



Teaching Foreign Languages in Higher Education Institutions in Uzbekistan

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ABSTRACT

After gaining our Independence, today, while implementing the reforms of preparing cadres, all new specialists undergoing the higher educational system are required to know one or several foreign languages. In connection with this, huge tasks are set before teachers of English language; teachers became one of the main subjects of educational reforms. Therefore, if a teacher is open to welcome new pedagogical innovations, he can provide goal-oriented introduction of innovative ideas into educational process. English is one of the main subjects being offered in the Uzbek education system and being taught in primary, secondary schools and higher educational establishments.

Keywords:

Educational process, secondary schools, higher educational, pedagogical innovations, English language, preparing cadres, specialists

Introduction

Uzbekistan's policy of openness, active entry into the global market, expansion of international cooperation in all areas increase the need for studying foreign languages. Teaching in foreign languages is conducted in 25 higher education institutions in Uzbekistan. Therefore, on May 6, 2021, our President Shavkat Mirziyoyev chaired a meeting on measures to improve the system of teaching foreign languages. Several areas of knowledge are determined every year in Uzbekistan, the development of which is given priority attention. This year physics and foreign languages have become such areas. In 2016, there were only 7 such institutions. Over the past 3 years, the number of applicants who have received a language certificate of international level has increased tenfold. This year 350 students received grants to study at prestigious foreign universities through the El-

Yurt Umidi Foundation, which is five times more than in previous years.

However, the state of the system of teaching foreign languages at some places does not allow effectively solving the large-scale tasks in this area. So, in the education system, there are more than 2 thousand vacancies for foreign language teachers. In order to increase the quality of teaching languages in 1.4 thousand schools, a large percent of school teachers have national and international language certificates. These and other problems in the sphere were comprehensively analyzed at the meeting. Priority tasks were identified.

Methods

"The time has come to create in Uzbekistan a new system of teaching foreign languages, which will become a solid foundation for the future. Since we set

ourselves the goal of building a competitive state, from now on, graduates of schools, lyceums, colleges and universities must be fluent in at least two foreign languages. This strict requirement should become the main criterion for the work of the head of each education institution”, Shavkat Mirziyoyev said.

It was noted that an Agency for the Promotion of Learning Foreign Languages will be created under the Cabinet of Ministers. The agency will be engaged in the introduction of proven methods, programs and textbooks into the education system, and will organize training in at least 10 foreign languages based on the needs of educational institutions, industries and regions. The agency's competence will also include the task of developing and introducing methods for ministries, agencies and other employers that will allow employees to carry out professional activities in foreign languages.

One of the main tasks of the structure will be the creation of methods for professional translation from the state language into foreign and from foreign languages into the state. The agency will also maintain a rating of foreign language proficiency, develop qualification requirements and criteria for assessing foreign language teachers and assign qualification categories to them.

In general, the main activity of the Agency will be the development and implementation of methods, recommendations and textbooks for all categories of the population along the chain “kindergarten – school – higher education – enterprise”. In addition to Tashkent State Universities of World Languages and Oriental Studies, the Samarkand Institute of Foreign Languages, one university in each region will be determined as the base for the study of foreign languages.

Our President emphasized the need for creating decent conditions for teachers and stimulating them based on their qualifications. The task has been set to introduce salary increments for teachers who have received an international certificate with an initial and secondary level – in the amount of 40 percent, and for those who have achieved

a high level – in the amount of 50 percent. In addition, teachers with high scores will be reimbursed for the cost of taking the international certification test. A requirement will be established according to which starting next year only teachers of foreign languages with a national or international certificate can be hired. It was noted that over the next three years, all 53 thousand foreign language teachers in schools should receive an international certificate. The task was set to fill vacancies in schools with qualified specialists.

Discussion

207 schools in districts and cities will specialize in in-depth teaching of foreign languages. These schools will be given the freedom to choose foreign-made books, advanced curricula and methodologies, teaching will be conducted in a foreign language. The hokimiyats of the regions were instructed to allocate 1 billion UZS of local budget funds to each district and city to improve the quality of teaching foreign languages in schools. The importance of attracting foreign teachers – native speakers to specialized schools and specialized higher education institutions, organizing training for teachers of foreign languages abroad was emphasized.

Our President of the state proposed to establish a President's Award to determine the best schools teaching foreign languages. The competition will be held at the district, city, regional and republican levels. The schools that won first place at the district and city levels will receive 100 million UZS as a prize, the winners of the regional stage – 250 million UZS, and the best school in the country – 500 million UZS. Accordingly, the owners of the second and third places at the national level will also be awarded. The principals and teachers of these schools will be nominated for state awards.

The quality of teaching also depends on textbooks and teaching aids, which must comply with international standards. Therefore, the task was set to approve English textbooks from the Cambridge University publishing house in 200 schools. Similar

activity will be carried out for textbooks in Russian, German, Korean, Chinese and French. Each foreign language teacher will be allocated 1 million UZS from the budget for the purchase of new literature and manuals that will keep abreast of the latest changes in their field. The Ministry of Preschool Education has been instructed to develop, jointly with UNICEF, and implement guidelines for teaching foreign languages to children under the age of 7. The main attention at the meeting was paid to training specialists for the higher education system. It was noted that starting the new academic year, the number of admission quotas for the study and teaching of foreign languages will be doubled – up to 16 thousand, and the state grant will triple. At the same time, starting next year, a requirement for an international certificate will be introduced for applicants for master's and doctoral studies. The teaching of specialized subjects in a foreign language will be gradually introduced in higher education institutions. Free use of foreign textbooks and manuals on natural and technical subjects will be introduced. 20 specialists will be sent abroad annually for doctoral studies through the El-Yurt Umidi Foundation to increase the scientific and pedagogical potential in this sphere.

The importance of further strengthening cooperation with such foreign organizations as the British Council, Goethe-Institut, Alliance Française, KOICA, Confucius Institute, and expanding the network of non-governmental training centers was emphasized. The need was noted for stimulating the study of languages in every ministry, agency, state company and large private enterprises, to introduce a special day for the study of foreign languages there and create the necessary conditions for this. Instructions were also given to create video lessons, educational films and broadcasts, as well as the development of e-programs. Responsible officials and teachers expressed their views and suggestions on the issues discussed at the meeting.

Conclusion

Ensuring the quality of teaching foreign languages to the younger generation at all stages of the system of continuing education, radically improving the system of training specialists fluent in foreign languages, ensuring the continuity and continuity of curricula in this area Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated August 11, 2017 №-610 in order to provide benefits and incentives to pupils, students and teachers with a qualification certificate on the basis of the development of a national test system for assessing the level of foreign languages. The resolution states: - From the 2017-2018 academic year, the level of foreign language acquisition at all stages of the system of continuing education is defined in the state educational standards "Listening", "Reading", Develop and implement an evaluation mechanism based on the skills of "Writing", "Speaking"; - from January 1, 2018 to organize language learning internships in leading foreign educational institutions for students, pupils and teachers who have a state certificate of competency in the field of foreign language proficiency: 1) Taking into account that the main stages of foreign language teaching will be provided in general secondary education institutions and academic lyceums by September 1, 2018, training at all stages of the system of continuing education will be based on the principles of continuity and continuity development and implementation of programs; 2) Organization of extracurricular courses for professors and teachers in foreign languages on the basis of foreign language departments of higher education institutions; 3) Organization of intensive language courses at the level of communication in higher education institutions for students wishing to learn the language, the creation of dictionaries of terms in specialties, various competitions in foreign languages to take measures to involve leading foreign specialists in the educational process, to organize lectures in foreign languages on specialty subjects; 4) The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan in conjunction with the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education, the Ministry of Public Education to pay salaries to teachers of

educational institutions who teach special subjects in a foreign language, have a qualification certificate of B2 and higher Implement the development of a procedure for assigning premiums up to 100%;

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