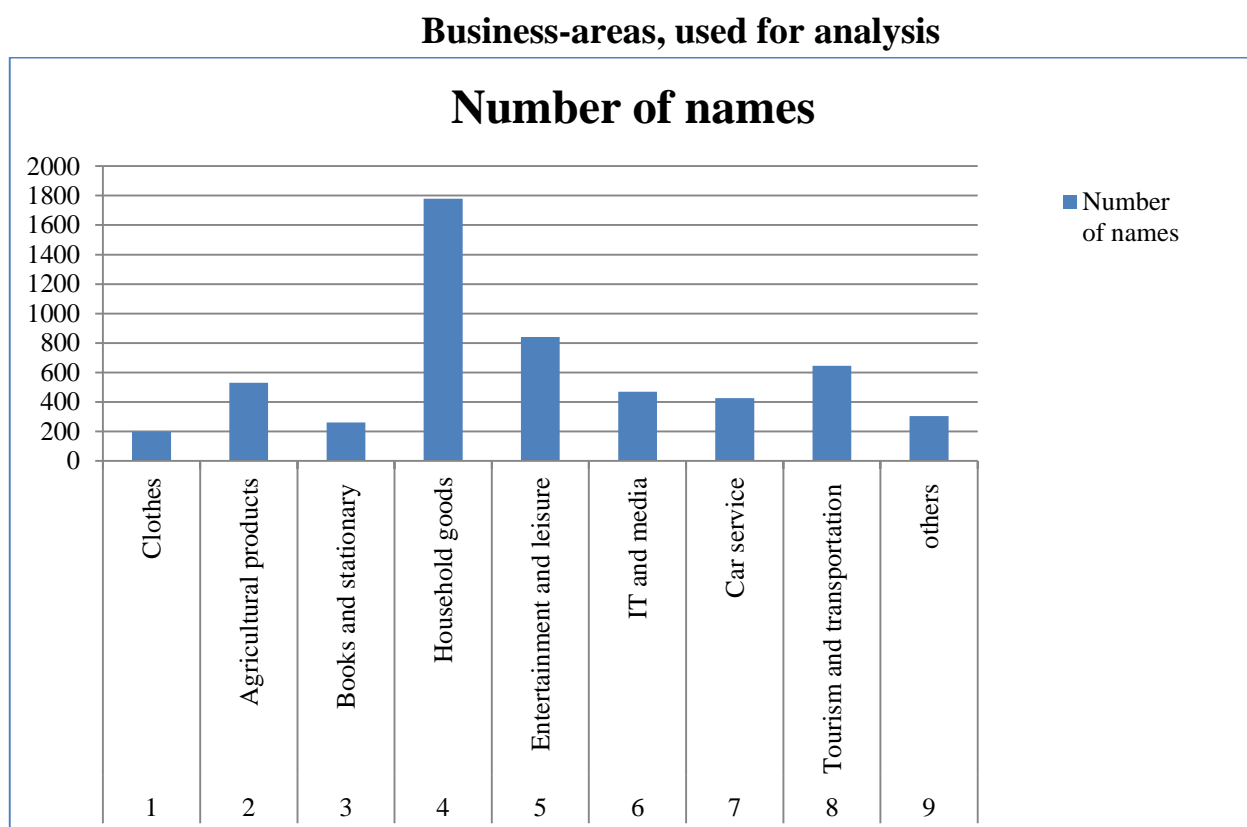
The essay texts, written by Italian students-masters in English, were also compared with others. As it became known from the analysis, Italians like to make basically long and larger sentences, and in their speech there are fewer simple sentences. In English texts, they often use attachments, synonyms, pronouns, conjunctions, introductory sentences of cause and explanatory ones. The rare use of simple sentences than in the original English texts makes it possible to evaluate the method of Italian students as “a method with a reduced ability to organize”. If the Italians are supporters of eloquent and detailed presentation, the English ones prefer a moderate, smooth presentation.

Another distinctive aspect revealed in the course of acquaintance with the structure of the external level of collected texts is that the reflection of the author's personality in the text manifests itself as an expression of his/her personality. Eastern scholars who describe the results of the study are slow to emphasize their contributions to the results, it seems they indicate that this research belongs to the collective, and in

their articles they use the pronoun “we” and not “I”. On the other hand, Western colleagues are supporters of individualism, and they never cease to repeat the “I”.

In the research, it was also planned to determine the role of English in linguistic pictures of cities in Uzbekistan. In this task, we envisaged studying only a part of the language pictures of the cities of our country, that is, the linguistic source of business enterprises and their socio-economic significance. Along with such large cities as Tashkent, Samarkand, Navoi and Jizzakh, attention was paid to linguistic pictures of such small cities as Shakhrisabz, Urgut, Yangier and Gijduvan. This competition took into account both the socio-political status of the mentioned cities, as well as their potential for economic development attracting foreign investors. For the analysis, business nomenclatures were chosen as an integral part of the linguistic picture of the city. The total number of samples collected was 6,456, which were distributed in separate business areas as follows.

Table 1.



We grouped the samples collected at the next stage in line with the language used (Figure 2).

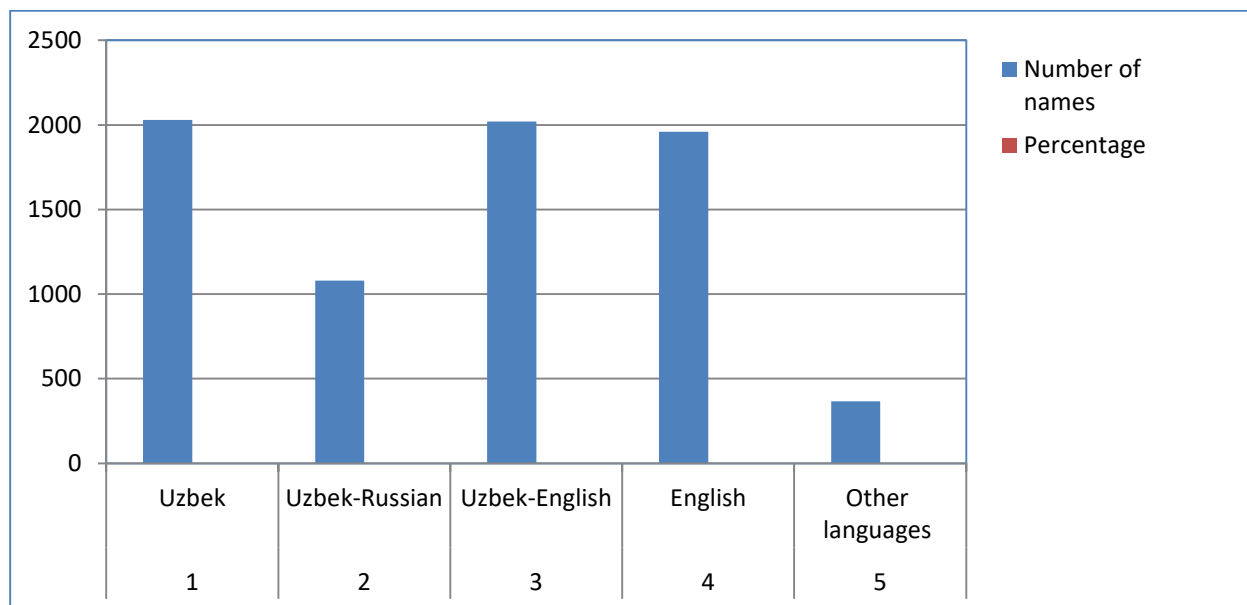


Figure 2. Distribution of business entities' names by languages

The table shows that the national language is the first in the business nomenclature. Moreover, English serves as a language of translation (2020 cases). However, the use of English is larger and reaching the figure 1960 indicates that it is deeply rooted in a business dialogue. The figures in the tables above indicate that English, along with our native tongue, plays an important role in our commercial and business life.

Based on the use of foreign words in the nomination of business entities are associations connected with internationality, subtlety and joyful mood. The used English names in the environment of the Uzbek language are noticeably impressive and attract attention with their unusual look and sound. The aforementioned sociological and psycholinguistic factors, as well as a high level of social-economic status of the English language at the moment are the reasons for a wider appeal to this language. Even the entrepreneurs themselves in the choice of names, along with their native language, prefer foreign terms to a greater extent. We decided to undertake a small sociological survey to study and explain this situation. The answers to the question “In what language do you prefer to name your organization?” are given as follows (Figure 3).

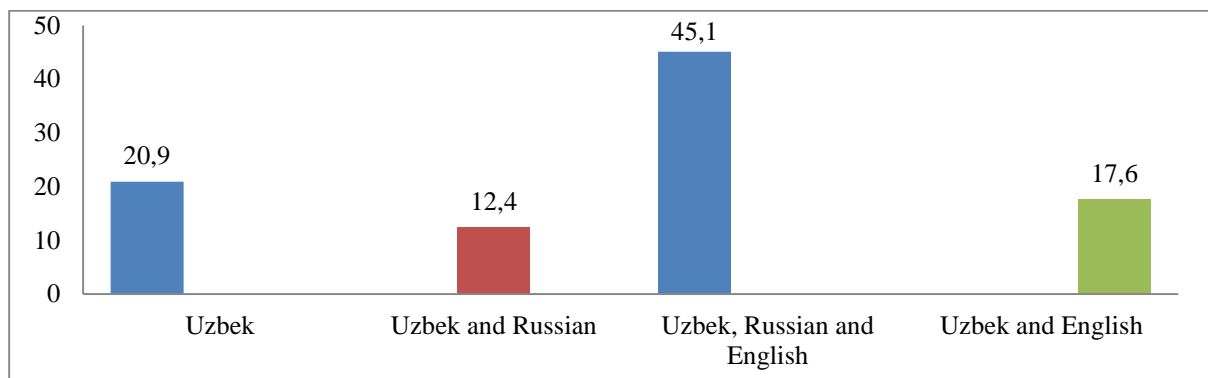


Figure 3. Distribution of answers to the question “In what language do you prefer to name your organization?”

The correct and appropriate name will have a positive impact on the profitability and popularity of the business. In fact, an enterprise icon should indicate the exclusivity and value of the service provided. Some experts believe that it is better for a company to have a name with an abstract or symbolic meaning in order to demonstrate its image and character. In our opinion, the use of any name as a carrier of information gives a good result. Some entrepreneurs like the idea of creating new words and phrases with a new form and meaning, but there is a risk that clients will not understand and completely forget these names.

The place of English in the press will inevitably contribute to the emergence of a new version of this language in Uzbekistan. Periodical press, radio, television and other types of mass media, being one of the most effective sources of use and enrichment of linguistic resources, can cause structural changes in the language system, semantic shifts and in most cases become their cause. Therefore, there is a need to accept the use of English in the Uzbek press as a phenomenon of social significance, as well as to study the connection of this phenomenon with the language activity and the problems arising in its framework.

We analyzed the difference between the articles published in the newspaper “Uzbekistan Today” and in the mass media of the USA, the United Kingdom, in order to determine differentiating features of the English Lingua Franca, expanding on the territory of Uzbekistan, and standardized rules and general sociopragmatic nature of the use of English in the Uzbek press. Comparative analysis of different texts can be carried out at a large range because of their different number and type of lexical and grammatical differences. At the initial stage of the analysis, we decided to compare the current rate (frequency) of using the most active English words. We also preferred to

consider a list of the most active words of 1,000 units (K1) and a list of 2,000 words (K2) in the same way.

The results of the analysis of the lexical composition of the texts of articles on the same topic published in the newspapers “Uzbekistan Today” and “USNews and the World Report” (USNWR) are summarized in the following tables (tables 2-3):

Table 2.

Lexical peculiarities of the first two texts from Uzbek and American sources

Title of the article	Source	Total number of linguistic symbols	Active (frequently used) words of group K1	Active (frequently used) words of group K2	Terms	Number of relevant words
“An artist without borders”	UT	759	587 (77.3%)	22 (2.9%)	47 (6.19%)	436 (57.8%)
Brazilian artist Vik Muniz...	USNWR	737	513 (69.9%)	46 (6.2%)	34 (4.4%)	

Table 3.

Lexical peculiarities of the following two texts from Uzbek and American sources

Title of the article	Source	Total number of linguistic symbols	Active (frequently used) words of group K1	Active (frequently used) words of group K2	Terms	Number of relevant words
“Cell Phones Help Healthcare”	UT	440	286 (65%)	45 (10.2%)	58 (13.2%)	256 (57.8%)
“Cellphones can Change...”	USNWR	488	338 (69.2%)	41 (8.4%)	43 (8.8%)	

The same analysis was also undertaken to determine the grammatical specifics of the articles. It focuses on the structural features (indicators) of syntactic formations (see tables 4–5).

Table 4.

Grammatical peculiarities of the texts on art

Title of the article	Source	Total number of linguistic symbols	Number of sentences	Approximate number of words in the sentence	Conjunction with preposition
“An artist without borders”	UT	759	30	25	123
Brazilian artist Vik Muniz...	USNWR	737	23	32	90

Table 5.

Grammatical peculiarities of the texts on cell phones

Title of the article	Source	Total number of linguistic symbols	Number of sentences	Approximate number of words in the sentence	Conjunction with preposition
“Cell Phones Help Healthcare”	UT	440	23	19	59
“Cellphones can Change...”	USNWR	478	19	25	58

Comparative analysis of articles in newspapers shows that they reflect the common features of the language of the press and style of presentation. Similarity is manifested mainly in lexical and grammatical aspects, including that the relevance of the use of lexical units reaches 57%, and the generality of words with associative ratio exceeds 33%. This, of course, is due to the proximity of those compared articles. When the topics are different, this indicator naturally decreases significantly. A special role is played by the units (pronoun, conjunction, preposition, etc.), related to “functional words”, in the similarity of lexical compositions. In the context of articles in the

newspaper “Uzbekistan Today” there are more terms than in the publications of the United States and Great Britain. The existence of these differences in linguistic composition is due to linguocultural discrepancies in Uzbek and English cultures.

As for the grammatical specifics of the articles, in all the compared texts there are often combinations with a noun and a preposition, and this, as noted above, is a kind of a sign of the language of the press. Although the number of sentences in the articles large, the number of words they contain reaches more — from 19 to 36. In the text of articles published in the press of the United States and Great Britain, sometimes paragraphs of a large size contain only one sentence. However, the number of combinations with prepositions, found in the texts of the newspaper “Uzbekistan Today”, is much greater than in the English language press.

Although in the structure of the articles of the newspaper “Uzbekistan Today” there is similarity with the publications of the United States and Great Britain, but sometimes there are significant discrepancies. The appearance of this misbalance is largely due to the norms of methodological choice. It should be noted that nowadays in “Uzbekistan Today” articles are translated, translated from the Uzbek and Russian languages, and there are always possibilities of interlingual transformations in the translation process. Lexico-grammatical, stylistic interference and transference are one of the factors leading to the alienation of the studied foreign language from its original, standard form and the appearance of new variants.

In continents where the English language operates, the area of its use is expanding, and due to the lack of the English language natives, the norm of the national language is gradually losing its value. The level of linguistic knowledge of participants in communication through Lingua franca is varied, as well as the number of activations of models inherent in the variants that are newly formed in their speech, also differs. This suggests that non-standardization and internationalization in the English language system is widespread. However, since the main source of the popularization of the English language is the educational system, the contradiction to the violations of the norms of the standard language continues, and local norms will independently be formed.

The cause of the expansion of English across the world and its recognition as the “world language” is the aggressive (colonial) policy of the UK, which it previously led, migration of people, the process of globalization in the world economy, the development of information and communication technologies, and the language policy pursued in this or that country. In Uzbekistan, a fair language policy, developed in

accordance with the Law “On the State Language”, guarantees multilingualism (polylinguism) and creates favorable conditions for the use of English as a means of international communication.

To summarize the study we have to stress that in the context of globalization, the interrelationship and interintroduction of national languages are activated in the world. The Uzbek and English languages also follow this path, while the citizens of the country use English as the international language of communication, it performs a communicative function, and the Uzbek language serves as a source of knowledge and retains its cognitive function. The variety of language systems is manifested in a variety of the language picture of the world and this is reflected in the way of thinking.

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