



## THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW UZBEKISTAN

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### MAQOLA HAQIDA/ О СТАТЬЕ

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### KALIT SO'ZLAR/ КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА

Yangi O'zbekiston, ingliz tili, inson kapitali, globallashtirish, ta'lim islohotlari, raqamli iqtisodiyot, turizm rivoji, xalqaro integratsiya, innovatsiya, til siyosati

### ANNOTATSIYA/ АННОТАЦИЯ

Mazkur maqolada Yangi O'zbekiston taraqqiyotida ingliz tilining tutgan o'rni va strategik ahamiyati ilmiy-nazariy hamda amaliy jihatdan tahlil qilingan. Tadqiqot davomida globallashtirish sharoitida ingliz tilining xalqaro kommunikatsiya, ilm-fan, innovatsiyalar, raqamli iqtisodiyot, investitsiyalar va turizm sohasidagi roli yoritilgan. Shuningdek, O'zbekistonda xorijiy tillarni o'qitish tizimini takomillashtirishga qaratilgan davlat siyosati, Prezident farmon va qarorlari hamda so'nggi yillarda amalga oshirilayotgan islohotlarning mazmun-mohiyati o'rganilgan. Ilmiy adabiyotlar tahlili asosida ingliz tilini bilishning inson kapitalini rivojlantirish, yoshlarning xalqaro mehnat bozorida raqobatbardoshligini oshirish, zamonaviy bilim va texnologiyalarni o'zlashtirish hamda mamlakatning global iqtisodiy makonga integratsiyalashuvini jadallashtirishdagi ahamiyati asoslab berilgan. Tadqiqot natijalari ingliz tilining Yangi O'zbekistonning innovatsion rivojlanishi, xalqaro hamkorlikni kengaytirish va barqaror iqtisodiy taraqqiyotni ta'minlashdagi muhim omillardan biri ekanligini ko'rsatadi. Shu bilan birga, ingliz tili kompetensiyalarini rivojlantirish mamlakatning intellektual salohiyatini yuksaltirish va inson kapitalining sifat ko'rsatkichlarini oshirishning muhim sharti sifatida baholanadi.

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### KEYWORDS

New Uzbekistan, English language, human capital, globalization, educational reforms, digital economy, tourism development, international integration, innovation, language policy

### ANNOTATION

This article examines the role and strategic importance of the English language in the development of New Uzbekistan from both theoretical and practical perspectives. The study highlights the significance of English in international communication, science, innovation, the digital economy, investment, and tourism in the context of globalization. Furthermore, it explores state policies aimed at improving the foreign language education system in Uzbekistan, as well as the nature and outcomes of the reforms implemented in recent years through presidential decrees and resolutions. Based on an analysis of scholarly literature, the study substantiates the importance of English language proficiency in developing human capital, enhancing the competitiveness of young people in the international labor market, facilitating the acquisition of modern knowledge and technologies, and promoting the country's integration into the global economy. The findings indicate that English serves as one of the key drivers of New Uzbekistan's innovative development, the expansion of international cooperation, and sustainable economic growth. Moreover, the development of English language competencies is regarded as an essential prerequisite for strengthening the nation's intellectual potential and improving the quality of human capital.

**Introduction.** In the context of New Uzbekistan, the development of English language proficiency has become not only a priority of the national education system but also a crucial component of the country's global development strategy. In the contemporary era of globalization, the rapid advancement of international economic cooperation, scientific research, innovation, digital technologies, and tourism has intensified the demand for competitive professionals with a high level of proficiency in foreign languages, particularly English. As a global lingua franca, English is widely recognized as the primary language of international communication in science, business, technology, and diplomacy.

In Uzbekistan, the promotion and teaching of English have been elevated to the level of state policy in recent years. In particular, the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PQ-5117, adopted on May 19, 2021, "On Measures to Bring the Activities of Popularizing the Study of Foreign Languages to a Qualitatively New Stage," has significantly contributed to the comprehensive modernization of the foreign language education system, the enhancement of young people's international competitiveness, and the development of contemporary knowledge and competencies [1]. Within the framework of this resolution, particular emphasis has been placed on the introduction of innovative teaching methodologies, international language certification systems, and digital technologies into the process of foreign language education.

At present, the importance of English is particularly evident in the fields of economics, tourism, investment, and scientific research. Proficiency in English provides substantial advantages in establishing effective communication with international investors, accessing global expertise and best practices, utilizing reputable international scientific databases, and achieving success in the global labor market. Therefore, the promotion of English language proficiency in New Uzbekistan serves as a strategic instrument for enhancing human capital, facilitating the

integration of advanced knowledge and innovations, and strengthening the country's position and reputation within the international community.

**Literature review.** In recent years, the role of the English language in economic, social, and innovative development has been extensively examined in international scholarly research. In particular, numerous studies conducted by both foreign and domestic researchers have substantiated the strategic significance of English in the process of globalization, as well as its impact on human capital development and economic growth. Existing research demonstrates that proficiency in English functions not only as a means of communication in modern society but also as a significant factor contributing to economic development.

International scholarly literature emphasizes the close relationship between English language proficiency and economic development. In particular, the study entitled "Does English Proficiency Support the Economic Development of Non-English-Speaking Countries? The Case of Asia" (2022), conducted by Yufan Li and colleagues, investigates the relationship between English proficiency and economic development in Asian countries through econometric analysis. The findings reveal that countries with higher levels of English proficiency tend to demonstrate stronger international economic integration, greater investment attractiveness, and higher levels of innovative development [2].

Similarly, in their study "The Impact of Linguistic Distance from English on Economic Growth" (2022), Z. Ozkok, B. Malloy, and A. Rowe provide statistical evidence that countries whose native languages are linguistically closer to English tend to experience relatively higher rates of economic growth. The authors emphasize the increasingly important role of English in international trade, education, and technological advancement [3].

The report "The English Effect", published by the British Council, offers a comprehensive analysis of the contribution of English language proficiency to human capital development, educational quality, and

competitiveness in the international labor market. The report concludes that English proficiency increases access to high-income employment opportunities and facilitates countries' integration into the global economic system [4].

The significance of English in international business, diplomacy, and the innovation-driven economy has also been highlighted in analytical publications issued by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). According to these studies, English proficiency serves as a vital instrument for attracting foreign investment, expanding international cooperation, and adopting advanced technologies [5].

At the same time, studies conducted by Uzbek scholars have extensively examined the role of English in the development of New Uzbekistan from various perspectives. In particular, the study "English in Uzbekistan: Language Ideologies and Teaching Practices" (2025), conducted by Diliya Hasanova and Nargiza Vokhidova, provides a comprehensive sociological analysis of the evolving role of English in Uzbek society and the national education system. The authors argue that the educational reforms initiated by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev have fundamentally transformed public attitudes toward English language learning. Through classroom observations and interviews, the study explores teachers' perceptions of English, their pedagogical approaches, and their methods of fostering global competencies. The authors particularly emphasize that English is increasingly viewed as an essential element of the "competitive state" concept in contemporary Uzbekistan [6].

Another noteworthy contribution is the study "The Roles of English and Other Languages in Uzbekistan" (2024) by Umida Hakimova, which examines multilingual language policy and the social status of English in Uzbekistan. Drawing upon statistical data and theoretical sources, the author analyzes the role of English in education, business, international communication, and scientific activity. The study concludes that English has become one of the key determinants of young people's professional success and international mobility. Furthermore, the influence of the British Council and other international organizations on language policy development in Uzbekistan is critically evaluated [7].

The research conducted by Ibrohimbek Soatov and Muattar Temirova (2024) investigates the challenges and prospects of English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI) within Uzbekistan's higher education system. The researchers emphasize that the implementation of EMI constitutes an important prerequisite for international academic integration and the preparation of modern specialists. According to the findings, English-medium education serves as an effective mechanism for aligning students' competencies with the demands of the global labor market. At the same time, the study highlights the necessity of strengthening pedagogical training, improving methodological support, and enhancing teachers' language competencies [8].

In addition, the theoretical and analytical study conducted by Tamanno Vokhidova examines contemporary challenges in English language teaching at linguistic universities in Uzbekistan. The author analyzes issues such as digital transformation, the insufficient implementation of communicative teaching methods, and the imbalance between theoretical

instruction and practical application. The study provides a scientific rationale for improving English language education in accordance with international standards. Particular attention is devoted to the implementation of CEFR standards and modern pedagogical technologies, which are identified as integral components of New Uzbekistan's educational development strategy [9].

In summary, the findings of domestic scholars indicate that the strategic significance of English extends beyond the education sector and encompasses such areas as healthcare, economics, innovative technologies, and human capital development. Collectively, these studies provide strong scientific evidence that the promotion of English language proficiency constitutes one of the priority directions of state policy in the context of New Uzbekistan.

**Research methodology.** This study investigates the role of the English language in the development of New Uzbekistan and its contribution to socio-economic progress through a comprehensive scientific approach. An integrated combination of theoretical and empirical research methods was employed throughout the study. In particular, relevant national and international scholarly literature, reports published by international organizations, regulatory and legal documents, and contemporary scientific articles were systematically reviewed and analyzed.

The theoretical foundation of the research was based on scientific concepts related to globalization, human capital, and language policy. To identify the role of the English language in economic development, innovation-driven growth, and international integration, comparative analysis, a systems approach, and analytical methods were utilized. Furthermore, the similarities and differences between the experiences of foreign countries and the reforms being implemented in Uzbekistan were examined through comparative analysis. Statistical and logical analysis methods were also applied to assess the impact of English language proficiency on the quality of education, tourism development, the investment climate, and labor market competitiveness.

This methodological framework enabled a comprehensive examination of both the theoretical and practical dimensions of the research topic, facilitated the systematization of existing scholarly perspectives, and provided a scientific basis for demonstrating the strategic significance of the English language in the development of New Uzbekistan.

**Results.** The findings of the study and comparative analyses conducted during the research indicate that the development of the English language is closely interconnected with the economic modernization of New Uzbekistan, its international integration, and the human capital development strategy. In particular, institutional reforms implemented in the foreign language education system in recent years have significantly strengthened the practical relevance of English in the country's development process. Specifically, based on Presidential Decree No. PQ-5117 of the Republic of Uzbekistan, a continuous model of foreign language education has been introduced, while the expansion of international certification systems, training of qualified teaching staff, and implementation of modern methodologies have become priority areas of state policy.

**State policy documents aimed at the development of English language education in Uzbekistan [10].**

Year	Regulatory document	Main Objective	Outcomes
2012	Presidential Decree No. PQ-1875	Development of the foreign language education system in Uzbekistan	Introduction of English language teaching from Grade 1 in general education schools
2021	Presidential Resolution No. PQ-5117	Further enhancement and popularization of foreign language learning	Implementation of international certification systems and improvement of teachers' professional qualifications
2023-2026	Strategic educational reform initiatives	Development of global competencies and modernization of foreign language education	Expansion of EMI (English as a Medium of Instruction) and alignment with international educational standards

Systematic analysis revealed a direct relationship between English language proficiency and economic development. International research indicates that countries with higher levels of English proficiency demonstrate stronger innovation-driven economies, greater investment attractiveness, and higher international trade performance [11]. This pattern is also evident in the context of New Uzbekistan. The growing inflow of foreign investment, the expansion of international companies, and the rapid development of the IT and service sectors have sharply increased demand for professionals with advanced English proficiency. In particular, in the digital economy and outsourcing services market, English proficiency has become a key criterion of professional competence.

Analytical observations further indicate that the development of the English language has a significant impact on the internationalization of the education system. In recent years, the number of young people in Uzbekistan obtaining international certificates such as IELTS, TOEFL, and CEFR has been steadily increasing. This, in turn, contributes to the

expansion of opportunities for studying abroad, international grant programs, and academic mobility. In particular, the predominance of English in scientific publications indexed in Scopus and Web of Science databases demonstrates its status as the dominant global language of academic communication.

The analysis also examined international rankings of English proficiency in Uzbekistan. According to the EF English Proficiency Index 2025, Uzbekistan ranked 104th among 123 countries and was categorized as having "very low proficiency." This result indicates that, despite ongoing reforms in the English language education system, several challenges still persist. In particular, listening and reading comprehension skills remain relatively weak. According to the EF EPI 2025 report, Uzbekistan scored 420 points in reading and 385 in listening, while writing and speaking scores were relatively higher, at 498 and 454 respectively [12].

This situation indicates that the current education system places greater emphasis on grammatical and theoretical knowledge, while communicative competencies are not sufficiently developed in practice. At the same time, significant regional disparities were identified. In particular, higher levels of English proficiency were observed in Fergana region and Tashkent, whereas lower performance was recorded in certain remote areas.

Comparative analyses were also conducted between Uzbekistan and other post-Soviet countries. The results show that Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have achieved high efficiency in English language education due to the implementation of communicative teaching models, digital platforms, and integration with international academic environments [13].

These experiences highlight the necessity of strengthening innovative approaches to English language teaching in Uzbekistan as well. In particular, expanding the use of artificial intelligence technologies, interactive platforms, CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) methodologies, and international academic cooperation mechanisms is of significant importance.

Analyses in the tourism sector further confirm the strategic importance of English. According to the World Tourism Organization, countries that successfully operate in the global tourism market demonstrate a high level of foreign language proficiency among service personnel [14]. This underscores the crucial role of English in enhancing Uzbekistan's tourism potential, improving hospitality service quality, and increasing international tourist inflows. In particular, mastering English as an integral component of professional competence is a key strategic task for students specializing in tourism and hospitality.

**Discussion.** Labor market analyses also indicate that professionals with English proficiency demonstrate higher income levels and employment opportunities. According to British Council reports, individuals with advanced English skills tend to have higher professional mobility, stronger innovative capacity, and greater competitiveness in the international labor market [15].

In addition, contemporary scholarly discussions critically evaluate the methodology of the EF EPI rankings. Some researchers and experts note the presence of potential "sampling bias," as participation in the test is voluntary [16].

Nevertheless, the EF EPI remains one of the most widely used international indicators for assessing global trends in English language proficiency and is extensively applied in academic and analytical research.

Based on the comprehensive analyses conducted, the following scientific findings were obtained:

- English is a strategic factor enhancing the international competitiveness of New Uzbekistan;
- state policies on foreign language development contribute to the modernization of human capital;

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- the development of English accelerates the integration of tourism, investment, IT, and scientific sectors;
- disparities exist in English proficiency levels across regions and age groups, indicating the need for a differentiated approach;
- the introduction of modern communicative methods and integration of international best practices are key factors in improving the effectiveness of English language teaching.

**Conclusion and recommendations.** The results of the study indicate that the English language is emerging as one of the key strategic factors in the development of New Uzbekistan. The accelerating processes of globalization, the expansion of international economic integration, and the rapid development of digital technologies have made the in-depth study of foreign languages, particularly English, a priority requirement of modern development. The systematic and comparative analyses conducted in this research scientifically substantiate that the English language has a significant impact on the fields of economy, tourism, science, investment, and innovative development.

Furthermore, it was found that the state policy on the development of foreign languages in Uzbekistan contributes to the formation of modern human capital, the enhancement of young people's competitiveness in the international arena, and the strengthening of the country's integration into the global community. In particular, the introduction of international standards in the education system, the expansion of foreign language certification systems, and the implementation of innovative pedagogical technologies are elevating the quality of English language teaching to a new level.

Based on the findings of the study, the following scientific and practical recommendations are proposed:

- to expand communicative and practice-oriented approaches in teaching English at general secondary and higher education institutions;
- to continuously enhance the international qualifications and methodological competencies of foreign language teachers;
- to provide in-depth English instruction as a professional competence in strategic fields such as tourism, economics, information technology, and international relations;
- to expand opportunities for young people to access international academic databases, foreign grants, and academic exchange programs;
- to strengthen the implementation of innovative mechanisms for English language teaching based on digital platforms and artificial intelligence technologies.

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that the development of the English language represents one of the most important intellectual and economic resources in the long-term development strategy of New Uzbekistan. Educating a young generation proficient in English serves as a crucial factor in strengthening the country's international reputation, developing an innovation-driven economy, and ensuring global competitiveness.

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