
Teaching English Language In Uzbekistan

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Abstract: English is one of the most spoken language over the world. The article focuses on the factors of English becoming a language of international business and communication. Also, the article analyses the current English teaching policy and practice in Uzbekistan, educational reforms in the country in light of the modern requirements.

Keywords: the role of English, educational reforms, early foreign language education.

INTRODUCTION

Since the Republic of Uzbekistan was declared independent in 1991, the roles of languages used in the country started to change, shifting in dominance and significance in all spheres of Uzbek people's life. The Uzbek language acquired its position as the only official state language, while Russian was given the status of foreign language and lost its power as "Uzbek's second mother tongue" (Hasanova, 2010) however, preserving its importance on a lingua franca for ethnic minorities, English, in its turn, has been continuously increasing in importance and acquiring the status of the most preferred foreign language to be learned. The reforms in foreign language teaching in Uzbekistan mainly touched upon teaching English language in all levels and stages of education. The start of incorporating English language teaching into the educational system of Uzbekistan started in 1932 (Hasanova, 2007). Nevertheless, teaching and learning of English as well as other foreign languages were carried out in secondary schools at the beginning of the fifth grade when learners were at the age of 12 (Hasanova, 2007 p4). states that most of the lessons in 1930's – 1990's were held mainly in student – centered approach and classes were mainly dedicated to the study and analysis of grammatical rules, analytical reading, and grammar translation exercises. In addition according to Bereday and Pennar in the Soviet Union, grammar – translation method was justified by the dominating political system.[1]

DISCUSSION

The role and influence of English in today are gaining a higher speed in the world as well as in Uzbekistan. The main factors for this phenomenon include expanding communication with the world after gaining the independence and increasing speed and scope of information exchange in the global village. The dominant position in the internet space by the language of the published content is firmly held by English, which is a strong motivation to learn English for those who wish to promote their global competence. On the other hand, the main reason for the reforms are 1) the international role of the English language, which has evolved into a 'code' of communication in various spheres, and 2) globalization, which has opened many new ways for nations to come closer. In addition, another reason based on the analysis of the current system of organizing language learning shows that learning standards, curricula and textbooks, do not fully meet the current requirements, particularly, in the use of advanced information and media technologies. Education is mainly conducted in traditional methods. Further development of a continuum of foreign languages learning at all levels of education; improving skills, of teachers and provision of modern teaching materials are required. Absolutely, the English language owns the status of foreign language in Uzbekistan. However, the government wants to see the language become a second language, fluently used by society, especially the younger generation. This intention of the government can easily be observed in the decree of the president, where the role of English is highly emphasized and both education and media are called for reformation and upgrading to serve the pervasiveness of English in the country. A number of language specialists, (Dearden, 2014; West, 2013) highlight the importance of the presidential decree in the increase of attention to the English language in educational establishments, which is occurring in all stages of education. [2]

The English language and the situation itself, in which it happens to be involved in the 21st century, are unique, indeed. None of the languages before has gained the same spread and popularity within such a short period of time. Knowledge of English not only contributes to the international ties of the country, it also facilitates smooth communications. Today, English language is performing the function of this bridge among the academic and scientific researches from all the corners of the worlds. The younger generation of our republic can enjoy vast opportunities with the knowledge of English. Moreover, it is the obligation of the academic communities to deliver the rich cultural and historical heritage of Uzbek people to the world by translating the literature and academic works of our national scholars and ancestors into the English language – a very effective approach to promote the country in the international arena.[3]

CONCLUSION

It should be noted that there are several tasks to implement the main directions of reforms. Nowadays it's crucial that teachers need to revisit the factors which are expected to improve the standards of higher education of English, the modernization of the content and structure of higher education of English. The specialists need to work out new internal mechanisms, applying the elements of other systems, to implement the best practice and recommendations on innovative educational technologies, to assess primary standards, to refresh educational process by means of modernizing educational system personal and developing international cooperation in the sphere of higher and specialized education of English. [4]

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