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THE ROLE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN MODERN EDUCATION

Jizzakh branch of the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek The Faculty of Psychology, the department of Foreign languages Philology and foreign languages

> Teacher: Axmedova Sevara Rakhmankulovna Student: Zarifa Usmonova zarifa0823@gmail.com

Annotation. This paper explores the multifaceted role of foreign language education in modern schooling systems, set against the backdrop of an increasingly globalized world. The discussion begins with an examination of how language learning facilitates global connectivity and cultural exchange, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of diverse perspectives. The paper also presents an analysis of the cognitive advantages of learning foreign languages, such as improved problem-solving abilities, creativity, and memory. It emphasizes the importance of educational access and equity in providing language learning opportunities to students from all backgrounds.

Key words: Opportunities, international, programs, universities, education, definition, function, communicate, curriculum, intercultural, knowledge

The concept of international education has long been associated with international student exchange programs. The vast majority of international offices in universities focus most of their efforts on sending students abroad and recruiting international students. Although the main purpose of education is to offer academic programs for young adults to become professionals, international education should not consider student mobility exclusively. The term is much broader than that. According to Jane Knight (2008: 33), international education refers to "the process of integrating an international, intercultural or global dimension into the purpose, functions or delivery of higher education." Using this definition as a reference, the international strategy should be part of all functions of a university; how to include this international strategy in all of these functions is still the main challenge. The International Association of Universities, IAU, in 2003, surveyed its institutional members about the practices and priorities of internationalization at their institutions. The following is a summary of these findings.



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"The Role of Foreign Languages in Modern Education" is a theme that explores the importance and impact of learning languages other than one's native tongue within the context of contemporary educational systems.

In an increasingly interconnected world, the ability to communicate in multiple languages is more than a skill; it's a bridge to other cultures and ways of thinking. Students who learn foreign languages gain insight into how people from different cultures communicate and see the world, fostering greater empathy and understanding. Career Opportunities and Professional Growth In the job market, proficiency in foreign languages can be a significant asset. It not only opens doors to careers in fields like international business, diplomacy, and translation but also gives candidates a competitive edge in any profession that values communication and cultural awareness. Research has shown that learning a foreign language enhances cognitive skills not directly related to language, such as problem-solving, creativity, and memory. It can also improve a student's understanding of their native language. Offering foreign languages in schools can be a matter of educational equity. It acknowledges the multilingual nature of our global society and ensures that students from various linguistic backgrounds have the opportunity to learn and excel. Despite these benefits, integrating foreign language education effectively poses challenges. These include finding qualified teachers, developing appropriate curricula, and ensuring that language learning is accessible and relevant to all students. Modern education increasingly incorporates technology in language learning. From language learning apps to virtual exchange programs, technology offers new, engaging ways for students to learn languages and connect with speakers from around the world. The role of policymakers and educators in shaping language education is critical. Decisions about which languages to offer, at what age to start teaching, and how to integrate languages with other subjects can have long-term impacts on students' language proficiency and cultural competence.

Instruction and curriculum. A major revision and most probably redesign of academic programs needs to take place, especially in those universities that have fallen behind the latest trends and are still offering very rigid, full-time programs, in which students have few or no decisions to make about which, when or how many credits to take, and from which departments. The new international strategy should at least consider a high percentage of flexible credits, online courses both from the original university and from other universities, both local and international; visiting professors and lecturers, bilingual courses and courses taught in languages other than the native tongue, as well as courses that cover different areas of knowledge from a global international perspective.



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Foreign language competence and internationalization. The notion of having an international strategy suits universities in the first world well; however, in developing countries the challenges and hazards are harder to overcome. Back in 2003, the discussion of an international strategy seemed to take for granted the fact that an advanced level of foreign language competence is required from all members of a university community to succeed in academic work. There is evidence that universities from English speaking countries are the ones that benefit the most from their international strategy and are the ones that manage to recruit the largest number of international students. Institutions that offer programs in English might come next, and of course nowadays there is rising interest in universities in Asian and Latin-American countries, Brazil included. The trends suggest that North-American and European institutions have their eyes on Asian markets and vice versa; in the case of Latin-America, the target is also North-America and Europe, however, it does not seem to be the other way around, with the exception of Brazil. With the above consideration, one issue which was not considered in 2003 as an obstacle to internationalization but that has come into.

The term modern languages, also known as modern foreign languages, is generally understood to encompass those languages studied as degree level programmes at higher education providers. The focus of study in a modern language degree is on both language and cultural studies (e.g. literature film history).

Conclusion: The role of foreign languages in modern education is multifaceted and significant. It not only prepares students for a globalized world but also enriches their personal and intellectual development. As education evolves to meet the demands of the 21st century, foreign language education remains a key component in shaping well-rounded, culturally literate individuals.

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