



## THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE MOTHER TONGUE IN SOCIETY

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**Abstract:** *This article analyzes the role of the mother tongue in social life, as well as its social, cultural, and spiritual significance. Language, as the most important symbol expressing the national identity of a people, plays a decisive role in the development of society. The article highlights the role of language in shaping an individual's personality, national ideology, spirituality, and thinking. It also emphasizes the importance of strengthening the status of the state language, developing linguistic culture, and fostering respect for the mother tongue among the younger generation. The results of the study show that preserving and developing the language is a crucial factor for ensuring social stability and national unity.*

**Key words:** *mother tongue, society, national identity, linguistic culture, spirituality, thinking, state language, national unity, means of communication, cultural heritage.*

## РОЛЬ И ФУНКЦИИ РОДНОГО ЯЗЫКА В ОБЩЕСТВЕ

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**Аннотация:** *В данной статье рассматривается роль родного языка в общественной жизни, его социальное, культурное и духовное значение. Язык, являясь важнейшим символом национальной идентичности народа, играет решающую роль в развитии общества. В статье раскрывается значение языка в формировании личности, национальной идеи, духовности и мышления. Особое внимание уделяется вопросам укрепления статуса государственного языка, развития языковой культуры и воспитания у молодого поколения уважения к родному языку. Результаты исследования показывают, что сохранение и развитие языка является важным фактором стабильности общества и национального единства.*

**Ключевые слова:** *родной язык, общество, национальная идентичность, языковая культура, духовность, мышление, государственный язык, национальное единство, средство коммуникации, культурное наследие.*

## ONA TILINING JAMIYATDAGI O‘RNI VA VAZIFALARI

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**Annotatsiya:** *Ushbu maqolada ona tilining jamiyat hayotidagi o‘rni, uning ijtimoiy, madaniy va ma’naviy ahamiyati tahlil qilinadi. Til — xalqning milliy o‘zligini ifodalovchi eng muhim belgi sifatida jamiyat taraqqiyotida hal qiluvchi rol o‘ynaydi. Maqolada tilning shaxs kamoloti, milliy g‘oya, ma’naviyat va tafakkur shakllanishidagi o‘rni yoritilgan. Shuningdek, davlat tili maqomini mustahkamlash, til madaniyatini rivojlantirish hamda yosh avlodda ona tiliga hurmat tuyg‘usini shakllantirish masalalariga e’tibor qaratilgan. Tadqiqot natijalari tilni saqlash va rivojlantirish jamiyat barqarorligi hamda milliy birlikning muhim omili ekanini ko‘rsatadi.*

**Kalit so‘zlar:** *ona tili, jamiyat, milliy o‘zlik, til madaniyati, ma’naviyat, tafakkur, davlat tili, milliy birlik, kommunikativ vosita, madaniy meros.*

### Introduction

The greatest treasure of any nation is its **mother tongue**. A language embodies the historical memory, cultural heritage, and national identity of its people. In the life of society, language serves as a means of communication, a reflection of thought, and a unifying factor that connects generations. Therefore, the independent Republic of Uzbekistan has always paid special attention to the development and preservation of the mother tongue.


The **Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the State Language”** (first adopted on October 21, 1989, and renewed on October 21, 2020)[1] clearly defines the status of the Uzbek language, its use, and its role in society. Furthermore, the **Presidential Decree No. PF-5850 “On Measures to Radically Increase the Prestige and Status of the Uzbek Language as the State Language”** (October 21, 2019) [2] elevated language policy in Uzbekistan to a new level.

These official documents recognize the Uzbek language not only as a tool for official communication but also as a vital element of spiritual values, national pride, and social cohesion. Today, thanks to the state’s consistent language policy, the prestige of the Uzbek language continues to rise, and it is gradually gaining international recognition.

Thus, studying the role and functions of the mother tongue in society is not merely a linguistic issue — it is a socio-cultural necessity. It plays a crucial role in fostering national identity, enriching spiritual life, and educating the younger generation in the spirit of patriotism and respect for their native language.

Analyzes

The mother tongue serves as the main instrument of communication and mutual understanding within a society. It connects individuals through shared values, traditions, and experiences. Through language, people express their thoughts, emotions, and



worldview. For example, in Uzbekistan, the Uzbek language plays a unifying role among citizens of different nationalities, strengthening social cohesion and patriotism. When people speak their native language, they feel a stronger sense of belonging and solidarity, which ensures the stability of society.

According to sociolinguistic studies, the preservation of the native language contributes to the sustainability of cultural identity. When a society loses its language, it gradually loses its unique worldview and traditions. Thus, maintaining the mother tongue is essential for the preservation of both cultural and moral values.

The mother tongue reflects the soul of a nation. Folklore, proverbs, poetry, and oral traditions all live within the framework of language. In Uzbek culture, for instance, classical literature by Alisher Navoi demonstrates the beauty and depth of the Uzbek language. His works not only enriched the vocabulary but also raised the cultural and spiritual awareness of the people.

Language transmits moral values from one generation to another. For example, the proverb “*A good word is better than a rich gift*” [3] reflects the Uzbek people’s respect for kindness and polite speech. Through such expressions, the mother tongue becomes a moral guide that shapes human behavior and social ethics.


The mother tongue is the foundation of learning and intellectual development. Children first understand the world through their native language. UNESCO research emphasizes that education in the mother tongue improves comprehension, creativity, and critical thinking. For instance, students in Uzbekistan who study primary subjects in Uzbek often show better academic performance and confidence in expressing ideas than those who begin education in a foreign language.

Moreover, the mother tongue is the key to learning other languages effectively. A person with a strong foundation in their native language can more easily master foreign languages because they already understand linguistic logic and grammar patterns.

Language policy is directly related to national progress. In Uzbekistan, the government’s efforts — such as the Presidential Decree No. PF–5850 (2019) — aim to raise the status of the Uzbek language as a state language and expand its use in science, technology, and administration. This not only strengthens national pride but also promotes inclusiveness and cultural identity in the global arena.

As the mother tongue gains prestige, it becomes a driving force for innovation, education, and social unity. Countries like Japan, France, and Korea have shown that the use of the native language in education and technology leads to stronger national development. Similarly, the Uzbek language serves as a foundation for the modernization of national consciousness and state identity.

Language is closely connected to the heart. It carries emotions, memories, and the rhythm of everyday life. Losing one’s mother tongue often means losing an essential part of identity. For migrants or multilingual individuals, speaking their native language brings emotional comfort and a sense of home. Therefore, the preservation and respect for the



mother tongue are not only cultural duties but also psychological needs for every human being.

### **Conclusion**

Language is more than a means of communication — it is the foundation of a nation's identity, culture, and consciousness. The mother tongue connects generations, preserves traditions, and strengthens social unity. It serves as a spiritual bridge between the past and the future, helping individuals understand who they are and where they belong.

The preservation and development of the mother tongue are vital for ensuring cultural sustainability and national progress. When people respect and use their native language with pride, they protect their collective memory and moral heritage. In the case of Uzbekistan, the elevation of the Uzbek language to the level of a strong state language demonstrates the country's deep respect for its cultural roots and its commitment to building a modern, enlightened, and united society.

Thus, the mother tongue is not only a linguistic phenomenon but also a moral and national value. Protecting and promoting it means protecting the nation itself.

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