

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

ScienceDirect

Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences 143 (2014) 1139 – 1143

Procedia
Social and Behavioral Sciences

CY-ICER 2014

Bilingualism Among Young People In Kazakhstan

Alishariyeva Akbota

^a*FAI-Farabi Kazakh National University, 71 Al-Farabi Avenue, Almaty, Kazakhstan*

Abstract

For Kazakhstan, a multilingual and multiethnic country, the issue of multilingualism is a historic and current phenomenon. It is home to 126 nationalities, such as: Belarusians, Kirghiz, Korean, Russian, Tajik, Tatar, Uighurs, Uzbeks, Ukrainians and others. It is well known fact that the observed linguistic and cultural diversity of the country is affected by a number of historical factors, in particular, processes accompanying the accession of Kazakhstan to Russia (1731-1865), as the researchers note,; repeated revision of state borders, especially state-political system pre-Soviet, Soviet and post-Soviet periods, and recent events that have taken extremely consequences for all the people of the country; radical transformation of the entire society - governmental system, the modernization of society and the economy of independent Kazakhstan (Suleimenova and others, 2010, Suleimenova, Smagulova 2005).

© 2014 Published by Elsevier Ltd. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/>).

Peer-review under responsibility of the Organizing Committee of CY-ICER 2014.

Keywords: bilingualism, Kazakh, Russian, sociolinguistics;

1. Introduction

Like any other of post-Soviet state, Kazakhstan has experienced significant changes in the political, ideological and cultural content of education. It is difficult to find the identity of the monolingual, especially among the youth and the younger generation. It is noteworthy that for the residents of the former Soviet Union the problem of bilingualism was shown in the first and foremost in the national-Russian bilingualism, today the political transformation, economic and social conditions, and the establishment of the state of ethnic identity is the citizens in the CIS countries were given the opportunity to upgrade the role of languages of national, retain Russian as the language of international communication, science, culture, active it to expand into other languages and come out on the world stage. In the process of obtaining education every Kazakhstan citizen has the opportunity to learn 3-4

Corresponding Author: Alishariyeva Akbota
E-mail: alishariyevaakbota@gmail.com

languages. The Russian language of Kazakhstan is going through some changes related to its functioning in an environment that is specific to many cultural and political dimensions (Shaibakova 2005). For example, an elder brother is called "brat" (elder brother), and a younger is "bratikhka" (little brother), an older sister is "sestra" (sister), but a younger sister is "sestrenka" (little sister), at a meeting always ask, "Kak dela?" (How are you?), regardless of the social status of the listener.

In our studies of language shift tendency to use and learning of languages that exist in contemporary society is observed by sociolinguistic and psycholinguistic methods (eg, Ibraeva, Alishariyeva 2012).

And, of course, here the question of what foreign languages, to what extent and in what order to teach, when to start, where to practice rises.

Bilingualism in Kazakhstan exists not only at the level of each individual, but also in society, and the confusion of tongues is observed in the cases of use of literary language use. Speaking in Kazakh, Kazakhstani often uses in his speech words like "khorosho, ladno, potomu chto, chtoby, voobshe, davai" (well, okay, because that, in general, come on), idioms and interjections such as "da ty chto, nu, da ladno" (What do you mean, well, never mind). A lot of administrative vocabulary is borrowed, although in many cases new Kazakh official terms were created. Evidence of the constant switching of codes is the use of Kazakh and Russian languages in the media. Thus, a number of analytical, entertainment programmes differ by simultaneous use of both languages ("Sagan senemin – Moi lutchii", "Eki zhuldyz", etc.). Modern TV channels are guided by a bilingual information customer, as confirmed by the high ratings of such programs. So far, most of the population is actively speaks Russian, at least at the level of understanding, although many admit that the Kazakh is simpler and easier for them than for their parents, but sometimes vice versa, when the younger generation learns Russian better than the parents. And, of course, here the question of what foreign languages, to what extent and in what order to teach, when to start, where to practice rises.

Usually there is a confusion of languages at a certain stage of training or in a situation where communication is simultaneously used in multiple languages. This phenomenon as a subject of study is at the junction of sociolinguistics, contrastive linguistics, psycholinguistics, etc. and analyzed in the scientific literature as switching / mixing of language codes in the transition from one language to another and back. The transition may be unconscious or deliberate, a play on words, attitudes, reference to past experience. In multinational Kazakhstan switching codes is, as we think, fairly stable and talks about the possession of many languages in the population.

Then the question "what kind of society we live in, whether we are equally easy to speak two or more languages and live in two or more cultures" emerges. For Kazakhstan the situation is in some respects a stable, because it was formed a long time ago enough. But in different periods of human life one and the same language may be more or less important to him, such as when he lived in Russia, the Russian is the most important, the Kazakh language when he leaves to relatives in Kazakhstan, and English when studying in England. In other words, depending on the conditions of formation and use of language one or the other language dominates.

In today's rapidly changing world, the role of language is undeniable: the knowledge of languages opens up the possibility of it; knowledge other countries and cultures, meeting interesting people broaden their horizons, it's a kind of "window on the world" and the "key" to other cultures. Interest in foreign languages increased to the extent that people are becoming more aware that in the era of globalization, the rapid development of modern information technology without the knowledge of two or more languages is indispensable.

Learning a foreign language is a complex process that requires a lot of time and effort. It is known that the languages are to digest faster and easier as a child, but that adults begin learning a particular language for the realization of their goals in life consciously and motivated. Depending on personal competencies and conditions of the learning process language learning / language can be different degrees of success.

We conducted a survey of students, undergraduates and doctoral students of the Kazakh National University named after Al-Farabi on the subject of their multilingualism and the use of different languages in life. 34 people attended it, where the youngest is 17 years old, the oldest is 40 years old, and the average age is 21. Only one questionnaire was filled in Kazakh, the rest contained some responses in that language.

In the questionnaire we asked to list the languages spoken by our informants (up to five), which languages are important to them (up to five), what countries they are of interest (up to five) that they think of when they hear it in different languages.

To the question of the languages spoken by the informants, 34 people said Russian, 33 people answered Kazakh, 31 answered English, 6 answered Turkish, 5 answered German, 3 answered Uzbek and French, one answered Spanish, Kyrgyz, Chinese, Korean, Kurdish, Slovak, Japanese and Uighur.

By the number of references and language of the place, which is the language spoken in the listing, we derived two types of ratings. The results are shown in the following table:

Language	Rating	Number
Kazakh	1,3	33
Russian	1,8	34
English	3,0	34
German	4,2	17
French	4,7	10
Turkish	4,5	9
Arabic	4,9	7
Chinese	4,5	6
Spanish	5,0	3
Korean	4,0	3
Kyrgyz	4,0	2
Latin	4,5	2
Uigur	1,0	1
Kurdish	2,0	1
Chechen	5,0	1
Japanese	5,0	1

The results show that for the audience the most significant is the Kazakh language, followed by Russian, then lists the most common foreign languages such as English, German, French. Turkish is regionally significant, genetically and etymologically, but the language of the neighboring country Chinese occupies an important place. Arab is also a high ranking language. Some ancestral small languages like Uighur, Kurdish, Chechen are close to the respondents.

The questionnaire also asked about the significance of different languages in the lives of young people. The following data (in brackets the number of similar responses).

Kazakh: native (18), grandparents (2) Family (2), childhood, nationality, language, homeland (2), the mother of identical my ethnicity, environment, state (4), it can not be learned, would like to know as Russian, study, but seldom drink.

Russian: the language of communication / communication (16), inter-ethnic communication (2) public, dominant, basic, senior, education / learning (2) knowledge of the world, is often used in everyday life (2), native / first (6) speak fluent / make myself (2) I love to think on it, awareness, favorite books (2), taught at the school / university, the second of friends (2).

English: the language of my profession / job / occupation / profile (9) Future (4), the dream, goal, achieve goals, bread, prospects, world language, science, trade, political and economic relations, training / classes / lessons (5) information (2), communication / with other nations (3), the guide to the world of friendship, the first foreign, foreign, from school age, music, exploring the cultures of other countries, the most important, rescues in other countries, the success (2), the consumer.

Arabic: prayers / religion / Islam (5) of the Qur'an and all Muslim nations should learn, mandatory.

German: ancestors, friends and relatives living in Germany, a close, the future, a second foreign language (4), the object of study, science, technology, work, study and has not mastered, I dream/I want to learn (2), a window to Europe, beautiful, music.

Spanish: I want to learn, fun, important in the future, love.

French: world, scientific, second foreign language, will study (3), studied at an early age, I would like to own, will move to France, interesting, beautiful (2), singing.

Chinese: the language of the dominant nation, trade, the neighboring country, technical, incomprehensible, demanded, I want to master in the future.

Turkish: culture of the people, products, movies, want/dream to learn (3), talk, bilingual teachers, all Turkic peoples, required, communicating with friends, beautiful.

Kyrgyz: grandmother likes to talk, but do not know well.

Japan: Anime, a country where you want to go.

Korean: interests, fun to explore, like listening to music, I want to master.

Hindi: would like to explore.

Kurdish: the language of the family, the relationship with her family.

Latin: Medicine (2).

Uygur: past, present and future.

Chechen: great-grandfathers.

It is possible to know from the responses of informants that language of the ancestor are more important to them than the motives of interest in different languages are different, but all have a wide view of the world and are interested in many cultures (for example, Korean, Japanese, like many of their peers in other countries the world). In this case, the Kazakh language as a matter of course, and Russian - is present in the environment. Foreign languages are interesting as a working tool, as a means to achieve certain goals, as the language of the countries in which respondents are going to be educated, to live in the future or which are associated with their profession. Arabic as the language of Islam, Turkish and Chinese both geopolitically and economically important are some regional specificity. Most definitions are pragmatically oriented, though often emotive, only a few cases are characteristics of the sound quality of language (as expected, more often in the beauty of the French).

Further, in a survey, we needed to find out which countries are interesting informants as they position themselves in the world, how attractive the space beyond the borders of their homeland, which countries are important for their identity, for self-determination. Below we provide a generalized answers:

Kazakhstan - my homeland, where I live and I love, homeland, homeland, my homeland, my home, the country home and family, my land, where I live, where I grew up, a second home for grandparents who saved my people, beloved country, no better place, value.

Russia - a country situated in the neighborhood of Kazakhstan, one of the mighty / great powers, which are closely related to our history has an impact on Kazakhstan in the language and the economy, partner, Kazakhstan's main ally, partly due to a close knowledge of the Russian language (historical) homeland, far strange country, there have relatives coming to visit relatives, childhood, takes 1st place in the area.

America, the United States - a country in which I would like to continue their education, the future experience, the land of opportunity, where would like to work, practice skills, the country dialogue, I will live there, rival Russia at the political level, the Americans, the country star, want I dream to go there, travel to an industrial country, danger, terrorism, world power.

England, UK - the country of the English language, place of birth of the studied language, I want to go, to go to improve the English language, higher education, learn, historical, interesting, a dream country.

China - a rapidly developing country that wants to conquer the world, strong, there can learn Chinese, the danger comes, the rich history and culture, a world power.

South Korea - a country with an interesting culture, you want to go, I want to live there in the future, there serials, there is an interesting young people.

Turkey - an open, accessible country for rest and relaxation, a second home, where he lives and the brother was going to live, and tourism.

Kyrgyzstan - the first a country that has visited, it is associated with good memories.

Kurdistan - the birthplace of my people (it is in Iraq, Iran, Syria and Turkey).

UAE - I want to go to Mecca to visit, I want to enrich the spiritual world.

Arabia - the center of the majority of Muslims, the holy nation.

Saudi Arabia - violated the rights of women, my goal, much want to visit. Dubai - rest.

Malaysia - a country which would like to get more education.

France - Eager to go, relax, visit, romantic, goal, the world of fashion and perfume.

Germany - I want to learn discipline and tact, the future of the country, I want to go, neat, clean, historic land, the people whose language teaching.

Spain is a dream, I want to study there, although the current situation in Spain is not very pleased residence.

Italy - beautiful, Coliseum, theaters, tourist.

India - a spiritual country, an incredible country, where I visited, magical country with a fascinating and rich culture.

Greece - dream to visit, representatives earn respect.

Iceland - would like to visit.
Norway - I want to visit.
Czech Republic - a country of medieval culture.
Egypt - Pyramid.
Belarus - rest.
Canada - recreation, the purest country.
Japan - the birthplace of culture, cherry blossoms, technology and culture.
Estonia - interested.
Europe - tourism.

Respondents were interested in different countries; the coverage is quite substantial, most of the - in terms of recreation, tourism, exploring the history and culture. Not all titles are accurate and correspond to the existing map. More specific interests related to the country of interest and focus on the choice of future profession. In some cases, the motives of choice due to the existing stereotypes in society. It is interesting that there are universal, and more local, specific needs are satisfied through the gathering of information about the country and travel. And while many already have personal experience of moving abroad, contact with family members who permanently reside abroad.

In general, research shows that young people of the Republic of Kazakhstan, studying in the University, is interested in many different languages and cultures, including the orbit of the attention different peoples and cultures, lives in a world where borders are revealed, and multilingualism is a means of moving from one opportunity to the next. Russian continues to play an important role in this country.

References

- Ибраева Ж., Алишариева А. Социолингвистическое исследование речевого поведения казахстанской молодежи (результаты интервью и анкетирования)// Материалы международной конференции «Русский язык в семье». Хельсинки, Москва, 140-143.
- Сулейменова Э.Д., Алтынбекова О.Б., Ибраева Ж.К., Мадиева Г.Б. Динамика языковой ситуации в Казахстане. – Алматы, 2010.
- Сулейменова Э.Д., Смагулова Ж.С. Языковая ситуация и языковое планирование в Казахстане / Под.общ. ред. Э.Д. Сулейменовой. – Алматы: Казак университеті, 2005.
- Шайбакова Д.Д. Функционирование русского языка в Казахстане: вчера, сегодня, завтра. – Алматы, 2005.