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Sociolinguistic aspect of language policy of Kazakhstan

The article considers a concept of language policy in modern sociolinguistics. The review of research devoted to the language policy in Kazakhstan was done. The research is based on the main provisions of the language policy concept of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The concepts as language policy, language situation, bilingualism, multilingualism, trilingualism are considered. Author marked next functions of sociolinguistic research: analysis and monitoring of the level of knowledge of state, native and Russian languages by ethnic groups living in Kazakhstan; the role of the state language in socio-communicative system of the Kazakhstan society; public assessment of measures for implementation of the status of the state language, the place of the language issue in the migration motivation of the population of Kazakhstan and others.

Keywords: sociolinguistics, language policy, language situation, bilingualism, multilingualism, trilingualism.

The link of language with society in which it is used is a traditional problem for linguistic studies. However, one of the urgent directions of the modern paradigm of anthropocentrism is sociolinguistics focused on the study of diverse and many-faceted relations of language and society. Sociolinguistics as an autonomous branch of modern linguistics handles an arsenal of theoretical and applied theories established throughout of all history of linguistics. Sociolinguistics is specific, as it focused on specific native speakers, taking into account the range of social characteristics.

An integral part of any state is its language and culture. Considering native speaker, his social characteristics, it is impossible not to take into account that every society, every state has its own political system, control system, and finally, foreign and domestic courses. Language policy of Kazakhstan is an integral part of internal and foreign policy of the state. There is linguo-political component formed as a product of: a) actual language policy; b) combined language policy (e.g. national language, cultural language, educational language, information language, etc.) where the linguistic aspect has secondary and subordinate nature and belongs as part to a whole; c) comprehensive policy in the political history of each country explicitly or implicitly. Even where language policy is not issued in the form of laws, acts, state programmes, concepts, it exists in a hidden, implicit form, without declared documents, stock and formal realization [1; 107].

In the understanding of contemporary sociolinguistics, language policy is «the theory and practice of conscious and certain subjects of language planning (public authorities, social groups, elites, international organizations, parties, classes and others) on the function of language, development of language; purposeful and scientific management with the operation of existing languages, establishment and improvement of new linguistic means of communication. The language policy determines the strategic course in the development of the language situation in the country, regulates realized language planning (including corpus planning of languages, status planning of languages, planning of spreading languages, planning of language acquisition), is fixed in language legislation and state programmes for the development and support of languages» [2; 275].

National language issues are resolved depending on the prevailing language situation in various countries. Based on the goals and content of language policy, each state develops its own model of language development. The functioning of languages in modern Kazakhstan has its own unique features: the coexistence of a large number of genetically and typologically diverse languages (representatives of more than 130 nations and nationalities live in Kazakhstan) in the presence of two widely spoken partners-languages (Kazakh and Russian). Realities of Kazakhstan today require a language policy that meets the needs of multiethnic population and takes into account the linguistic, demographic and political situation as a factor of political stability. Currently, the government of Kazakhstan has chosen a course on bilingualism: recognition of Kazakh language as the state language, Russian language as the official one in the field of language policy.

During the years of independence, the language situation and construction in the country, the language policy of our state and its main directions have been sufficiently studied and found a science-based decision. The scientific works of scientists B. Khassanuly, M.M. Kopylenko, A.E. Karlinsky, M.K. Issayev,

E.D. Suleimenova, Z.K. Akhmetzhanova, S.T. Sayn, N.Zh. Shaimerdenova and others, also young scientists K.M. Baybossynova, A.M. Kumarova, A. Abassilova, G.S. Suyunova, S.A. Assanbayeva, D.Zh. Kassymova, G.D. Aldabergenova, G.M. Alimzhanova and others can be noted in this direction. In the scientific works of scientists studying the linguistic construction and the situation of Kazakhstan, the current problems of social linguistics were widely discussed. But it is impossible not to mention the fact that social linguistics in Kazakhstan was established as one of the directions of sociolinguistics of the USSR, having used all previously accumulated theoretical experience and took into account the uniqueness of the linguistic realities of Kazakhstan. We made an attempt to review some of the studies of language policy of Kazakhstan in our work.

B. Khassanuly gives a complete description of the language situations of Kazakhstan in his work «Languages of Kazakhstan people and their interaction» published in 1976 for the first time. This work analyzes the interaction of languages of Kazakhstan people, the level of language proficiency of consumers, scope of use and basic functions in society with specific statistic data, in 1987-1989 scientific works of B. Khassanuly «Kazakh-Russian bilingualism» (sociolinguistic aspect), «National languages: search and perspectives», where the author analyses the way of origin/formation and reveals the peculiarities of Kazakh-Russian bilingualism were published. The experience and language levels of all ethnic groups living in Kazakhstan, taking into account specific statistical data were studied in this work. The definitions of the concepts of monolingualism, bilingualism, three-, four- and multilingualism were given for the first time, sociolinguistic descriptions were considered as well. Two, three and four lingual representatives of ethnic groups occurring in the Kazakhstan experience were described on specific examples [3].

In the 1990s, the issues of bilingualism, multilingualism and diglossia were widely discussed in Kazakhstan sociolinguistics and a number of scientific works were written. For example, the issues of interaction of languages, the origin of bilingualism, its place in society, natural and artificial bilingualism were analyzed in the work of A.E. Karlinsky «Theory basics of languages interaction» (1990), definitions to the terms language team, interference and its types, types of intercalation were given as well.

In 1990, a book «Language policy in Kazakhstan and ways of its realization», dedicated to the issues of language policy of Kazakhstan was published. The research of M.M. Kopylenko and Z.K. Akhmetzhanova «Psycholinguistic aspect of bilingualism. Problems of the national-Russian bilingualism» has made a significant contribution to the development of the theory of bilingualism [3].

Language policy determines the strategic course in the development of the language situation in the country, regulates language planning (including corpus planning of languages, status planning of languages, planning of languages spreading, planning of language acquisition), is fixed in the language legislation and state programmes of development and support of languages [2; 275].

Independence of Kazakhstan played a special role in the formation of language ideology, language planning and language policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Many Kazakh researchers pay attention to the fact that the acquisition of the own language policy closely and inseparably connected with the personality and work of the First President N.A. Nazarbayev as one of the protagonists, theorists and practitioners of the new linguo-political course that took place in Kazakhstan since gaining independence at the turn of 80-90s of the XX century. For example, during public and parliamentary debate on the first version of the Law on languages (1989), N.A. Nazarbayev took an active part in its development and promotion as a supporter of a balanced, centrist and egalitarian version of the law, countervailing the rights of all parties of polemics and did not allow granting privileges to any of the languages. Further, the spirit and the letter of this approach were retained and developed in all subsequent versions of the Law on languages, concept of language policy and public programs of development and support of languages [4].

As all the researchers note, the idea of multilingualism, trilingualism takes special place in the language policy of Kazakhstan. The idea of the introduction of trilingualism, i.e. learning Kazakh, Russian and English languages by Kazakhstan citizens was announced by the President in October 2006 at the XII session of the Assembly of people of Kazakhstan. And in the Message 2007 «New Kazakhstan in the new world» N.Nazarbayev proposed to begin a phased implementation of the cultural project «Trinity of languages»: «Kazakhstan should be perceived worldwide as a highly educated country whose population can speak three languages. They are: Kazakh — the state language, Russian — the language of interethnic communication, and English — the language of successful integration into the global economy» [5].

B. Khassanuly says that trilingualism is «the alternate use of three languages in a heterogeneous society by representatives of one ethnic group» [6; 356].

Accession of Kazakhstan to the Bologna process played a significant role in the development of trilingualism in Kazakhstan. According to the principles of the Bologna Declaration, the system of multilin-

qual education must be implemented in Kazakhstan, English must be used along with Kazakh and Russian languages. The aim of the Bologna process is the creation of a strong and competitive education system in the world.

The need of learning Kazakh, Russian and English languages creates the basis for the education of trilingualism. However, it is necessary to take into account at language planning the fact that bilingualism in the Republic of Kazakhstan is a natural process occurring among the total population, regardless of age, nationality, and trilingualism is adjustable and process formed on «top».

M.S. Filimonova and D.A. Krylov note that in general, trilingualism as a modern socio-cultural phenomenon develops under the influence of the following factors: strengthening of the role of socio-cultural component; creation of a unified educational space; need for multilingual training; development of the global information space [7].

And in 2005, studying language policy in Kazakhstan, E.D. Suleimenova, Zh.S. Smagulova made a decision and systematized paradigm «language policy-the language situation». «Language policy in Kazakhstan has already won the support of the majority of citizens and the recognition by the world community: first and foremost from partners in the CIS, countries of near and far abroad, countries-members of the UN and reputable international organizations. Today the world's leading linguists give definition to the language policy in Kazakhstan as «concentrated expression of the state's attitude to issues of linguistic existence», describe as «a series of successful experiments» and relate it to politics of «Renaissance type» and, in general, qualify as «centralized (because it is held by government and provides a system of mandatory events), promising (as it is aimed at changing of the existing language situation), democratic (because it takes into account the interests of the broad masses), international (as the development of Kazakh language, Russian language and languages of all other ethnic groups were chosen as main strategic directions), structural (as it is aimed at the expansion of language functions, sphere of application, social-communicative role and vitality of Kazakh language, maintaining of the development and functioning of Russian language and other languages of the country)» [8; 276, 277].

Analysis of the language situation in the Republic of Kazakhstan without study of national-Russian, especially Kazakh-Russian, bilingualism would be incomplete, because it is possible to understand and evaluate the role of bilingualism in society only by consideration it as an integral part of the language situation.

The representation of the population of the Republic of Kazakhstan on ethnic grounds in general terms as follows: western and eastern parts of the republic are less multiethnic, northern, southern and central ones are more multiethnic. Linguistically, the situation in these regions was formed approximately in the following way: Kazakh language prevails in the west and south of Kazakhstan, and Russian is the dominant language in the north, east and central part of the country. Each of the regions has its specific linguistic feature. The linguistic development of the regions depends from this and other factors.

A number of studies on the language situation in Kazakhstan can be specified: these are scientific works of A.E. Karlinsky, M.M. Kopylenko, B.I. Rakisheva, Zh.S. Smagulova, N.Zh. Shaimerdenova, dissertation research of A.M. Abashilova and B.Zh. Kurmanova on general problems of functioning of Kazakh language in several northern regions (Akmola, Kostanai, Pavlodar, North Kazakhstan and former Kokchetav and Turgay regions) and west (Aktobe, Aktau, Atyrau and Ural) regions.

Alma-Atinskaya (now Almatinskaya), Kzyl-Ordinskaya (now Kyzylordinskaya), Kokchetavskaya (now Akmolinskaya), Semipalatinskaya (now East Kazakhstan) (see works by M.M. Kopylenko, S.T. Saina, 1982; D.D. Shaibakova, 2006), Pavlodarskaya (see works by G.S. Suyunova, 1995; K.M. Tekzhanova, 2005), and Akmolinskaya (see G.A. Dosmukhambetova, 2002) regions were subjected to in-depth study.

Several years passed since those studies, however, the problems of the state language, despite some achievements, is still acute. It is particularly relevant today to highlight the problem from the inside, to learn, to understand and to recommend possible ways of its decision.

The concept of «language situation» is in the process of language interaction — bilingualism. The problem of bilingualism formation is closely connected with the theory of contact and interaction of languages. It is extremely relevant to many of the former republics of the Soviet Union due to the fact that although the official languages were declared as national languages, Russian language prevails in the various areas of communication.

With the acquisition of the sovereignty by Kazakhstan, Kazakh language was given the state status and Russian language received status of language of international communication. The adoption of the language of the titular nation in the national republics as state one necessitated the study by its representatives of all nations living on the territory of the republic, which contributed to the formation of a new type of bilingualism.

The basis for the emergence and functioning of bilingualism in the Republic of Kazakhstan let the Kazakhs to settle (D.D. Shaibakova), «multinational composition of the northern regions of Kazakhstan» (B.A. Gadzieva), vicinity of borders with Russia (K.M. Tekzhanov), «territorial contact of one nation with another one or joint settlement of different people in the same territory» (G.A. Bazarbayeva), demographic factor: resettlement and migration of people to Kazakhstan (K.Kh. Rakhimzhanov).

At present, many types of bi - and multilingualism formed in multilingual Kazakhstan, which are differed by the regions of spread, coverage of different spheres of languages functioning, specificity of influence of the first language on the second one and other. (Z.K. Akhmetzhanova).

Despite the fact that bilingualism had been studied in several scientific works by A.M. Abassilov, O.B. Altynbekova, Z.K. Akhmetzhanova, B.A. Gadziyeva, G.A. Dosmukhambetova, B.I. Rakisheva, Zh.S. Smagulova, E.D. Suleimenova, B.Kh. Khassenuly, D.D. Shaibakova, N.Zh. Shaimerdenova, many aspects of the topic left out of sight. The regional aspect related to them, although the differences are generally recognized in linguistic situation of individual regions: the north and south, border areas.

B. Khassanly describes Kazakh-Russian bilingualism, which is characteristic for our country as follows: «Kazakh-Russian bilingualism is a variable or parallel use of native and Russian languages by the Kazakhs inside and interethnic communication in a multicultural society, the use of two languages in different situations if necessary.

In 1996-1999, the works by E.D. Suleimenova «Kazakh and Russian languages: the basics of contrastive linguistics» and A.E. Karlinsky «International relations: theory – practice – search», and in 2001, «Bilingualism and interethnic communication. Actual problems of intercultural communication and translation». «Dictionary of sociolinguistic terms» by E.D. Suleimenova and N.Zh. Shaimerdenova provides explanation and definition for more than 400 terms in the field of the theoretical issues, directions, methods and techniques of social linguistics. In our opinion, this work has made an enormous contribution to the development of sociolinguistics.

A. Abassilov in his publication «Development of Kazakh language on state status – the basic rules of the Law on languages in the Republic of Kazakhstan» praises the ways of implementation of the Law on languages, as well as in the article «Social-linguistic situation in northern area» analyzes the language situation of northern regions of Kazakhstan, the issues of bi and multilingualism, state and other ethnic languages function in society. The author proposes regional principles of language development «Development of state language on the regional level – effective way for Kazakhstan».

To summarize, we would like to note that the language situation and language policy become a subject not only for linguistic studies. The state itself is interested in promoting this direction. For example, sociological and research work of the linguistic situations of the country is annually held in this direction by the order of the Committee of languages of Ministry of Culture and Information, the results of which are published in the following publications – «Language policy in Kazakhstan (results of sociological research)», «Language situation in the border regions of Kazakhstan and in the environment of returnees (oralmans) (the results of sociological research)», «Language situation in the border regions of Kazakhstan and in the regions compactly inhabited by ethnic groups (the results of sociological research)».

It provides analysis and monitoring of the level of knowledge of state, native and Russian languages by ethnic groups living in Kazakhstan; the role of the state language in socio-communicative system of the Kazakhstan society; public assessment of measures for implementation of the status of the state language; the nature and extent of the dominance of language functions in society; the level and nature of social preferences concerning the use of languages in different spheres; the nature of the socio-linguistic preferences of the adult population; the public perception of the state language in everyday language practice, the implementation of the constitutional rights of Kazakhstan citizens to use their native language, the implementation of free choice of language of communication, learning and creativity; the place of the language issue in the migration motivation of the population of Kazakhstan and other.

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Қазақстанның тілдік саясатының әлеуметтік-лингвистикалық қыры

Мақалада қазіргі әлеуметтік лингвистикадағы тіл саясатының тұжырымдамалары талқыланды. Қазақстандағы тіл саясаты туралы зерттеулерге шолу жасалған. Зерттеулер Қазақстандағы тіл саясатының негізгі тұжырымдамаларына негізделген. Авторлар тіл саясаты, тілдік ахуал, билингвизм, көптілділік, үштілділік сияқты ұғымдарды қарастырған. Сондай-ақ әлеуметтік лингвистика мониторингінің келесі функцияларын анықтап көрсетті: Қазақстанда тұратын этникалық топтардың мемлекеттік тіл, ана тілі және орыс тілі деңгейін талдау және мониторингі; қазақстандық қоғамда әлеуметтік-қатынастық жүйесіндегі мемлекеттік тілдің ролі; мемлекеттік тіл мәртебесін іске асыру жөніндегі іс-шараларды қоғамдық бағалау; қоғамдағы тіл функцияларының басым дәрежесі мен сипаты; қарым-қатынас, білім алу және шығармашылықта тілді еркін таңдауды жүзеге асыру; Қазақстан мен басқа елдерде халықтың көші-қон мотивациясындағы тіл мәселесінің орны.

Кілт сөздер: әлеуметтік лингвистика, тілдік саясат, тілдік ахуал, билингвизм, көптілділік, үштілділік, қоғамның тілдік дамуы.

Г.Ю. Аманбаева, Ш.Н. Исабек

Социолингвистический аспект языковой политики Казахстана

В статье рассмотрено понятие языковой политики в современной социолингвистике. Произведен обзор исследований, посвященных языковой политике в Казахстане. Исследование базируется на основных положениях Концепции языковой политики Республики Казахстан. Рассмотрены такие понятия, как «языковая политика», «языковая ситуация», «билингвизм», «многоязычие», «трехязычие». Авторами выделены следующие функции социолингвистического мониторинга: анализ и мониторинг уровня знаний государственного, родного и русского языков этносов, проживающих в Казахстане; роль государственного языка в социально-коммуникативной системе казахстанского общества; общественная оценка мероприятий по реализации статуса государственного языка; характер и степень доминирования функции языка в обществе; осуществление свободного выбора языка общения, обучения и творчества; место языкового вопроса в миграционной мотивации населения Казахстана и других стран.

Ключевые слова: социолингвистика, языковая политика, языковая ситуация, мультилингвизм, трехязычие, языковое развитие общества.

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