

The problems of bilingualism and multilingualism in Kazakhstan

The experience of languages functioning in multinational countries proves bilingualism and multilingualism to be necessary and practically the only way of solving the problem of overcoming language barrier and ensuring easy communication of citizens of one and the same state formation speaking different languages. The bilingualism and multilingualism are important social realities especially in countries including many nationalities, for example there are hundreds of nations and nationalities representatives of which live in Kazakhstan one should take this reality into consideration. The development and forming of bilingualism mustn't be compulsory and influence mastering of the native language in a negative way. Otherwise ethnically native language can be moved aside to the periphery of communication and it will provide a negative effect on the national self-consciousness.

The bilingualism and multilingualism have been historically thoroughly investigated but nowadays it is studied as lingual essence of everyday lingual life.

Usage of the bilingualism and multilingualism in different spheres of human's social activity has its own peculiarities (linguistic, ethics-aesthetics, situational, etc).

Discussing the problem of bilingualism in a present day society Ch. Aitmatov speaks about two ways of its development: "The first way is to rely on high-developed language 'maintenance', to use its services in full. The second way is the way of coexistence, the way of national language parallel development using a non-native language".

Nowadays the language policy is realized in accordance to the "Kazakhstan Republic Language Law" and Republic's Constitution. According to the law the status of the Kazakh language is determined

as official. But nevertheless there is a complicated language situation in Kazakhstan: the Kazakh language is not functioning in full as an official one, the youth takes a fancy to foreign languages and actively learns them (especially English); the 'Pigeon' language is developing ('pigeon' means mixed, for example, Russian - Kazakh or Kazakh - Russian). In this connection we needed a fast qualitative-quantitative solution of the problem at all levels of official and non-official lingual communication. The bilingualism means two languages, but it doesn't mean negation of one language at the expense of the other. If a state possesses a definite state language it should be used by the state bodies to communicate with population as a means of communication. Otherwise the statehood of the official language couldn't be proved by the lingual communication practice. Along this the functioning of the official language must not hamper on the bilingualism development. The bilingualism and multilingualism are the social needs result and a social phenomenon.

In conclusion, we claim that multilingualism is the need of the globalizing world. We appreciate the trinity of languages as the phenomenon strategically significant for our independent country. To meet the needs of the society, we find important the knowledge of the Kazakh, Russian and English languages. It should also be emphasized that in the language policy, the role of the state language – the Kazakh language – is especially significant.

Ilyas ADILBEKOV,
Department of the History
of Kazakhstan
and Law, Bases of Economics
Arkalyk State
Pedagogical Institute
named after I. Altynsarın.