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КЫРГЫЗ РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫН ЖОГОРКУ ОКУУ ЖАЙЛАРЫНДАГЫ КОШ ТИЛДИК
ЖАНА КӨП ТИЛДИК ГЛОБАЛИЗАЦИЯ ШАРТЫНДА

ДВУЯЗЫЧИЕ И МНОГОЯЗЫЧИЕ В ВЫСШИХ УЧЕБНЫХ ЗАВЕДЕНИЯХ КЫРГЫЗСКОЙ
РЕСПУБЛИКИ В КОНТЕКСТЕ ГЛОБАЛИЗАЦИИ

**BILINGUALISM AND MULTILINGUALISM IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS
OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION**

Кыскача мүнөздөмө: Ааламдашуу доорунда кош тилдүүлүк жана көп тилдүүлүк, өзгөчө Кыргыз Республикасы сыяктуу ар түрдүү тилдик пейзаждары бар өлкөлөрдө өзгөчө мааниге ээ болууда. Жогорку билим берүү системасында бир нече тилдердин – кыргыз, орус жана англис тилдеринин болушу кыйынчылыктарды да, мүмкүнчүлүктөрдү да жаратат. Бул макалада кыргыз университеттериндеги кош тилдүүлүктүн жана көп тилдүүлүктүн ролу изилденип, дүйнөлүк тенденциялардын тил саясатына, билим берүү практикасына жана лингвистикалык ландшафтка тийгизген таасири каралат. Изилдөө ошондой эле заманбап билим берүү жана глобалдык коммуникацияда чечүүчү ролду ойногон англис тили сыяктуу эл аралык тилдерди интеграциялоодо эне тилдерин колдонууну сактоо көйгөйлөрүн баса белгилейт. Макалада ошондой эле университеттер ааламдашкан дүйнөдө студенттердин академиялык жана кесиптик келечегин жогорулатуу үчүн көп тилдүүлүктү кантип колдонсо болору каралат.

Аннотация: В эпоху глобализации двуязычие и многоязычие становятся все более значимыми, особенно в странах с разнообразными языковыми ландшафтами, такими как Кыргызская Республика. Наличие нескольких языков – кыргызского, русского и английского – в системе высшего образования представляет как проблемы, так и возможности. В этой статье рассматривается роль двуязычия и многоязычия в кыргызских университетах, изучается влияние глобальных тенденций на языковую политику, образовательную практику и языковой ландшафт. В исследовании также подчеркиваются проблемы поддержания использования родных языков при интеграции международных языков, таких как английский, который играет решающую роль в современном образовании и глобальной коммуникации. В статье также рассматривается, как университеты могут использовать многоязычие для улучшения академических и профессиональных перспектив студентов в глобализованном мире.

Abstract: In the era of globalization, bilingualism and multilingualism are becoming increasingly significant, particularly in countries with diverse linguistic landscapes such as the Kyrgyz Republic. The presence of multiple languages – Kyrgyz, Russian, and English – within the higher education system presents both challenges and opportunities. This article explores the role of bilingualism and multilingualism in Kyrgyz universities, examining the impact of global trends on language policies, educational practices, and the linguistic landscape. The study also highlights the challenges of maintaining the use of native languages while integrating international languages such as English, which plays a crucial role in modern education and global communication. The article also considers how universities can leverage multilingualism to enhance students' academic and professional prospects in a globalized world.

Негизги сөздөр: кош тилдүүлүк; көп тилдүүлүк; жогорку билим; Кыргыз Республикасы; глобализация; тил саясаты; лингвистикалык көп түрдүүлүк; Англис тил; билим берүү системасы.

Ключевые слова: двуязычие; многоязычие; высшее образование; Кыргызская Республика; глобализация; языковая политика; языковое разнообразие; английский язык; система образования.

Keywords: bilingualism; multilingualism; higher education; Kyrgyz Republic; globalization; language policy; linguistic diversity; English language; education system.

Introduction

In the context of globalization, linguistic diversity in the Kyrgyz Republic is increasingly under pressure, especially in higher education. The country, which officially recognizes Kyrgyz and Russian as state languages, also faces the growing prominence of English in academic and professional domains. English has become a global lingua franca, facilitating communication and cooperation in various fields such as science, technology, business, and culture. However, this trend has led to concerns about the potential erosion of native languages, particularly Kyrgyz, which faces challenges in maintaining its use and importance in an increasingly globalized world. This article aims to examine the dynamics of bilingualism and multilingualism in Kyrgyz universities, exploring how these phenomena contribute to the academic success and future opportunities of students while preserving the linguistic and cultural heritage of the country.

Bilingualism and Multilingualism in Kyrgyzstan's Higher Education System

Higher education institutions in the Kyrgyz Republic are places where language policies are most visibly enacted, as they shape students' linguistic competencies for the future. The use of multiple languages – Kyrgyz, Russian, and increasingly English – creates a complex linguistic environment that both reflects and influences the educational landscape.

1. The Role of Kyrgyz and Russian Languages

Kyrgyz, as the state language, is promoted in public life, but Russian continues to serve as a vital medium of instruction in many universities. Russian, as the language of the Soviet era, remains entrenched in academia, particularly in technical, scientific, and medical disciplines. However, the growing trend of promoting the Kyrgyz language in education reflects efforts to preserve national identity and cultural heritage. In universities, many students are required to study both Kyrgyz and Russian, and bilingual education programs aim to enhance proficiency in both languages.

2. The Influence of English in Higher Education

English has become an indispensable language in the globalized world of academia. In Kyrgyzstan, English is increasingly used in universities for subjects like business, economics, engineering, and international relations. English-language programs, often offered in partnership with international universities, provide students with opportunities to engage with global academic networks. The widespread use of English in academic texts, journals, and online resources also enhances access to global knowledge and research, which is vital for maintaining academic competitiveness in a rapidly changing world.

3. Challenges of Multilingualism

Despite the advantages of bilingualism and multilingualism, there are challenges to managing the linguistic diversity in higher education institutions in Kyrgyzstan. One of the main challenges is the potential marginalization of Kyrgyz, as students and professors increasingly turn to Russian and English for academic purposes. In some fields, Russian and English are seen as more relevant for future careers, which may lead students to undervalue their native language. Another challenge is the lack of sufficient resources and trained personnel to deliver high-quality education in Kyrgyz, which can contribute to the unequal distribution of educational opportunities across linguistic groups.

The Impact of Globalization on Language Use in Kyrgyzstan

Globalization has led to significant changes in the linguistic landscape of many countries, and Kyrgyzstan is no exception. The impact of globalization on the higher education system is complex, as it both challenges and enriches local languages and cultures.

1. Increased Demand for English

The global prevalence of English as the primary language of international business, technology, and diplomacy has made it a key language in the academic domain. In Kyrgyzstan, English is not only essential for international cooperation but also for academic and professional advancement. Universities that offer courses and programs in English attract students from both within and outside the country, expanding their global reach and academic collaboration. As a result, there is a growing

demand for English-language proficiency, which is increasingly seen as an essential skill for young professionals.

2. Cultural and Linguistic Tensions

The push for English language education can create tensions with efforts to preserve native languages. While English opens doors to global knowledge and opportunities, it also risks overshadowing Kyrgyz and, to a lesser extent, Russian. This tension highlights the need for a careful balance between embracing the global language and ensuring that local languages remain a central part of the educational and cultural fabric of the country.

3. The Role of Universities in Language Preservation

Kyrgyz universities have a pivotal role in preserving linguistic diversity while embracing globalization. They can promote multilingualism by offering programs that allow students to become proficient in multiple languages without sacrificing the use of their native tongue. Universities can also contribute to language preservation by producing academic materials, research, and cultural content in Kyrgyz, ensuring that it remains a living and dynamic language.

Strategies for Promoting Bilingualism and Multilingualism

Several strategies can help mitigate the negative effects of globalization on the Kyrgyz language while maximizing the benefits of multilingualism in higher education:

1. Bilingual Education Programs

To ensure the continued use of Kyrgyz alongside Russian and English, universities can implement bilingual education programs that integrate native languages into academic curricula. These programs should focus on subjects where the Kyrgyz language has the potential to thrive, such as history, literature, and cultural studies. By offering high-quality education in Kyrgyz, universities can ensure that students are proficient in both their native language and global languages.

2. Language Policy and Support

The Kyrgyz government can play a critical role by implementing policies that encourage the use of Kyrgyz in academia while promoting multilingualism. This may include providing resources for the development of educational materials in Kyrgyz, supporting research in the native language, and incentivizing institutions to offer courses in both Kyrgyz and English. Furthermore, universities can collaborate with international organizations to strengthen their language support services and create a more

inclusive academic environment for students from diverse linguistic backgrounds.

3. Promoting Cultural and Linguistic Awareness

Universities can also promote cultural and linguistic awareness by organizing events, conferences, and workshops that highlight the value of linguistic diversity. By fostering an understanding of the importance of preserving native languages, universities can inspire students to take pride in their linguistic heritage and become ambassadors of their native languages in a globalized world.

Conclusion

Bilingualism and multilingualism are critical components of the educational and cultural landscape in the Kyrgyz Republic, especially in the context of globalization. While English offers significant advantages for academic and professional development, it is important to ensure that native languages like Kyrgyz and Russian continue to play an active role in higher education. By implementing effective language policies, supporting bilingual education, and promoting cultural awareness, universities in Kyrgyzstan can navigate the challenges of globalization while preserving their rich linguistic heritage.

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