
ISSUES ON REGIONAL VARIATION OF LANGUAGES IN THE EPOCH OF GLOBALIZATION THROUGH PARTICIPATIVE APPROACH

**Kenzhigul Kunusbaevna Segizbaeva^{*},
Gulnar Kulmukhambetovna Ismagulova and
Viktoriya Valerievna Danilova**

Kostanay State Pedagogical Institute, Tarana Street 118, Kostanay, 110000, Kazakhstan

(Received 29 August 2014, revised 11 September 2014)

Abstract

The given article is devoted to the processes of culture proliferation in modern world in the framework of globalization. The core of the article is put on the different varieties of interaction of languages that is viewed as a result of lingual contacts. The article is dedicated to the integration of Kazakh and Russian languages on the level of vocabulary. The presented typical examples of globalization of lingual lexical system enable us to speak on a special variant of the Russian language in Kazakhstan.

Keywords: integration, bilingualism, regional variants, national variants, territorial variants

1. Introduction

Issues connected with problems of language and globalization in local and foreign linguistics are under the intensive apprehension nowadays. According to E.I. Morozova “globalization being a complicated and multileveled process is considered to be the unity of two interrelated processes as globalization and localization where local is formed under the influence of global as well as a backward process – global consumes the elements of local” [1]. Issues on dynamic alterations of the language in modern world within the framework of new information and communicative technologies are complex and are aimed at disclosing new horizons for study and analysis in the conditions of multilingualism. The result of globalization is convergence and merging of cultures.

Scientists state that world and national languages are under the constant changes to be connected with globalization in the recent decade. In various regions the problem of globalization and integration is scrutinized on the examples of different languages at global dimension [A.V. Podstrahova,

^{*}E-mail: vukvuk85@mail.ru

Problems of regional variation of languages in the epoch of globalization (on the material of modern English), Inter-cultur@l-net, 2012, my-luni.ru/journal/clauses/121.pdf]. Thereupon even a new terminology as ‘central and provincial languages’ appeared. Proliferation of such evidences proves the necessity of wide apprehension and study of the given problem [2].

Consequently, the aim of the given work is to study the issues of regional varieties of modern Russian language in the conditions of globalization of Kazakhstani society.

2. Methodology

The given research is based upon participative approach that has been put forward by modern linguists as E.B. Bystrai (intercultural participative approach to forming pedagogical competence), E.Y. Nikitina (theoretical issues on participation), T.V. Orlova (participative methods in education). The choice of such an approach is justified due to the following reasons:

- participation in lingual sciences demands the account of language change in the process of development;
- active involvement of the researcher requires the knowledge of ethnical identification of lingual values.

3. Regional languages

Nowadays modern linguists point out to two significant features of lingual development of the epoch of globalization: dynamism and divergence. On the one hand, the world undergoes changes as convergence and beneficiation of languages and cultures as a result of integration and on the other hand – the loss of ethnical and ethnocultural identification and partial deprivation of national languages. One of the ways of solving with problem is an ethnosemiotic approach in teaching languages [E.A. Zhuravleva, *To the problem of national variation of languages: peculiarities of development of the Russian language*, 2010, <http://www.ia-centr.ru/expert/4124/>]. But the issue is still open for discussion.

Globalization brought proliferation and the rising role of world languages as well as survival of ethnical ones. So, it results in appearing the contradiction between global and local phenomena in the languages.

Integrational processes also influence the lingual situation in Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan is a multinational country. Languages circulating in one state are naturally under interaction. E.I. Morozova states that “international communication is a specific feature of multilingual cultures being based on ‘emerged languages’” [1]. Post soviet countries are also featured as states with ‘emerged languages’ due to the same process in the USA and Europe. Halliday points out that all people being the part of the community have to integrate in any case [3].

Unlike northern and southern variants of Dutch, Austrian variant of German, Argentinean and Chilean variants of Spanish, Canadian and Belgian variants of French, etc. that have the status of national variants, a lot is still discussed about the status of national variant of modern Russian on the territory of former USSR.

Questions concerning the identification of the variation status of the Russian language in regions are considered to be debatable. Recently, such notions as 'regional varieties of the language', 'national variants of the language', 'territorial variants of the language', etc. have become relevant.

The problem of lingual variation has been studied long ago. The great impact on the study of lingual variation has been made by A.D. Schweitser [4]. He introduced the term 'national and territorial variant', singled out and described differences between British and American variants of the English language.

A.V. Podstrahova differentiates national and territorial variants from regional ones. According to the stated author "national and territorial variation is a historically prolonged process having the result of languages variants spread on the territory of the nation used by all social strata on all the spheres of communication. They are characterized by functional and stylistic varieties reflecting and consolidating values of national culture in its process of development", whereas, "regional variants function in limited spheres of communication and can be characterized by some considered to be acceptable divergence from the standard norms of the lingual units for this region" [my-luni.ru/journal/clauses/121.pdf].

4. Results

The analysis was done according to various aspects on different genre material. The sources for the analysis are oral speech, regional newspapers, Internet-resources, feature films. The total number of studied linguistic items is 2300. The results of the analysis show the dominance of thematic group of the socio-political and socio-cultural vocabulary, and everyday language sphere.

Table 1 presents the quantitative analysis of the use of the Kazakh lexis according to thematic groups and subgroups.

5. Discussion

In the question concerning the identification of the status of national variant of the Russian language there are many supporters (E.A. Zhuravleva, N.N. Chaikovskaya, A.N. Rudyakov, Y.V. Dorofeev, V.Y. Mikhailchenko) as well as opponents (E.N. Stepanov, V.I. Terkulov, E.A. Oglezneva, etc.). Disagreements mainly concern the way of assessment of the variants of the Russian language.

Still being the form of international language in CIS, Russian influenced the ethnical languages and absorbed the elements of national languages. It is proved by various researches of modern linguists. Y.V. Dorofeev states that “the Russian language must be considered as multilingual one, consequently, it has the possibility to form national variants of its own” [2].

Table 1. Quantitative indicators of the use of the Kazakh lexis in texts.

No.	Thematic groups	Thematic subgroups	Number of items
1	Items indicating persons according to different features	According to age	110
		According to kin relations	61
		According to social status	22
2	Items indicating domestic realia	Items of welfare items, tools, buildings	130
		Items of national rites and traditions	170
		Items of clothing, food	240
3	Items indicating realia of cultural life	Items of musical instruments, dances, types of singing	270
		Items of games and holidays	140
4	Items indicating realia of nature	Fauna	220
		Flora	150
		Geographical names	130
5	Items indicating realia of socio-political life	Items of administrative position and public authorities	277
		Items of newspapers, headlines of journals, programs, organizations	180
6	Items indicating onomastic realia	Toponyms	155
		Hydronyms	45

N.N. Chaikovskaya states that on the territory of Kazakhstan there is a special Kazakhstani variant of the Russian language having peculiar lingual features differentiating it from the Russian language on the territory of Russia [N.N. Chaikovskaya and L.P. Osenmuk, *On some aspects of influence of the Kazakh language on the Russian one in Kazakhstan*, inlang.linguanet.ru/ScientificWork/ScientificArticles/]. E.A. Zhuravleva also points out to national variation of the Russian language in Kazakhstan [<http://www.ia-centr.ru/expert/4124/>].

A.N. Rudyakov says that “unfortunately, we know very little about ‘minor’ national variants of the Russian language: what are the main trends in variation, the main measure and depth of variation – these questions are not only open, but they lack instrumental basis for gaining the answers” [5].

E.N. Stepanov considers that modern Russian language does not have national variants – they are territorial Koine, or Regiolect, as “no one Russian Diaspora has become a new nation or emerged with other nation forming the third nation” [6]. According to E.N. Stepanov to recognize national variant of the Russian language means to recognize the formation of a new nation.

These suppositions (by E.N. Stepanov) are justified by having special lingual and structural peculiarities by the national language that could stand it out from the Russian language on the territory of Russia. Consequently, the issue concerns the Regiolect of one national language with one literary variety.

Regiolect is the regional variant of the national language in a particular area. The speaker of the regiolect is a particular ethnos. "The meaning of regional (territorial) Koine is in having one lingual basis to be served for different dialectal and/or national groups living together on the limited territory as general verbal means of communication." [N.N. Chaikovskaya and L.P. Osenmuk, *On some aspects of influence of the Kazakh language on the Russian one in Kazakhstan*, 12].

So, we come to the conclusion that in our case we deal with regional variants of national Russian literary language on the territory of former republics.

Regional variant is characterized by, first of all, presence of lexical regionalisms, those are units peculiar for dwellers of a given region. "Regionalism is the lexical unit borrowed from the other language but used on the peculiar territory within the framework of lingual contacts." [7]

Concerning regional variant of the Russian language on the territory of Kazakhstan it gradually acquires lexical specific features according to the viewpoints of various researchers.

The Russian language on the territory of Kazakhstan is being under adaptation to the new cultural and linguistic environment. Integration of the Kazakh and Russian languages takes place, firstly, on the flexible level of lingual system – lexical due to the lexical units reflecting fundamentals of Kazakhstani reality. It is common knowledge that lexical level of any language is the first to react to alternations in society – political, economical and social. Such lexical units are traditionally called 'kazakhisms'.

Certainly, the variant of the Russian language in Kazakhstan does not globally differ from that circulating on the territory of Russia, therefore, there are some peculiarities connected with the functioning conditions of the language in other culture.

These peculiarities are formed under the influence of linguistic picture of the world of the Kazakh nation. Let us notice that in the conditions of dual language environment in Kazakhstan, the Russian-Kazakh linguistic contacts have a double feature as it leads to interaction of the Russian literary language with the Kazakh one and vice versa.

Nowadays the situation in Kazakhstan is the following – representatives of the title nation in majority are bilingual. Bilinguals switch between two languages – native and non-native (Russian) depending on specific socio-cultural situation. The inter switch is happening proves a good level of mastering these languages.

There are representatives only with one domineering language – either native or Russian that replaced native. Northern dwellers, for example, speak mainly Russian due to close prolonged living with representatives of this

ethnoculture. Representatives of Southern regions have Kazakh language dominating.

In conditions of bilingualism majority of people face with necessity of speaking in various situations either Kazakh or Russian not mastering them in full. Sometimes it can lead to discomfort because for successful communication it is necessary to have the needed level of linguistic competence [9]. Some linguists refer this phenomenon to semi-lingualism considering partial loss of native language.

This phenomenon in Kazakhstan gained the name in substandard language as ‘shalakazakh’ (semi-kazakh) and evoked critics from a certain part of title nation. According to their viewpoint it leads to loosening the norms of the language that results in so called problem of uniqueness and ethnoligual clearness of the language.

Bilingualism enables the speakers to interact with Kazakh and Russian languages. Representatives of non-title nations (mainly, Russians) also switch on the Kazakh language in their intercourse. In this context the emergence of specific elements is noticed due not only to the absence of equivalent units in native language.

Switching between languages and inclusion of foreign lexis is widely used not only in oral communication, but also in the texts of publicist style, TV and cinema. But this process is mainly characterized by oral linguistic domestic environment. According to E.A. Zhuravleva “lexical base includes not only the volume of the lexical system of the Russian language, but also units of the lingual environment – the Kazakh language” [<http://www.ia-centr.ru/expert/4124/>].

One of the lingual integration ways is the interlingual borrowing. According to E.I. Morozova “it is necessary to form ‘lingual’ personalities not as one-sided, but in contact cultures for successful intercultural communication, full cultural dialogue, that is to provide the move of cultures towards each other in the process of that the apprehension of new values and norms as well as own cultural identity is taking place” [1].

In active vocabulary of the Russian-speakers in Kazakhstan various words reflecting national specification of the country have come. We have elaborated the classification of national specific lexical unities consisting of five main thematic groups, fatherly subdivided into thematic subgroups. The titles of the thematic groups have ‘subject’ matter:

- group 1 - units reflecting persons according to various features (age, relative relations, social status, etc.);
- group 2 - units reflecting domestic realia (things at home, tools, buildings; national services and traditions; clothing; food, etc.);
- group 3 - realia of cultural life (musical instruments, dances, types of singing, names of games and holidays);
- group 4 - names of natural phenomena (fauna, flora, geographical terms);

group 5 - units of social and political realia (items of administrative position, public authorities, items of journals, newspapers, social programs, organisations);

group 6 - onomastic realia.

Their proliferation is explained by the relevance of their realia in domestic life of Kazakhstani society.

Kazakhisms were sorted out from various courses: oral speech, regional papers, Internet-sources, feature films demonstrating this lexis as inseparable part of vocabulary of Kazakhstani citizens.

Let us illustrate some of the examples taken from local newspapers demonstrating processes of forming variant types of the language:

1. “*New-born in Moscow **kumys** appear in Kostanay market. Lawk do not we make it by ourselves?*” [Kostanay News, dated 16.04.14]

Kumys – national drink of Kazakh made of house milk

2. “*Almost all ‘15 sisters – 15 Republics’ gather together at Kharkov **dastarkhan** on Nauryz.*” [Kostanay News, dated 21.03.14]

Nauryz – national Turkish holiday indicating the New Year (celebrated on the 22, March).

Dastarkhan – Kazakh word translated as ‘table, feast’.

Such inclusions of foreign lexis are widely used not only in publicist style, but also in Internet-sources and social networks. In this case jargons, vernacular words and occasionalisms appear in the language. Phenomena of interference are widely presented in youth communication. Borrowing the words from the Kazakh language they adapt them to the Russian language. So, modern kazakhisms are formed on the base of popular Kazakhstani series and programs as ‘HEI students’ (Russian – ‘Students’, Kazakh – ‘VUZery’ there ‘ery’ – masculine form of student in plural form taken from ‘studenty’); ‘Our Kazasha’ (popular program ‘Our Russia’ in Russian); ‘KAZlandia’ (from the word ‘land’), etc.

Development and fine-tuning of Internet-technologies led to the appearance of net journals or web-blogs that caused spread of such units in the youth speech.

So, on the base of Russian phrases with the component ‘bazaar’: (‘*control your speech*’ – transliteration - ‘sledi za bazarom’), (‘*without any bazaar*’ – ‘of course’ - transliteration - ‘bez bazara’), (in the meaning ‘*no problem*’ - transliteration - ‘bazara net’) based on Kazakh variant (‘*no problem*’ - transliteration - ‘bazar zhok’) that is actively used by modern youth.

The TV program called ‘Bazar zhok’ (‘No problem’) was based on the same linguistic meaning and reflected the kazakhism in the Russian language.

Let us give only two examples of the Russian-Kazakh subculture:

1. “*Theatre of funny and resourceful ‘**Bazar zhok**’ led by Tursynbek Kabatov has been entertaining Kazakhstani watchers from previous September*” - Internet news.

2. “*New material for long-awaited ‘**Bazar zhok**’ has been written, checked and rehearsed in the capital of Kazakhstan. It is known that recently the*

tour around the Central Kazakhstan has been finished by 'Bazak zhok'. A lot of holiday monologues have been written while the road." - Internet news

Some fragments illustrate real situations and the oral speech habit of Kazakhstani people of switching between two languages, between two lingual codes formed by external and internal factors. Switching between languages is a natural phenomenon in the conditions of bilingualism.

The quantity of Kazakh words in modern Russian is increasing in Kazakhstan. Frequency of thematic group deals with the vocabulary of oral and written communication that is connected with social, political and cultural vocabulary, everyday words, toponyms and antroponyms of Kazakhstan. They have been spread and acquired. Consequently, they do not demand translation.

Borrowed Kazakh lexis is used in Kazakhstani press for intensifying the description, creating local authenticity. "Some citizens decided to take '**sarkyt**' (*the present*). The podium was decorated with flowers which became the target for resourceful dwellers of Astana". "Deputies were busy reminiscing former holidays when drinking a '**piala**' of '**kumys**'". "On central square of the old city there were approx. 30 **yurts** symbolizing minute **auls** filled with beckoning aromas of **nauryz-kozhe** and **beshbarmak**." [Our Paper, 24.03.2014]

The indicator of lexical and semantic exploration of Kazakh borrowings is based on the frequency of their use with unchanged meaning. So, in the fragment of the text 'Nauryz' we found out seven lexemes-kazakhisms that proves the high level of their lexical and semantic development.

According to E.A. Zhuravleva, emerge of lingual units on the territory of Kazakhstan has become typical, "because reality surrounding the speaker demands the use of adequate means for its reflection" [<http://www.ia-centr.ru/expert/4124/>]. That is why interference gradually leads to variation of the language.

Attention must be paid to the process of integration happening at grammatical level as well. Functional aspect has appeared in Russian word-forming affixes. So, nowadays we notice the formation of occasionalisms on the base of the Kazakh language with the help of Russian affixes and compound words continuing the row of Russian lexemes formed the same way. For instance, Nouns: *rakhatism* (*rakhat – satisfaction, joy, Russian suffix – 'ism'*); *tengushka* (*tenge – official currency of Kazakhsatn, '-ushka' – diminutive Russian suffix*); *boursachky* (*boursak – doughnut, pastry, Kazakh national dish, '-achky' – diminutive Russian suffix + suffix of plurality*); *naimanizatsiya* (*English – 'naimanisation' – the process of returning ancient tribes 'naimans'*); *zhasylevtsy* (*zhasy el – Kazakh 'green state', - 'evtsy' – the Russian suffix of indicating the agent of the action*); Adjectives: (*aulskiy – belonging to aul; mambetskiy – belonging to village, non-educated, not polite; dastarkhanniy – rich in food*); Verbs: *chabanit'* (*to herd the cattle*); *beshbarmachit'* (*to eat beshbarmak*), etc.

On the basis of frequency units, derivatives are formed: *akim* – *Akimat* – *akimatovskiy* (*belonging to Akimat*); *rakhat* – *rakhatism*, *rakhatisatsiya*; *Nurotan* – *Nurotanovtsy*, *Nurotanovskiy*; *zhuldyz* – *zhuldyztut'sya*, *zhuldyznutiy*; *dzhigit* – *dzhigitovka*, *dzhigitovat*'.

The use of word-forming elements of the Russian language often decorates Kazakh words, they become more expressive. According to N.N. Chaikovskaya “these facts prove national variant of the Russian language that must be view from the angle of variation” [N.N. Chaikovskaya and L.P. Osenmuk, *On some aspects of influence of the Kazakh language on the Russian one in Kazakhstan*, 12].

6. Conclusion

Consequently, it must be pointed out that variation of the language is an inseparable property of the development and integration of the languages. Various researches on this problem prove the existence of regional variants of the Russian literary language. Variation of modern Russian language of Kazakhstan is determined by the fact of long interaction of two cultures: Kazakh and Russian. Prolonged interethnic and intercultural connections, constant change-over from one language to another, interference, have led to appearance of the regional variant of the Russian language in Kazakhstan. Further detailed and scrutinized study of the Russian language in the conditions of regional variants is considered by us very urgent, justified and of perspective.

References

- [1] E.I. Morozova, *дискурсологія*, **897** (2010) 99-105, online at <http://www.dspace.univer.kharkov.ua/bitstream/123456789/4957/2/%D0%95.%20I.%20Morozova.pdf>.
- [2] Y.V. Dorofeev, *Variant forms of the Russian language in modern word*, Proc. of International conference ‘Language and society in modern Russia and other countries’, V.A. Vinogradov & V.Y. Mikhalchenko (eds.), Institute of Linguistics RAS. Scientific and Research Center on National Bonds, Moscow, 2010, 325-328.
- [3] M.A. Halliday, *Language as social semiotic. The social interpretation of language and meaning*, Edward Arnold, London, 1979, 31-35.
- [4] A.D. Schweitser, *Theory of translation: status, issues, aspects*, Nauka, Moscow, 1988.
- [5] A.N. Rudyakov, *Georussistics and lingual mechanisms of forming national variants of the language*, ‘Language and society in modern Russia and other countries’, V.A. Vinogradov & V.Y. Mikhalchenko (eds.), Institute of Linguistics RAS. Scientific and Research Center on National Bonds, Moscow, 2010, 6-8.
- [6] E.N. Stepanov, *Mova: scientific and theoretical issues in linguistics*, **16** (2001) 12-13.
- [7] V.A. Kozhemyakina, N.G. Kolesnik and T.B. Kryuchkova, *Dictionary of social and linguistic terminology*, FLRAS, Moscow, 2006, 312, online at voluntary.ru/dictionary/981/.

- [8] I. Garcia, C. Pacheco and J. Ruizb, *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, **93** (2013) 1869–1878.