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Social factors influencing language development

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Abstract: This article examines the social and political developments shaping the status and advancement of the Uzbek language in the context of the nation's independence. Special emphasis is placed on how independence, recognized as a significant macro-social factor, has broadened the language's social functions, elevated its legal standing as the state language, and influenced its enrichment at the lexical and functional levels. The analysis also highlights sociolinguistic research on the formation of specialized lexicons and the role of external sources, such as mass media, in consolidating and expanding Uzbek as a literary and communicative medium.

Keywords: Independence; Uzbek language; social factors; state language; linguistic development; macro-social factor; sociolinguistics; language policy; language enrichment; literary norms.

Introduction: The evolution and status of a language are fundamentally shaped by the interplay of external (extralinguistic) conditions—historical, economic, cultural, and political—and internal (linguistic) factors, such as structural and systemic properties. In the case of the Uzbek language, the achievement of independence represents a transformative social factor that redefined both the social environment and the language's scope of usage. Once officially recognized as the state language, Uzbek underwent significant expansion of its social functions: it was deployed across legal contexts, governmental agencies, academic research, and mass media. These processes underscore the importance of identifying and analyzing how key macro-social factors, namely independence and state-language status, have contributed to the recent development of Uzbek linguistic norms, vocabularies, and usage patterns.

As scholarship in Uzbek sociolinguistics further attests, the growth of specialized lexicons—particularly socio-political terminology—illustrates the responsiveness of Uzbek to shifts in the country's political and ideological landscape. Parallelly, broad engagement in scientific research, literature, and the arts has accelerated lexical and functional innovations. Consequently, the Uzbek language now serves not only as a symbol of national identity and culture, but also as a dynamic means of communication reflecting ongoing social, economic, and political transformation

METHOD

During each historical period and under specific social conditions, people inevitably require interaction with one another. To that end, language arises within human society, and this language is employed throughout individuals' lives in almost all types of their activities.

According to the linguistic studies of Yu. S. Maslov, every language constitutes a perfect means of communication, established as a condition for the development of human culture.

A language develops based on the direct and indirect influence on it by the members of a speech community, on the social conditions within that community-specifically, on social factors dependent on the functions of the language in society. The fact that languages change in tandem with the development of human society serves as clear evidence of this.

A "social factor" is a form of socially organized action by various structures of a society in a systematic

manner within a given sphere of human activity. During speech activity, social factors ensure a concrete manifestation of the social nature of language. The diversity of social factors gives rise to diverse ways of concretely manifesting this social nature of language. The influence of social factors on language movement, development, and interaction among languages is grounded in material and spiritual culture and is observed in every domain of society.

Typically, the term "social factor" implies social, historical, economic, cultural, ideological, and other extralinguistic conditions, as well as foundational principles for a language's internal structural and functional development. All of these factors exert different kinds of influence on language and on each of its individual branches, bearing various quantitative and qualitative parameters in line with their social nature and with the characteristics of the linguistic branches they affect. From this, one may infer that social factors emerge from the aforementioned diverse conditions and play a crucial role in language development. First and foremost, they influence changes in the internal structural features of the language and its functional development. Such changes inevitably affect all levels of language-phonetic, phonological, grammatical, and lexical.

Socially conditioned factors include socio-economic formation, means of production, social relations, ideology, science, culture, art, literature, the political system of society, language policy, education, mass communication, lifestyle, and the aesthetic system of societal views, among others. In this context, it is pertinent to discuss the mutual influence of social factors and languages. The main conditions that give rise to social factors are related to changes and developments in all spheres of society (production, economics, politics, science, culture, art, literature, education, etc.). In particular, these changes and developments facilitate the emergence of new concepts and phenomena in language, as well as new processes of nomination and formation. Proceeding from their own characteristics, new concepts gain certain designations and forms and thus establish their place and function in the language.

The external, extralinguistic conditions of language development and movement are contrasted with the internal, linguistic factors-those that encompass the language system itself, characterized by its structural typological features and the level of its functional development. The totality (joint influence) of external (social) and internal (linguistic) factors determines the development of the entire language and of its individual branches. Thus, in language development, not only external (extralinguistic) factors but also internal (linguistic) factors hold great significance. Nevertheless, it should be emphasized that, while both sets of factors contribute to the social development of a language and to the expansion of its social functions and social status, external (social) factors play a particularly prominent role. Hence, in our view, it is expedient to undertake a separate study of the phenomenon of expanding social functions when identifying the characteristics of a language's social development.

The concept of social factors is employed in both maximal and minimal social senses.

"In the minimal social sense In the maximal sense, social factors include those of a social, theoretical, ideological, and political nature, and they exert a stronger and more certain influence on languages, their development, their movement, and their mutual interaction social factors may encompass specific words, their components, and their elements (including text, sentence, word combinations, and the components thereof), as well as structures that serve the purpose of conveying meaning or perform ideological functions (grammatical formation of words and word combinations, the semantics of words and word combinations, borrowed words or calquing, the model for forming individual words and word combinations, etc.)". In other words, depending on the extent of their contribution to the social development of language, social factors can be characterized as either maximal or minimal. Maximal social factors make it possible to create the necessary conditions for the social development of language and for its free functioning within society. Minimal social factors, on the other hand, are recognized as those linguistic units operating at various levels of language (text, sentence, word combination, word) as well as their foundational components (elements). Notably, the combined presence of these maximal and minimal social factors, in one form or another, serves as the basis for the social development of language.

Taking into account that social factors exert significant influence on the formation, development, and characteristics of socio-political terminology and lexis, we recognize the need to distinguish the following:

1.   the natural influence of social factors on the process of language development;

2.   society's intentional influence on the movement and development of language, as well as on its interactions with other languages.

Any conscious intervention by a society in language-related issues proceeds from well-defined ideological circumstances and depends on the functions demanded   by   social   requirements

Tumanian,1984;1981;1988. From this it follows that, in examining the development of a language, it is important to properly evaluate the significance of social factors and simultaneously devote special attention to researching its internal possibilities for development.

A social factor encompasses the following elements: the subject of the action (the active force), the environment to which this acting subject belongs, the environment to which the object of the action belongs, the goals and functions of the subject's action, the means of the subject's action, and the object of influence (the entity upon which the subject, acting as an active force, is exerting an effect).

From the overall content of the figure, it is evident that social factors constitute a broad and complex concept that includes a set of elements: the environment belonging to both the subject and the object of the action, the goals and tasks of the subject's action, the means by which this action is carried out, and the object of influence. Combined, these components bring social factors into being and shape their active functioning within society.

In accordance with their nature and the manner in which they are expressed in language-considering the method, timing, and outcome of their influence on language-social factors are classified as followsю

Social factors are divided into those that exert positive or negative influence, diachronic or synchronic influence, substrate or superstrate effects, as well as natural or conscious influence, and either direct or indirect influence. It should be noted that social factors, being broad and varied, affect language development in one form or another, and they have considerable social significance with respect to language development.

The description of social factors depends on the domains of society in which they carry importance. Thus, it can be inferred that social factors play a major role not only in the development of language but also in determining in which spheres of society language itself is evolving.

Each social factor in a language contributes to its development and enrichment. Among these factors, the most noteworthy in causing substantial changes in the language is the political factor-the republic's achievement of independence. As a result, the social functions of the Uzbek language have expanded considerably; it is now used freely in all spheres of society, and its status has risen.

In global linguistics, one can find examples in various languages of the emergence, development, and disappearance of the languages of different peoples of the world. This process unfolds differently in each language, depending on the particular social environment. During the dominance of the former Soviet regime, the Uzbek language lagged somewhat behind in its development, a circumstance that linguists have explained in various ways. Thus, whether a language develops or, conversely, falls out of use, it requires a specific social environment. This theoretical perspective is echoed by the linguist V. D. Bondaletov: "For a language to develop in society, certain social conditions must be present. These social conditions correlate with the level of language development".

Social conditions are in constant flux. As these conditions evolve, the social functions of a language also expand. Illustrations of this phenomenon include the rising prominence of the French language in Russia after World War I, and, starting from the early twentieth century, the global spread of English, along with its extensive use in various fields of international communication. Such real-life examples and situations reaffirm that a specific social environment is of paramount importance for language development.

As noted above, language development requires an appropriate social environment that provides favorable conditions for its advancement. The social environment plays a significant role in the social development of a language, in the expansion of its social functions, and in the enhancement of its internal structural capacities. A glance at history suffices to support this claim. For instance, if we consider the Uzbek language prior to independence, its social standing was weakened, its social functions restricted, and its level of use as a means of communication relatively low. This social environment adversely affected the development of the Uzbek language, lacking sufficient conditions for its growth within society.

After independence, the social environment in the republic changed: most notably, the Uzbek language was granted the status of a state language, its social standing began to increase, it began to be used as the official language of record in all spheres of society and in state organizations and agencies, and significant research efforts were carried out to advance the development of the Uzbek language.

In particular, studies addressing problems of expressing various relationships and categories in Uzbek have been undertaken by D. A. Abdullaeva 2010; D. T. Abdullaeva 2001; S. Ŏ. Boimirzaeva 2010; E. I. Ibragimova 2001; L. H. Nigmatova 2004; N. A. Tukhtakhojayeva 2017; N. Zh. Shirinova 2010; H. N. Shokirova 2009; M. V. Ergasheva 2011, etc. Studies devoted to terminological issues in the Uzbek

language-by H. Dadabayev 1991; I. Kh. Pardaeva 1991; O. M. Polatova 2001; P. Nishonov 2001; G. Yo. G'ulomova 2005; O. S. Akhmedov 2016; Kh. D. Paluanova 2016; D. Kh. Kadirbekova 2017; Sh. N. Abdullayeva 2018; D. S. Saidqodirova 2018; as well as research into the system of the Uzbek language-by A. E. Mamatov 2000; A. S. Musaev 2000; S. Mahmatqulov 2004; O. O. Bazarov 2004; F. S. Safarov 2004; Z. N. Pardaev 2004; A. Abdusaidov 2005; M. Yo. Vafoeva 2009; K. O. Saparova 2010; I. R. Kazakov 2011; S. E. Kenzhaeva 2011; O. S. Yusupova 2011; Ya. I. Avlokulov 2012; D. A. G'anieva 2012; A. Kh. Turakhodzhaeva 2012; Sh. M. Sultonova 2018 and other Uzbek linguists-have been conducted. Such a social environment and the resulting academic research have furnished the necessary conditions for the development of the Uzbek language, particularly for the expansion of its social functions.

In our dissertation research, we identify as major external conditions the primary social factors that have propelled language development, including changes in the social structure of society, the resultant expansion of its economic and production capacities, changes in science, new developments in literature and emerging trends therein, modifications in government bodies, and ideological processes. These factors, we posit, have played a decisive role in the progress of language.

National values of the people-including the memory of our brilliant forefathers, our incomparable historical monuments, and our uniquely distinctive national culture and spiritual heritage-have been revitalized. Under conditions of complete freedom and independence on our historical homeland, the principal directions for further development are determined. Such social conditions in society laid the foundation for the advancement of our language. Conversely, during the pre-independence years, social conditions like attempts to eradicate national culture, language, customs, and traditions-coupled with the impossibility of even recalling them, as well as the prohibition on discussing national interests and traditions-became obstacles to the social development of language. Thus, it follows that the conditions within a society either foster or inhibit language development.

A clear example illustrating the negative impact of societal conditions on language can be seen in how, in all fraternal republics, including Uzbekistan, Russian was artificially introduced and sustained as the primary means of interpersonal communication among citizens. As a result, there were no significant changes in the development of the national languages. This social environment adversely affected the progress of the Uzbek language, depriving it of the social conditions necessary for its development.

It is well known that if any language is subjected to multiple forms of pressure, if its spheres of social use are restricted, and if it is not employed by members of society as their principal means of communication, it inevitably ceases to develop and ultimately falls out of use. The halt in a language's development can be partially attributed to constraints placed on national values, as well as attempts to limit creative activity in literature, science, and the arts. In this sense, it may be noted that regardless of how large or small a nation is, it must possess its native language, national culture, and a national spirit. A nation that has lost its mother tongue may risk losing itself.

"The memory of history-an objective and truthful recovery of the history of the people, their beloved land, and the territory of our state-holds an extremely significant place in the process of restoring national self-awareness and, if one may say so, in reviving and cultivating national pride". For a language to develop, it must be used as a means of communication by a nation that has its own national culture and spirit, that is conscious of its national identity, and in whose heart national pride has taken root. Only under such conditions can a nation foster the growth of its language and create a favorable environment for that language's development and ongoing progression. Thus, it becomes evident that speakers of the language play a major role in, and are of great importance to, the language's development.

On October 21, 1989, the "Law on the State Language" was adopted, designating the Uzbek language as the state language of our republic. Numerous scholars, writers, and state and public figures contributed significantly to the adoption of this law. Subsequently, under Article 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, it was firmly established that "the state language of the Republic of Uzbekistan is the Uzbek language," thereby affording the state language legal protection. Uzbek thus became a language employed at the highest-level forums within the republic, used for the official documentation of state affairs, and assured of its prospects for development by law. From this perspective, the historical importance of that law is profound.

As a result of this factor, the social functions of the Uzbek language in communicative processes became more active: the transition from its status as the language of the Uzbek people to serving as an interethnic medium of communication among the Turkic-speaking peoples of the republic has acquired particularly vital significance in the ideological-political, socio-economic, and cultural life of multiethnic Uzbekistan. This led to the language's enrichment and advancement. Accordingly, granting the Uzbek

language the status of the state language emerged as a crucial social factor in its development.

It is worth noting here that a number of Uzbek linguists- A. Sodiqov 1981; M.T. Irisqulov 1992; N. Mahmudov 1995; O. Azizov 1996; A. Nurmonov 2002; H.A. Jamolkhanov 2005; Kh. Muhiddinova 2006; Sh. Rahmatullaev 2006; I. Yuldoshev 2007; R. Rasulov 2007; Z. Kholmanova 2007; A. Hojiev 2007; Q. Sapaev 2009; A.A. Abduazizov 2010; N. Ulugov 2016, among others- acknowledge the role of external factors such as the granting of state-language status and the achievement of independence in the social development of the Uzbek language.

It must be emphasized that the Uzbek language's acquisition of state-language status, along with the factor of independence, opened the door to extensive opportunities for its usage and further advancement in all spheres of our society. The changes and innovations brought about by independence have had a significant impact on the development of Uzbek vocabulary. Such a social factor created fertile ground for the development of the Uzbek language.

According to I. Yuldoshev et al., external sources have played a major role in the enrichment and improvement of Uzbek vocabulary.

A. Turakhodzhaeva identifies the factor of independence as a "macro-social factor" for the development of socio-political vocabulary in Uzbek. She particularly underscores the crucial role of independence in language development, especially in the enrichment of the language's lexicon.

In H. Jamolkhanov's view, language development is determined by both linguistic and extralinguistic factors. Linguistic factors include the structural and systemic properties of a given language (its phonemic system, vocabulary, types of morphemes, word-formation models, grammatical structure, as well as the semantic and functional characteristics of lexical and grammatical units). In contrast, extralinguistic factors may include forms of the social order, historical processes, economic, political, cultural, and educational ties among peoples and nations, the progress of science, industrial production and technology, social thought, human psychology and emotions, and laws and decrees related to language and script.

The influence of mass media on language is manifested in activating the process of standardizing the literary language. The oral form of literary language is related to its use in the mass media sphere, and it likewise strengthens its position in connection with the evolution of social life-such as forums, councils, meetings, and assemblies. After the Uzbek language was granted state-language status, the mass media played a significant role in expanding its social functions, in using it extensively as a medium of communication, and in standardizing it as a literary language. As a result of securing the independence-based social factor, numerous scholarly investigations in this area-particularly N. Mahmudov's works "Language and Society," "Language," "Our Word and Ourselves," and "At the Abodes of Enlightenment"-have held an important place in the development of Uzbek sociolinguistics. This indicates that, thanks to independence, the role and possibilities of mass media in the social development of the Uzbek language have expanded accordingly.

It should be emphasized that, thanks to independence, the status and standing of the Uzbek language have risen; as a developed language, it has come to fulfill a wide range of social functions, regained prestige among the world's languages, spread extensively throughout the republic's territory, and begun to be employed as the state language in legal contexts, governmental bodies, and official documentation.

Accordingly, as a result of the social factor of independence, one of the most significant spiritual heritages that has been revived is the Uzbek language. The Uzbek language now reflects, preserves, and transmits from generation to generation the socio-economic and political processes, along with developments in science, technology, literature, and art, across all spheres of society at the present time.

Over the past few decades, greater attention to the language in the republic can be observed in the notable changes occurring in a language considered the essential means of communication in all domains of society.

CONCLUSION

The findings presented herein affirm the pivotal role of independence and the formal designation of Uzbek as the state language in bolstering Uzbek's status and adaptability. By affording Uzbek a comprehensive legal framework and social impetus, these macro-social changes opened the way for its enrichment, including the formation of new terminologies and the wider standardization of its literary form. At the same time, the proliferation of mass media and modernization efforts across various fields—ranging from governance and jurisprudence to technology and education—have allowed Uzbek to be used extensively and flexibly, which in turn feeds back into its ongoing development.

Overall, the expansion of Uzbek's social functions reflects the interconnectedness of national policy, cultural revitalization, and linguistic evolution. The case of the Uzbek language—where external,

independence-driven factors have met robust internal linguistic capacities—underscores how sociopolitical conditions can decisively shape a language's present character and future trajectory. Further empirical investigation in both corpus-based approaches and field studies is encouraged to elaborate on these themes, thereby refining our understanding of how a language, deeply rooted in tradition, continues to evolve and adapt in a rapidly changing world.

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