



THE ROLE OF THE MOTHER TONGUE IN PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL CONTINUITY

Tóxtaboyeva Dilnuraxon

Qóqon Davlat universiteti

Boshlang'ich ta'lim yónalishi 1-kurs talabasi

toxtaboyevadilnuraxon@gmail.com

Annotation: The mother tongue is a fundamental element in the development of an individual and the preservation of national culture. It is the first language a person learns and the primary medium through which thoughts, emotions, and values are expressed. In the era of globalization, foreign languages have become essential for communication and professional growth, yet this has led to a gradual decline in the use of native languages among younger generations. This article examines the importance of the mother tongue in shaping identity, education, emotional development, and social cohesion. It also analyzes modern challenges faced by native languages and emphasizes the role of youth and society in preserving linguistic heritage.

Keywords: Mother tongue, native language, cultural identity, education, globalization, language preservation, youth responsibility.

Language is one of the greatest achievements of humanity. It allows people to communicate, share knowledge, express emotions, and build societies. Every nation in the world has its own language, which reflects its history, traditions, and worldview. Among all languages a person may learn, the mother tongue occupies a unique and irreplaceable position. It is the language learned from parents, family members, and the surrounding environment during early childhood.

The mother tongue is closely connected with a person's inner world. People usually think, dream, and express deep feelings in their native language. Even when a person masters several foreign languages, the emotional bond with the mother tongue remains strong. Therefore, the loss or neglect of the native language can lead to cultural and psychological consequences.

In modern society, globalization has made communication between nations easier than ever. English and other international languages dominate science, technology, and media. While this brings many advantages, it also creates a serious challenge for native languages. Many young people prefer foreign languages, sometimes considering their mother tongue outdated or less useful. This article aims to highlight why the mother tongue still matters and why it should be protected and valued.



Introduction

The mother tongue is more than just a communication tool; it is a symbol of national identity and cultural continuity. Through language, generations pass down traditions, beliefs, and moral values. When a language disappears or weakens, an entire cultural heritage is at risk.

In recent decades, the influence of mass media, social networks, and global education systems has changed language use patterns. Young people often mix languages or replace native words with foreign ones. This phenomenon raises important questions about the future of mother tongues. Should native languages adapt to modern trends, or should they be strictly preserved? How can society balance the need for global communication with the protection of linguistic identity?

These questions make the topic of the mother tongue highly relevant for students, educators, and policymakers.

Main Body (Asosiy qism)

1. The Mother Tongue and Identity Formation

Identity is shaped through language. From childhood, individuals learn social norms, values, and cultural meanings through their mother tongue. Family conversations, lullabies, fairy tales, and everyday communication form a linguistic foundation that influences personality development.

The mother tongue allows individuals to feel a sense of belonging. Speaking the same language as others creates unity and mutual understanding. National identity is strengthened when people share a common language. Historical experiences, collective memories, and cultural symbols are preserved through linguistic expression.

When individuals lose fluency in their mother tongue, they may experience a cultural gap. They might feel disconnected from their roots and traditions. This is why maintaining the native language is essential for preserving identity in a rapidly changing world.

2. Educational Importance of the Mother Tongue

Education is one of the strongest areas where the mother tongue plays a decisive role. Studies show that children learn faster and more effectively when taught in their native language. Understanding complex concepts becomes easier when explanations are given in familiar words.

The mother tongue also helps develop literacy skills. Reading and writing in the native language improves vocabulary, grammar awareness, and analytical thinking. These skills later support the learning of foreign languages.

When education systems neglect the mother tongue, students may struggle academically. They may memorize information without truly understanding it. Therefore, bilingual or multilingual education should be



based on a strong foundation in the native language rather than replacing it.

3. Emotional and Psychological Significance

Emotion and language are deeply connected. People express love, fear, sadness, and happiness more naturally in their mother tongue. This language carries emotional memories associated with childhood, family, and home.

Psychological studies suggest that individuals feel more comfortable and secure when using their native language. In stressful situations, people often switch to their mother tongue unconsciously. This shows that the native language provides emotional support and stability.

Ignoring the emotional value of the mother tongue may negatively affect mental well-being, especially among young people who feel pressured to abandon their linguistic identity.

4. Mother Tongue as a Cultural Treasure

Culture is transmitted through language. Folklore, literature, poetry, proverbs, and songs exist because of language. Each native language has unique expressions that cannot be fully translated into other languages.

The loss of a language means the loss of cultural diversity. Linguistic diversity enriches humanity and allows different perspectives to coexist. Protecting the mother tongue contributes to global cultural richness.

Writers, poets, and artists play a vital role in keeping the native language alive. Modern literature and digital content in the mother tongue help attract younger audiences and ensure language continuity.

5. Challenges of Globalization

Globalization has created both opportunities and threats for native languages. On one hand, people can communicate internationally and access global knowledge. On the other hand, dominant languages overshadow smaller ones.

Social media platforms often encourage the use of foreign languages. Incorrect grammar, slang, and mixed-language communication weaken linguistic standards. Over time, this may reduce respect for the mother tongue.

Another challenge is migration. When people move to other countries, they may prioritize learning the dominant language and gradually stop using their native one, especially within families.

6. Role of Youth in Language Preservation

Young people are the key to the future of the mother tongue. Their attitudes toward language determine whether it survives or declines. Using the native language in education, creative writing, blogging, and daily communication strengthens its position.

Youth should understand that knowing foreign languages is an advantage, but forgetting the mother tongue is a cultural loss. Language pride encourages



responsible use and development.

Schools and universities should motivate students to research, write, and speak in their native language while also supporting multilingual competence.

7. Social Responsibility and Language Policy

Language preservation is not only an individual task but also a social responsibility. Governments, educational institutions, and media organizations must support native languages through policies and programs.

Language laws, quality education materials, and cultural initiatives help strengthen linguistic identity. Media should promote correct and rich language use instead of careless expressions.

When society values its mother tongue, individuals naturally follow this example.

Conclusion

The mother tongue is a vital element of personal identity, emotional well-being, and national culture. It shapes thinking, strengthens education, and preserves cultural heritage. Despite the growing dominance of global languages, the importance of the native language remains unchanged.

Protecting the mother tongue does not mean rejecting foreign languages. Instead, it means creating a balance where individuals are globally competent while remaining culturally rooted. By respecting, using, and developing the mother tongue, society ensures cultural continuity and self-respect.

A nation that preserves its language preserves its soul.

REFERENCES

1. Crystal, D. (2003). *English as a Global Language*. Cambridge University Press.
2. Fishman, J. A. (1991). *Reversing Language Shift*. Multilingual Matters.
3. UNESCO. (2010). *Why Language Matters for Sustainable Development*.
4. Skutnabb-Kangas, T. (2000). *Linguistic Genocide in Education*. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
5. Phillipson, R. (1992). *Linguistic Imperialism*. Oxford University Press.