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Шолу мақала

A. Onggar¹ , A. Khalel² 

Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan

(E-mail: ¹zharaskyzy96@mail.ru, ²aknur.h@mail.ru)

POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF LANGUAGE TOLERANCE: MULTILINGUALISM POLICY IN KAZAKHSTAN

Abstract. This article discusses the relationship between the concepts of language policy and tolerance and their impact on the development of society. The authors describe language policy as a means of managing language relations, revealing its historical, political and social significance. In addition, the essence of tolerance, its importance for intercultural dialogue and social harmony are analyzed in detail. The features of the ongoing language policy in the context of a multinational and multilingual society in Kazakhstan, emphasizing the official status of the Kazakh language and the significance of the trilingualism policy. Through laws and programs adopted at the state level, measures are characterized aimed at the formation of tolerance for linguistic diversity, strengthening peace and harmony between ethnic groups. The article considers a tolerant attitude to language as one of the democratic values, highlighting the role of this policy in the sustainable development of our country and strengthening national unity. The study employs comparative and content analysis methods to examine the current state of language policy in Kazakhstan, highlighting how the balanced development of language and tolerance serves as a foundation for societal stability.

Keywords: language policy, tolerance, intercultural dialogue, language tolerance, trilingual language, social harmony, national unity, multinational society,

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Introduction

Language policy is the theory and practice of conscious influence of society on language development, that is, the management of existing languages for a specific purpose and on a scientific basis, and the development of new means of linguistic communication.

Language policy is a policy mechanism that affects the structure, function, and scope of a language. Although it came into use as a scientific term in the last century, since time immemorial, an important tool used by people for communication and thinking has coexisted with language. It is developed, interpreted, applied and implemented as an instrument and object of the policy. The Kazakh scientist Tugzhanov E. defines its distinctive features, dividing them into western language policy, hysterical language policy and democratic language policy, while well-known western linguistics Kloss H. and Wiley T. call it promoting language policy, reasonable language policy, tolerant language policy, limited language policy, zero language policy and repressive language policy (Iztileuova, 2022).

The classifications of scientists indicate that language policy takes on a different character depending on the goals and values in each society. One is based on the development and maintenance of languages, and the other is carried out through restrictions and control. In this regard, we can say that language policy is a phenomenon closely related not only to linguistic, but also to political, cultural and social processes.

The concept of language and tolerance is one of the most important socio-cultural topics in modern society. These two concepts are closely related, since language is a human means of communication, and tolerance means mutual respect and understanding in communication.

The concept of “resilience” first appeared in the medical field in 1953. Formalized as a political term in the late 80s of the twentieth century, it is synonymous with the concept of “tolerance”. As a result of the analysis of this concept, it was found that the concept of “admiration” is in the sense of perceiving and understanding the diversity of cultures in the world, methods of expressing the individuality of a person and forms of self-expression. The main essence and basis of the concept of “tolerance” in the XVII-XVIII centuries was considered by such great liberal thinkers as Locke F., Voltaire M.A., Rousseau J.J., Kant I. As one of the fundamental values of civil society in the XIX century St. Mill considers the idea of tolerance as the main condition for freedom. Weber M. defends the ideas of volunteering for religion in the 70s. The XX century the theorist of “neutral liberalism” Rawls J. sees tolerance as the foundation of social justice. In all the listed works, the idea of tolerance is considered as an aggravation of the principles of freedom of thought and freedom of honor (Bayeva, 2009). The declaration of tolerance was approved at the UNESCO conference in 1995 since then, November 16 has been celebrated as the day of universal tolerance. Tolerance in the declaration was expressed in the sense of “respect acceptance and correct understanding of the rich multicultural culture of our world, forms of self-expression and methods of expressing a person’s individuality”. And tolerance in translation from Latin means “tolerantia” – tolerance, condescension. This is the ability to show tolerance, gentleness to other thoughts, views, beliefs, actions, customs, feelings, ideas. Tolerance is the level of general and political culture of society (Simtikov, Kan 2020).

In general, language is the spiritual code of the people, and tolerance is a cultural expression of preserving this spirituality. The harmony of the two concepts is the key to unity and stability. A tolerance language policy allows respect for the native language of each nation, allows it to be freely used, and prevents language discrimination. This is the bridge between languages and cultures. Therefore, maintaining linguistic diversity and tolerance in the modern world is the

main condition for building a democratic, just and developed society. Though these positions, we strengthen national unity and develop intercultural dialogue. Thus, tolerance and language policy are complementary, relevant and integral parts of the development of modern society.

Aim and objectives. The aim of this research is to examine the interrelation between language policy and the concept of tolerance in Kazakhstan, as well as to provide comprehensive analysis of their impact on the sustainable development of society.

Research materials and methods

The main goal of this article is to deeply understand the political essence of language tolerance in its importance. It is a study of the policy of multilingualism in Kazakhstan. To achieve this goal, various materials and methods were used in the study. Research materials and methods provide for an integrated approach to obtaining a wide range of characteristics of the concepts under study. Various sources describing the formation and implementation of the policy of language tolerance and multilingualism in Kazakhstan are used as research materials. These materials include documents accepted at all levels of political systems, articles and messages in the media, discussions on social networks, as well as scientific research and political expertise.

The analyses of the influence of the concept of tolerance on culture, language and social relations is the most important data that serves as the basis for understanding the political essence of language tolerance. Thus, comparing the definitions and classifications given to language policy by different countries and scientists, theoretically systematizing the concepts of language policy and tolerance, in considering their substantive, functional and historical aspects, identifies the most important factors affecting the information of public opinion and democratic processes. Scientific works on language policy and tolerance, normative acts, concepts, international declarations and socio-cultural sources related to the state language policy are taken as material in this study. From a methodological point of view, the study was carried out through the approaches of comparative, theoretical and substantive analysis. This allows for a deeper understanding of the relationship and mutual influence between language and tolerance.

Discussion and research results

In the modern information society, special importance is attached to the development of a variety of ideas and opinions in various life spheres, including politics. The interaction between people accelerates the exchange of political information, knowledge and experiences, not only within a given political system, but also at the global level. However, in the face of this diversity, differences between people and different social groups, as well as their political opinions and interests, can exacerbate social and political tensions and, in some cases, conflicts. In this sense, the study of political tolerance is increasingly relevant as a means of ensuring civilized relations between parties that have different points of view in the sociology of modern politics. The scientist J. Habermas believes that “tolerance” is a political trait regulated by the citizens of liberal society, which, in turn, manifests itself when participants in certain interactions perceive their statements about reality as contrary to the statements of others about it. irreconcilable, but at the level of political coexistence, it allows distancing oneself from the ongoing incoherence in order to maintain the common basis of the relationship (Habermas, 2006).

From other subject-object positions, through the prism of the “friend-foe” opposition, political tolerance is considered by the Russian political scientist Eliseev S.M. and sociologist

Ustinova I.V., defining the latter as “respect for the point of view of the “political other”, which can be a person who adheres to a different ideology, other worldview positions other views on public administration” (Eliseev, Ustinova, 2010). The American sociologist Mead J., in the theory of symbolic interactionism, mentioned that an individual can realize his identity only when he has the opportunity to look at himself through the eyes of the “other” (Khomutovskaya, 2011).

In general, Habermas Y. considers tolerance to be a mandatory political quality in the conditions of a liberal society. He notes the need to maintain the basis of mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence, even when people cannot accept each other’s claims to reality, while Eliseev S.M. and Ustinova I.V. describe tolerance as a respectful attitude to the point of view of a “political other” that is, a person who adheres to other ideological and worldview positions. This implies that oppositional attitudes in society are based on dialogue, not hostility. Well, Mead J. argues that in the context of symbolic interactionism, self-awareness of a person is possible only by looking “through the eyes of another”. This idea justifies the internal psychological prerequisites for political tolerance. Analyzing the opinions of these researchers, we can conclude that political tolerance is a very important quality for maintaining democratic principles in a multinational and multicultural society. We come to the conclusion that it implies the recognition and respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of people who adhere to different views and ideologies.

In this regard, the policy of multilingualism in Kazakhstan plays a key role in ensuring social harmony and sustainable development of the country. This will contribute to strengthening interethnic harmony, increasing the integration of Kazakhstan into the world community. A balanced approach to language issues is the basis for the further progress and prosperity of the country.

The popularization of the Kazakh language in Kazakhstan has had a significant impact on interethnic harmony, contributing to both unity and tension between different ethnic groups of the country. This bilateral effect is due to the government’s strategic language policy aimed at enhancing national identity while maintaining social cohesion. In the Soviet period, the Russian language dominated throughout the republics, including Kazakhstan, as a *lingua franca*. However, the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 marked a major shift. Kazakhstan began to emphasize the Kazakh language as a core element of its national identity and independence. This shift involved active promotion of the Kazakh language across multiple sectors of society, a move seen as essential to strengthening the nation’s cultural and political self-definition (Riakhanov, 2021).

In today’s globalization, when multilingualism and multiculturalism are gaining momentum, it is more important than ever to develop effective and long-term programs in the field of language policy in order to harmonize linguistic diversity and unite society. In this context, the relevance and meaning of the multilingual education system formed on the basis of the idea of a “trinity of languages” is beyond doubt.

Kazakhstan, as a multinational state, builds its language policy in order to ensure national unity and interethnic harmony. Language policy in the country is a multifaceted and coordinated system that provides for the development of the state language, as well as the possibility of preserving and using the language of other ethnic groups. Within the framework of this policy, the concept of language tolerance in Kazakhstan is of particular importance. The language policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan is regulated by the Constitution and special legislative acts. According to article 7 of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, “the state language in

the Republic of Kazakhstan is Kazakh. In state organizations and local self-government bodies, the Russian language is officially used on a par with the Kazakh language" (Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 1995). This norm is a legal expression of language tolerance in our country. The law "on languages in the Republic of Kazakhstan", adopted in 1997, deals in detail with the development of languages, expanding their scope and ensuring their equality (Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on language in the Republic of Kazakhstan, 1997). Alongside efforts to promote the state language, this law also emphasizes respect for the Russian language and the languages of other ethnic communities. Since gaining independence, Kazakhstan has launched several major language initiatives. One of the most notable is the trilingualism policy, which promotes the concurrent development of three languages: Kazakh as the state language, Russian as the language of interethnic communication, and English as the language of global integration. This initiative is designed to enhance Kazakhstan's international competitiveness (Nazarbayev, 2015). "The State Program for the development and use of the state language for 2011-2020" is being implemented in order to raise the status of the Kazakh language and create conditions for its widespread use in all spheres of public life (Resolution of the government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2017). Currently, the "program for the implementation of the state language policy for 2020-2025" remains relevant. This program covers such areas as the development of the state language in the digital space, the improvement of teaching methods, and the systematization of terminology (Resolution of the government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2019).

Language tolerance is reflected not only in legislation and programs, but also in the daily life of society. In the field of education, pupils and students can study in Kazakh, Russian and English. This linguistic diversity is the key to unity and mutual understanding. And language policy in Kazakhstan is an important tool for the formation of a culture of peaceful coexistence in a multiethnic society, while preserving the integrity of the nation. The development of language tolerance is an indicator of the effectiveness of state policy and mutual respect in society. Undoubtedly, work in this direction will continue in the future and contribute to the sustainable development of Kazakhstan.

In this regard President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said that another symbol uniting Kazakhstan is the state language. Kazakh will always be the official language. The state ensures the expansion of the scope of its application. Work in this direction has not stopped and will continue. As I said recently, the mother tongue is the key to unity, other languages are the key to a prosperous life. The mother languages our young people master, the more competitive and qualified they will be. Language and interethnic relations are closely related to each other, the most important factors in ensuring internal stability (Tokayev, 2022).

According to Kazakhstani sociologists, the language policy pursued in Kazakhstan is centralized, since it is implemented by the state and provides for a system of mandatory measures, promising due to the fact that it aims to change the existing linguistic situation, taking into account the interests of the masses from the democratic side, the international goal is to develop the main Kazakh language, Russian and English, as well as the languages of all other ethnic groups, as it aims to expand the activities, scope, social and communicative role of the Kazakh literary language and the development of its viability (Turashbek, Nyyazbekova, 2016).

According to Turashbek Y. and Nyyazbekova K.S. today language policy in our country is dictated by the need to develop bilingualism and multilingualism. Development of bilingualism and multilingualism implies free or perfect use of each of the languages. A key role in fostering

targeted bilingualism and multilingualism is played by the national Kazakh school system, which is specifically designed to promote language equality. Students are expected to develop proficiency in their native language, along with Russian and English, to the same degree—enabling them to use these languages effectively across all areas of social life. The development of functional multilingualism is a continuous, day-to-day process rooted in consistent language instruction. Therefore, one viable approach to achieving this goal is to establish strong, integrated teaching methods for native languages, Russian, and English (Atabayeva, Atabaeva, Tolegenov, Zhagiparova, 2024).

In the context of modern globalization, the language policy pursued in Kazakhstan is of particular importance as an important tool for maintaining the country's internal stability and uniting society. The concept of “trilingual language”, developed in order to harmonize linguistic diversity and ensure interethnic harmony, is a real example of the relevance of the multilingual education system. The status of the Kazakh language as the state language has not only been preserved, but also the expansion of its use in public life has become the main direction of language policy. In addition, increasing the competitiveness of young people through the development of Russian and English is also an important factor. As president Kassym-Jomart Tokayev noted, the language policy of Kazakhstan is a system implemented at the state level, focused on the future and based on democratic principles. It provides for the development of not only the Kazakh language, but also the languages of all ethnic groups in the country, which in turn serves to preserve cultural diversity, strengthen peace and unity in society.

Modern language policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan is a state program of strategic importance, aimed at ensuring internal stability and social unity of the country. Language is considered as one of the main factors forming national integrity and civic identity. The state language Kazakh, being a symbol of national unity, is in the process of expanding its scope in all spheres of public life. The ongoing work in this direction is of a systematic nature and pursues long-term strategic goals. As Turashbek Y. and Nyyazbekova K.S. noted, the formation of purposeful bilingualism and multilingualism is a continuous social and communicative process based on the native language. In this context, public policy prioritizes the creation of equal opportunities for the acquisition and use of languages through national schools and the education system. In general, Kazakhstan's language policy is a comprehensive and pragmatic system aimed at ensuring national unity and social stability, based on increasing global competitiveness, taking into account the characteristics of a multinational society.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Kazakhstan's contemporary language policy represents a strategically significant and multifaceted system designed to promote national unity, maintain social stability, and foster interethnic harmony. Language is considered not only a means of communication, it is an important social institution that conveys the historical memory, cultural identity and spiritual heritage of the people. In this regard, the concepts of language policy and tolerance are studied as closely related and complementary phenomena. These concepts are of particular importance as the basis for peaceful coexistence, mutual respect and understanding in modern multiethnic society. The main goal of the ongoing language policy Kazakhstan is to expand the scope of the Kazakh language as the state language, as well as increase the competitiveness of the country's citizens by allowing free use along with Russian and English. This policy is implemented through the concept of a trilingual language, which is aimed at establishing the

Kazakh language as a pillar of national unity and cultural integrity, preserving Russian as a means of interethnic communication and developing English as a language of international integration and scientific and technological development. Language tolerance means recognition and respect for the right of all ethnic groups and language groups to speak and develop their native language. In this context, the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the law on language establish linguistic equality and freedom at the legislative level and lay the foundation for a tolerant language policy. State programs and educational projects implemented within the framework of this policy including the “program for the development of the state language”, the project “trinity of languages” are aimed at creating a multilingual culture in society, ensuring the spiritual development of the nation. According to scientists, the successful implementation of language policy is not only an indicator of mutual understanding and harmony of citizens, but also a testament to the development of the state based on democratic principles. Political and social tolerance, including linguistic tolerance, is one of the main prerequisites for peaceful coexistence between nations and nationalities. The cultural, social and linguistic aspects of tolerance are gaining particular relevance in the context of modern global challenges.

In summary, the concept of language policy and language tolerance in Kazakhstan is not only the regulation of linguistic issues, but also an integral part of the strategy of national security, social harmony and sustainable development. Through the implementation of this policy, Kazakhstan can preserve peace and harmony in its multinational society and serve as an example for future generations in strengthening linguistic and cultural diversity.

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А. Оңғар¹, А. Халел².

Әл-Фараби атындағы Қазақ ұлттық университеті, Алматы, Қазақстан

Тілдік толеранттылықтың саяси маңызы: Қазақстандағы көптілділік саясаты

Аңдатпа. Бұл мақалада тіл саясаты мен толеранттылық ұғымдарының өзара байланысы мен олардың қоғам дамуына әсері қарастырылады. Авторлар тіл саясатын тілді қатынастарды басқару құралы ретінде сипаттай отырып, оның тарихи, саяси және әлеуметтік маңызын ашып көрсетеді. Санымен қатар, толеранттылықтың мәні, оның мәдениетаралық диалог пен қоғамдық келісім үшін маңызы жан-жақты талданады. Қазақстандағы көпұлтты және көптілді қоғам жағдайында жүргізіліп жатқан тіл саясатының ерекшеліктері, соның ішінде қазақ тілінің мемлекеттік мәртебесі мен үштұғырлы тіл саясатының маңыздылығы көрсетіледі. Мемлекеттік деңгейде қабылданған заңдар мен бағдарламалар арқылы тілдік әртүрлілікке төзімділік қалыптастыруға, этностар арасындағы бейбітшілік пен келісімді нығайтуға бағытталған шаралар сипатталады. Мақалада тілге деген толерантты көзқарас демократиялық құндылықтардың бірі ретінде қарастырылып, бұл саясаттың еліміздің тұрақты дамуы мен ұлттық бірлікті нығайтудағы рөлі ерекше аталады. Зерттеуде қолданылған әдістер салыстырмалы және мазмұндық талдау тәсілдеріне негізделіп, Қазақстандағы тіл саясатының қазіргі жағдайын саралай келе, тіл мен толеранттылықтың үйлесімді дамуын қоғам тұрақтылығының кепілі ретінде көрсетеді.

Түйін сөздер: тіл саясаты, толеранттылық, мәдениетаралық диалог, тілдік толеранттылық, үштұғырлы тіл, қоғамдық келісім, ұлттық бірлік.

А. Оңғар¹, А. Халел²

Казахский национальный университет имени аль-Фараби, Алматы, Казахстан

Политическое значение языковой толерантности: политика многоязычия в Казахстане

Аннотация. В данной статье рассматривается взаимосвязь понятий языковой политики и толерантности и их влияние на развитие общества. Описывая языковую политику как средство управления языковыми отношениями, авторы раскрывают ее историческое, политическое и социальное значение. Кроме того, всесторонне анализируется сущность

толерантности, ее значение для межкультурного диалога и общественного согласия. Будут отражены особенности проводимой языковой политики в условиях многонационального и полиязычного общества в Казахстане, в том числе государственный статус казахского языка и важность политики трехязычия. Описываются меры, направленные на формирование толерантности к языковому разнообразию через принятые на государственном уровне законы и программы, укрепление мира и согласия между этносами. В статье рассматривается толерантный подход к языку как к одной из демократических ценностей, подчеркивается роль этой политики в устойчивом развитии страны и укреплении национального единства. Методы, использованные в исследовании, основаны на подходах сравнительного и содержательного анализа и, дифференцируя современное состояние языковой политики в Казахстане, отражают гармоничное развитие языка и толерантности как залог стабильности общества.

Ключевые слова: языковая политика, толерантность, межкультурный диалог, языковая толерантность, трехязычие, общественное согласие, национальное единство.

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Information about the authors:

Onngar A. – PhD student, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan. E-mail: zharaskyzy96@mail.ru, ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0002-0353-7850>

Khalel A. – Associate Professor, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan. E-mail: aknur_h@mail.ru. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7785-5483>

Оңғар А. – PhD докторанты, әл-Фараби атындағы Қазақ ұлттық университеті, Алматы, Қазақстан. E-mail: zharaskyzy96@mail.ru, ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0002-0353-7850>

Халел А. – доцент м.а., әл-Фараби атындағы Қазақ ұлттық университеті, Алматы, Қазақстан. E-mail: aknur_h@mail.ru. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7785-5483>

Онгар А. – PhD докторант, Казахский национальный университет имени аль-Фараби, Алматы, Казахстан. E-mail: zharaskyzy96@mail.ru, ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0002-0353-7850>

Халел А. – и.о. профессора, Казахский национальный университет имени аль-Фараби, Алматы, Казахстан. E-mail: aknur_h@mail.ru. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7785-5483>



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