



THE BENEFITS OF BILINGUAL EDUCATION

Ismatova Gulsanam Avaz qizi

Navoiy state university

A first-year student majoring in English at the Faculty of Languages

Allayarova G. N.

Academic Supervisor

+998774124573

Annotation *This article explores the numerous benefits of bilingual education. It discusses how receiving education in two languages enhances cognitive development, academic achievement, and cultural understanding. The article also emphasizes that bilingual students gradually gain a deeper insight into the culture and lifestyle of speakers of the second language, which can influence their worldwide and personal identity. Moreover, the significance of bilingualism in today's globalized labor market is also specially highlighted.*

Kirish so'zlar: *bilingual education, language learning, cognitive development, academic performance, identity.*

Annotatsiya *Ushbu maqola ikki tilli ta'limning ko'plab afzalliklarini yoritadi. Unda ikki tilda ta'lim olish aqliy rivojlanish, o'quvdagi yutuqlar va madaniy tushunchalarni qanday kuchaytirishi haqida so'z boradi. Maqolada, shuningdek, ikki tilli o'quvchilar boshqa xalqlarning madaniyati va turmush tarzini yaxshiroq anglab borishlari, bu esa ularning dunyoqarashi va shaxsiy o'zligiga ta'sir qilishi mumkinligi ta'kidlanadi. Shu bilan birga, hozirgi globallashtirilgan mehnat bozorida bilingvizmning ahamiyati ham alohida urg'u bilan ko'rsatiladi.*

Kalit so'zlar: *ikki tilli ta'lim, til o'rganish, aqliy rivojlanish, o'quv yutuqlari, shaxsiy o'zlik.*

Аннотация: *В данной статье рассматриваются многочисленные преимущества билингвального образования. Обсуждается, как обучение на двух языках способствует развитию когнитивных способностей, повышению академической успеваемости и формированию культурного сознания. Также подчёркивается, что билингвальные учащиеся постепенно глубже осознают культуру и образ жизни носителей второго языка, что может повлиять на их мировоззрение и личностную идентичность. Кроме того, особое внимание уделяется значению билингвизма на современном глобализованном рынке труда.*

Ключевые слова: *билингвальное образование, изучение языков, когнитивное развитие, академическая успеваемость, личностная идентичность.*



Education is a fundamental pillar of personal and societal development. It opens doors to opportunities and shapes the way we perceive the world. In today's globalized world, the ability to speak more than one language is a valuable skill. Bilingual education not only helps students become fluent in multiple languages, but also boosts cognitive development, academic performance, and cultural awareness.

Firstly, what is the bilingual education? Bilingual education is an instructional approach where students learn and are taught through two or more languages, typically a student's native language and a second language, aiming to develop proficiency in both language and enrich cognitive and cultural development.


Bilingual Education Act (BEA), U.S. legislation (January 2, 1968) that provided federal grants to school districts for the purpose of establishing educational programs for children with limited English-speaking ability. It was the first time that the U.S. government officially acknowledged that these students need specialized instruction. The Bilingual Education Act (BEA) was an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Beginning in the 19th century, millions of immigrants entered the United States, and many could not speak English. Some state governments pushed for assimilation, requiring non-English speaking adults to take English language classes. Children went to public schools, where they were totally immersed in the English language and often punished for speaking their native language. California and Texas established segregated public schools to accommodate the increase in Spanish-speaking children from Mexico. These schools concentrated on teaching English, but they had less funding than the schools for white non-Latino children and thus had inferior resources and underqualified teacher. Under these conditions many immigrant children dropped out or received an education that limited job opportunities. In the ensuing years there were sporadic efforts to end school segregation, and these intensified in 1946 after court ruled in *Mendez v. Westminster* that the segregation of Mexican American students in California schools was unlawful.²¹

Nowadays, studies show that bilingual individuals have better memory, stronger multitasking skills, and increased creativity. Learning in two languages challenges the brain, leading to better cognitive flexibility. Along with learning the language, students are also exposed to the culture of that language. They begin to understand the lifestyle, traditions, and worldview of native speakers. Over time, they may even start thinking like them and feel inspired to live their lives in a similar way.

Approximately 5 million students in the United States are English learners, and the number of English language learners (ELLs) in the US public school system continues to rise steadily, especially in more urbanized school districts. According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), students who speak English as a second language are more likely to struggle with academics, and only about 67 percent will graduate from public high school in four years - whereas the average for all students is 84 percent. ELL students can better develop their English proficiency and close the gap in achievement by participating in

²¹ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Bilingual-Education-Act>





language assistance programs or bilingual education programs, the NCES explains. The benefits of bilingual education can begin with students in elementary school and follow them throughout their lives. Education's impact can lead to a variety of outcomes depending on whether ELL students learn English in a monolingual or bilingual environment. Educators in diverse classrooms or working as school leaders should consider the benefits of bilingual education when creating curricula and establishing desired student learning outcomes.²²


At the same time, students may have greater career opportunities compared to those who do not speak multiple languages. Knowing two – especially three or more - languages offers a significant advantage in the job market, particularly in global companies or in fields such as translation, diplomacy, and education. Most importantly, students develop a deeper respect for their own culture as well as other cultures. Moreover, students who are allowed to use their native language at school feel valued and supported. While learning another language, they also strengthen and further develop their native language skills.

While bilingual education offers great benefits for human development, it also presents certain challenges for students. For example, in the early stages of learning, students may face various difficulties. Some learners may struggle to understand and acquire both languages at the same time, especially if they have not been exposed to these languages before. In addition, the lack of resources is another issue. Not all schools have qualified bilingual teachers, adequate teaching materials, or sufficient funding to support such programs. Students usually do not acquire both languages equally; they tend to learn one language more strongly while the other may lag behind. This is especially true for young children or learners who face difficulties in studying, as learning two languages simultaneously can lead to mental pressure and fatigue. Moreover, younger students may mix vocabulary or grammar rules from both languages, which can cause temporary confusion or slower progress. In such cases, it becomes challenging not only for the student but also for the teacher.

In recent years, interest in bilingual education has been growing in Uzbekistan as well. English is being taught from an early age in schools, which expands students' opportunities for language learning. Some specialized schools and international educational institutions have introduced bilingual instruction. However, challenges such as a shortage of qualified teachers and limited teaching materials still exist in certain regions. This situation requires continuous reforms and support to further develop bilingual education in the country.

In conclusion, bilingual education offers a wide range of cognitive, academic, and cultural benefits. It helps students improve their problem – solving skills, enhances academic performance, and promotes a deeper understanding of different cultures. Despite some challenges, such as the lack of resources or initial difficulties in learning two languages, the long – term advantages outweigh the drawbacks. In the context of globalization and increasing international cooperation, bilingualism has become a valuable

²² <https://soeonline.american.edu/blog/benefits-of-bilingual-education/>



asset for personal and professional development. Therefore, expanding and improving bilingual education should be a priority for modern educational systems, including in countries like Uzbekistan.

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