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The language policy and the institutional practices of the language interaction

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Abstract

The article analyses the peculiarities of the language policy and the institutional practices of language interaction in the Russian multinational society via comparative qualitative research methods. As a result, here is a lack of definitely written traditions, the demanded terminologies, and such other things are not enough elaborated in many republics. In conclusion, the language policy of the Russian Federation, on the whole, creates favorable conditions for the formation, maintenance and strengthening of national identities in the Russian society.

Keywords: Language policy, Russian society, Bilingualism.

La política lingüística y las prácticas institucionales de la interacción lingüística

Resumen

El artículo analiza las peculiaridades de la política lingüística y las prácticas institucionales de interacción lingüística en la sociedad multinacional rusa a través de métodos comparativos de investigación cualitativa. Como resultado, aquí hay una falta de tradiciones definitivamente escritas, las terminologías demandadas y esas otras cosas no están suficientemente elaboradas en muchas repúblicas. En conclusión, la política lingüística de la Federación de Rusia, en general, crea condiciones favorables para la formación, el mantenimiento y el fortalecimiento de las identidades nacionales en la sociedad rusa.

Palabras clave: Política lingüística, Sociedad rusa, Bilingüismo.

1. INTRODUCTION

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the processes started in the Russian multi-national society, on the one hand, of nation-building and the formation of new national Russian identity, on the other hand, of re-ethnization and reconstruction of ethnonational identities. The modern Russian society unites a single cultural (civilized) code, which is based on the preservation and development of Russian culture and language, historical and cultural heritage of all peoples of the Russian Federation. Therefore, one of the purposes of ‘The strategy of the state national policy of the Russian Federation’ is the preservation and maintenance of ethnonational and language diversity of the Russian society as basics of the Russian Federation.

Language is a special sign system, with the help of which people orient themselves in the world, find their place and coordinate social interactions (YEVSEYEVA, 2009). That is why the language is one of the means of formation of single language space which presents a field of interaction of language personalities, realized on the base of the formed system of formal and non-formal social institutions. Formal social institutions include written rules and norms of social interaction, and non-formal institutions — non-written rules and norms, formed in the sphere of social communications. Accordingly, in the language space of the Russian society, there can be singled out formal institutional practices of language interaction, conditioned by language policy and adopted by the normative legal acts within its framework on both federal and regional levels, and non-formal institutional practices of language interaction, conditioned by the rules and norms, formed in the sphere of everyday bilingualism.

For that reason, the study of language policy which determines the formal institutional practices of language interaction in the Russian society has a scientific interest especially in connection with the fact that recently some problems have intensified in it, connected with the teaching of Russian and the national languages in some republics of the Russian Federation.

2. METHODOLOGY

Language policy is interpreted as the activity of the state in the sphere of regulations of the use of the language in heterogeneous

language space as basics of social communications based on the special normative legal acts. The main functions of the language policy can include the principles and measures elaborated by the state which are aimed at the regulation of the use of the language and prediction of definite tendencies in the development of it both in social and linguistic aspects (MANOMANO ET AL, 2015).

Non-formal institutional practices of language interaction in the sphere of everyday life are conditioned by bilingualism (ALPATOV, 2013). Bilingualism is interpreted as the ability of the representatives of various peoples or ethnic groups to realize social communications in the multi-national Russian society in different languages based on the principle of language equality (ANDREYEVA, 2009). The researches differentiate between natural and artificial bilingualism. Natural bilingualism implies not only the possession of two languages but also language practices, realized in the process of social communications among the native speakers of different languages. Artificial bilingualism is connected with the learning of foreign language outside social communications with its native speakers. In the scientific discourse, the researchers also distinguish unilateral and bilateral bilingualism. Unilateral bilingualism often brings about to the disappearance of the languages of numerically small peoples, but bilateral bilingualism presents collective bilingualism expressed in the holding of different national languages by the representatives of different peoples.

In the framework of the methodological construct, the language is considered as a means of communication in human society. The language, which helps the human being to determine their place in the

world, is a special sign system, a code, which is, on the one hand, a reflection of the social reality and, on the other hand, its constructor. From the main functions of the language in the society communicative, cognitive and emotional can be singled out (IBRAGIMOVA, 2015).

The scientific research of the language policy and the institutional practices of the language interaction in the Russian society is based on the principles of trans-disciplinary social philosophy, in the framework of which the trans-disciplinarity is considered as one of the means of scientific interpretation of social reality, directed to the production of a whole model of a subject of research in the form of the system of knowledge, summarizing the results on the metatheoretical level, received in the process of different disciplinary and interdisciplinary scientific-research practices, connected with its study.

3. RESULTS

The official language of the Russian Federation is Russian, performing the function of a language of interethnic communication of the peoples in Russia. That is why the Russian language, being a factor of inter-ethnic integration, of formation of a single language space and identification of general culture, stands for the means of ensuring the integrity of the Russian state and its national security. In multinational society, in the conditions of the ethnolinguistic diversity and compound national-state construction, the maintenance of the unity of language space as a pledge for maintaining the integrity of the state

becomes possible through the protection of the Russian language as a state language by the state and the society. The legal status of the Russian language is defined by Federal Law of the Russian Federation as of 1 June 2005 № 53-F3 ‘On the state language of the Russian Federation’, which indicates that the Russian language is the state language of the Russian Federation.

The language policy of the modern Russian state towards the Russian language is characterized as conservative and is oriented to the preservation of the cultural assets and the national traditions (KANEVSKI, 2018). It can be confirmed that the Russian language is a significant factor in the inter-ethnic integration, the formation of a united language space and the identification of general culture, as well as it is a means of ensuring the integrity of the Russian state and its national security. In connection with that, one of the most important tasks of the state language policy for the increase of the role of the Russian language in the process of formation of all-Russian identity is the creation of favourable conditions for the expansion, learning, and functioning of the Russian language in the whole territory of the Russian Federation (PAVLENKO, 2013).

Besides, it is due of a mention that the peculiarity of the state policy regarding the Russian language in the Russian multi-ethnic society is expressed in a way that it becomes necessary to consider not only the Russian language as a means of unity and integrity of the modern Russian state but also all the languages of the peoples of multinational Russia. The law of the Russian Federation as of 25

October 1991 № 1807-I ensures the right of the peoples of the state on the preservation and the development of the national languages. The law defines the content of social, economic and juridical defence of the languages of Russia (article 4), imposes to elaborate and realize federal concepts with the aim to maintain, to expand and to develop the national languages of the Russian Federation (Article 7). The Law 'On languages' notes that the national languages of the Russian Federation are the national heritage of the state and are under the defences of the state, and the right to the functioning of the native language, the freedom to choose the language for interaction, upbringing, education, etc. is guaranteed.

The language policy in the Russian multinational society today is oriented to the solution of the following main issues: the preservation of the status of the Russian language as an official and the guarantee to the equality of the national languages, which is necessary to maintain internal political stability in the Russian multinational society (KANEVSKI, 2018). Notwithstanding the principles of the language policy of the Russian Federation create favourable conditions for the functioning of the Russian language on the whole, at present some negative factors of the language policy of the Russian Federation are being noticed. On this occasion, it is due to note that in modern Russia the tendency to the optimization of the state language policy is being noticed, in which, however, there are mistakes specific to the language policy of the Soviet period (KOVALEVA, MASLOVA, KOVALEV, KARAPETYAN, SAMYGIN, KAZNACHEEVA, & LYASHENKO, 2019). The language policy which is being held in the

national republics does not always correspond to the real situation in the sphere of inter-ethnic relations and language communication means and is not always able to ensure the equal development of the national languages. It is connected with the fact that not all languages in the national republics are able to correspond to the status of the state ones by their level of development and functioning. Besides, the poor lexical potential and the absence of written traditions impede the full functioning of the language in the sphere of administrative office work in the national language. When studying the peculiarities of bilingualism in the Russian society, the modern researchers pay special attention to the bilateral bilingualism, by which the realization of social balanced communication among the representatives of various ethnic communities is meant. The researchers believe that the bilateral bilingualism, as a factor of interethnic integration in the conditions of multinational society, is an institutional means of socialization on communication level (GAFIATULINA, MAKADEI, GLUZMAN, LOZHECHKINA, VOLKOVA, & BANDURIN, 2019), and the peculiarity of bilateral bilingualism includes the learning and holding the languages of each other by the representatives of multinational society in the communication process. The researchers mention that bilateral bilingualism in modern Russian society is a form of etnolingual relations and contributes to the harmonic development and improvement of inter-ethnic relations in a multi-ethnic society. In connection with this, bilingualism is an important condition of common social and political life, the cooperation of ethnic groups, cultural exchange among them, as well as the wide spreading of the language of inter-ethnic communication. Unilateral bilingualism,

however, cannot ensure such communication. Unilateral bilingualism creates an isolating linguistic barrier, which brings about to the appearance of isolated social language collectives, which differ not by ethnicity, but by language grounds. Therefore, a number of social interethnic conflicts often deepens and becomes interlingual.

Bilingualism in Russian society is considered as an important means of development of socio-cultural solidarity and exchange of communication and can determine peaceful co-existence of ethnic communities in the Russian society. Thanks to bilingualism in the Russian society socio-cultural environment in the system of interethnic relations are formed, contributing to overcome the cultural barriers. In modern Russia, the tendency of creating the common functioning bilingualism is being noticed in multi-ethnic regions, which was in fact impeded by the language policy of the Soviet Union (PAVLENKO, 2013). At present in some republics, it can be said, that the successes in the creation of balanced bilingual and multilingual language situations are already realized. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, according to the regional legislation, 35 languages received the status of official languages in the republics. In social reality, however, some negative tendencies appear connected to the realization of bilingualism in the Russian multinational society. It is connected first of all with the fact that at present the main type of bilingualism in the Russian Federation is the National-Russian bilingualism, in which the Russian language is presented as the language-mediator and the important means of inter-ethnic interaction. National-Russian bilingualism and its spreading in social spheres often bring to the infringement of the

native language both in public life and in the sphere of education, as a result of which the ignoring of the national languages takes place (PAVLENKO, 2013).

When studying the problems of realization of the principles of bilingualism in the language space of Russia, in particular, an ethnolinguistic problem in Tatarstan can be singled out, which is conditioned by the spreading of the Tatar language in the republic. At the same time the Russian and the Tatar languages, which are recognized as state ones, are not equal and asymmetric since the Russian language is in demand in all the fields of human activity, and the Tatar language is on the whole restricted by the private sphere of public life. The role of bilingual education is important in the process of realization of principles of bilingualism in the language space of the Russian Federation. From significant problems of bilingual education in some Russian republics, the issue of decreasing of hours of the Russian or national languages at schools is singled out, which leads to the violation of the rights of the language functioning, as a result of which the balance of the Russian-national bilingualism is destroyed. For the solution of the mentioned issue, in 2018 the Committee of the State Duma on education and science of the Russian Federation suggested amendment to the project on learning the native languages, according to which the possibility of receiving the education in the national languages of the peoples in the Russian Federation is ensured. Therefore, voluntary learning of the national languages is ensured since the choice of the language will be done on the application of the parents. The Russian language remains the mandatory teaching

discipline in all Russian schools. The changes will contribute to maintaining the rights of the citizens – the freedom to choose the language of the education, as well as expand the possibilities of teaching the state languages of the republics.

Thus, today there is a perception in the Russian multi-ethnic society that bilingualism is a pledge for successful self-realization of the identity and the necessary condition for co-existence and co-relation of various peoples in the process of intercultural and interlingual communication in multinational Russian society. However, this opinion is subjective since for some people this process has a mandatory character, for the others it is presented as a condition for self-realization. Besides, the fact that the second state language is not able to fully realize the functions assigned to it, is often ignored in many republics of the Russian Federation. It is conditioned by the fact that there is a lack of definitely written traditions, the demanded terminologies, and such other things are not enough elaborated in many republics. These problems have a number of alarming tendencies and potential risks for violating the integrity of the state, which may lead to conflicts.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Thus, formal institutional practices of language interaction, conditioned by language policy and adopted by normative legal acts in its framework, and non-formal institutional practices of language

interaction, conditioned by the rules and the norms, formed in the sphere of everyday bilingualism, are singled out in the language space of the Russian society. Today in the Russian language policy two main problems are combined in the conditions of the modern multi-ethnic society: the use of the Russian language in Russian society and the issue of the legal regulation of the national languages in Russia. The legal status of the Russian language is defined by the Federal law of the Russian Federation as of 1 June 2005 № 53-F3 ‘On the state language of the Russian Federation’, which indicates that the Russian language is the state language of the Russian Federation. The law of the Russian Federation as of 25 October 1991 № 1807-I ensures the rights of the peoples of the country to preserve and develop the national languages. The principles of the language policy of the Russian Federation create favourable conditions for the functioning of the Russian language, as well as for the languages of the national minorities in Russia. In this regard, the language policy of the Russian Federation, on the whole, creates favourable conditions for the formation, maintenance and strengthening of national identities in the Russian society. The language policy, however, does not always contribute to the real situation in the national republics in the sphere of interethnic relations and language communications and is not always able to ensure the equality of development of national languages.

In the Russian multiethnic society, bilingualism is the necessary condition of the co-existence of the peoples and the pledge of successful self-realization of the identity in the process of intercultural and interlingual communication. Notwithstanding that in

our days some negative manifestations of bilingualism are being noticed, which is predominantly connected with the asymmetry and non-equality of the languages, today bilingualism is presented as an important factor of inter-ethnic integration and has a special significance for the strengthening and development of the Russian language as a means of inter-ethnic interaction, as well as for the development of national languages.

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