

## ETHNOCULTURAL AND LANGUAGE POLICY IN THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

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**Abstract:** Study of main directions of ethnocultural and language policy allows simplifying the complicated system of interethnic relations. Enhanced studying of peculiarities of ethnocultural and language policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan is the relevant issue for historians, politologists, sociologists and lawyers. Article examines the issue of implementation of state ethnocultural and language policy in the context of migration changes, education reform and mass-media development. There presented the analysis of role of repatriation and diaspora policy in transformation of ethnocultural and language sphere of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Special meaning of support mechanisms for Kazakh diasporas of far and near abroad and presentation of quotas for repatriates and development of language initiatives were emphasized. Peculiarities of language policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan in post-Soviet period are examined. Definitions of language policy are shown. Main social and political trends of formation history of language policy are noted. Complex analysis of main trends of ethnohistorical transformations of society was made, considering the ethnopolitical and ethnocultural components of main directions of state policy on formation of civil and language identity.

**Keywords:** Ethnocultural policy, language policy, Kazakhstan, repatriation, diaspora.

### INTRODUCTION

Process of national state formation is of long-term nature. Incremental changes of economical, legal, social spheres of society life cause the appearance of unique functional basis of the nation. Types and mechanisms of public relations in basic conditions are the abstract constructions, and are included into well-functioning operable system step-by-step. Republic of Kazakhstan could achieve the respectable success in such complicated spheres of political relations as ethnocultural and language policy.

Goal of this work is to study the main trends and achievements in formation history of ethnocultural policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Problem definition is conditioned by the necessity of historical analysis of main trends and achievements of ethnocultural policy, which form the political reality of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

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## METHODS

In this work there made an attempt to disclose the main trends and achievements of ethnocultural policy basing upon the principles of historicism, integrality and objectivity. Term “ethnocultural policy” presents us the actions, directed to the implementation of relations of power in the sphere of interrelation of state, institutes of civil society and exact ethnocultural groups – historically formed communities, consolidated on the base of anthropological, ethnic, cultural and religious likeness.

When writing this work, general scientific methods were applied: systemic, structural-functional, analysis and generalization. With the aim to process the big extent of information, authors used special methods of research as well.

As special methods of studying of migration changes, diaspora policy and formation of polylingual society, special approaches of demographic processes analysis were applied: methods of structural grouping, comparison and factorial analysis, situational analysis of migrations. At studying, data of population census, statistical agencies and sociological polls were used.

Instrument, which allows studying the qualitative regularities of media field functioning, is the special method of content-analysis.

In description of key aspects of language processes, institutional approach and method of comparativistics were used. Combination of these two instruments allowed characterizing of main aspects of ethnocultural and language policy at the country level.

Ethnocultural policy was primarily interpreted in the USA as the practice of voting subject to ethnic and religious features, which was connected to the growing inflow of migrants after 1830. Today ethnocultural political preferences are still compose an important part in fight for power in the USA.

L.-E. Cederman, N. Weidmann and K.S. Gleditsch, basing upon special method, made a conclusion that possibility of crisis in ethnocultural policy in societies with high level of social inequality is the highest [Cederman Lars-Erik, Weidmann,Nils, Gleditsch Kristian Skrede. Horizontal Inequalities and Ethno-nationalist Civil War: A Global Comparison. *American Political Science Review*. 2011, no. 105(3), 478-495 pp.].

Famous Russian researcher and major scientist in the sphere of ethnopolitics, V.A. Tishkov, denotes that country shall name the policy of provision of national priorities and interests of the country as “national policy”, and policy of saving and management of ethnocultural variety shall be named “ethnic policy” [Tishkov V.A. Ethnic and religious variety is the base of stability and development of Russian society: Articles and interview. – M.: Moscow bureau on human rights, “Academia”, 2008. – 84 p.; 81].

V.Yu. Zorin characterized the issue of modernization of state concept of ethnonational policy as the ethnocultural policy, or ethnopolity, having defined it as the construction of system of state organization and management in terms of multinationality, consideration and implementation of rights of ethnic communities and citizens inside them, related to saving of their culture, traditions, language in terms of unique country and different type of resettlement, as well as issue of interethnic relations, including conflicts and ways of their solution and prevention [Zorin V.Yu. State national policy in Russia and modern age) / Studies in applied and acute ethnology – M., IEA of RAS, 2011. – Ed. 225. – 33 p.].

In the Republic of Kazakhstan A.A. Bukhayeva, S.Sh. Kaziyev, Zh.K. Nurgaliyeva, K.K. Tokayev, Ye.L. Tugzhanov and others are dealing with the issues of theoretical content and practical filling of ethnocultural and language policy.

Ethnocultural and language policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan is directed to the strengthening of unity in the limits of unique civil national identity, saving of social harmony and formation of interethnic tolerance.

## RESULTS

This article suggests the attempt of analysis of key peculiarities of ethnocultural and language policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan in modern age.

**Influence of migration on ethnocultural and language policy:** Migration changes, resulted by collapse of Soviet Union, seriously influenced the ethnocultural content and language situation in the Republic of Kazakhstan. After obtaining of state independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan, three stages are observed in the migration exchange:

- 1st stage: 1991-2003 – stage of negative balance of migration. Sharp population decline in the Republic caused the significant changes in social and ethnodemographic content. In 1991-2003 population size of the country decreased more than by 1500 thousand people. Closure of the debates subject to issues of dual citizenship, dual status of languages, influenced the recession of emigration flow;

Starting from 1992, new vector of migration processes was formed in the Republic of Kazakhstan – repatriation of Kazakhs, appeared to be abroad subject to different reasons. Process of ethnic Kazakhs repatriation may be subdivided into two stages: from 1992 till 1997, before adoption of Law on migration in 1997; and since 1997, when repatriated Kazakhs may return to Kazakhstan on the basis of quota, where they will get necessary conditions for living, work and study, to native ethnocultural and language media [Mendikulova Gulnara. Some Problems of Adaptation of the Kazakh Repatriates (Oralmans) in Contemporary Kazakhstan // Otan tarikhy. – 2004. – No. 2. – P. 3-35.; 4].

Return of compatriots is an important part of state ethnocultural policy. Inflow of repatriated Kazakhs promoted the interest of population of Kazakhstan to folk crafts, ethnic music, applied arts and to other elements of lost traditional culture. Repatriated Kazakhs took an important place in economical, political, cultural and educational spheres of life of Kazakh society.

- 2nd stage: 2004-2010, migrations were of positive balance. In 2009 “Nurly kosh” program was started. It had a goal of rational settlement of ethnic Kazakhs and citizens of Kazakhstan in the interests of demographic and social-economical development of the regions and formation of unique language space [History of independent Kazakhstan: Monography / under general editing of Kh.M. Abzhanov, L.N. Nursultanova. – Almaty: “Kazak entsiklopediyasy”, 2011. – page 400; 142]. By 2010 measures on modernization of economical and political system allowed to increase the demographic values to the level higher than in 1992. Almost 1000 thousand people arrived to the Republic. 259 thousand of families of repatriated Kazakhs returned to historical homeland. Majority of repatriated Kazakhs (61,5%) arrived from Uzbekistan, 14,3% are natives of China, 9,3% – from Mongolia, 6,8% – from Turkmenistan, 4,6% – from Russia, and 3,5% – from other countries (Almost 1 million of repatriated Kazakhs arrived to Kazakhstan in the period of 24 years News – Kazakhstan. – URL.:<http://newskaz.ru/society/20150528/8311070.html#ixzz4B3AuZbjF> [access: 23.07.2016]).
- 3rd stage: since 2011 – negative balance of migration, on the background of growth of number of aboriginal population and new measures on regulation of internal migration. In 2014 country started the state program “Serpín-2050”. Program is aimed onto the decrease of deficiency of specialists for enterprises, commissioned in the limits of program of industrial and innovative development. For this, educational grants were presented for learning of thousands of gifted young people, Kazakh language speakers, from south regions of the country. In the limits of program, stimulation of moving of people from densely-populated south regions to north regions, whose population is being decreased (“Serpín-2050” – program of promising future. – URL.:<http://abenov.com/murat-abenov-serpin2050-programma-svetlogo-buduwego/>[access: 23.09.2016]).

With the aim to improve the demographic situation, in 2016 regional quota was defined for acceptance of repatriated Kazakhs for 1259 families (Regional quota was defined for acceptance of repatriated Kazakhs and émigrés for 2016. – URL.:<http://www.inform.kz/rus/article/2875528> [доступ: 23.07.2016]).

In whole, migration was one of the factors, seriously influencing the change of population number. In 2015 number of population reached 17670,6 thousand people compared with 16358,2 thousand people in 1991.

Kazakhstan announced itself as the state rather interested in the destiny of compatriots, who became a diaspora by a twist of historical fate. In modern conditions, when Kazakhstan became a full member of world society, problem of triunity became especially sharp, i.e. interrelations, interdependence and interconnections at the international and worldwide basis of three main components: Republic of Kazakhstan, Kazakh diaspora and countries, where our compatriots live. Kazakh diaspora is one of the most important components of foreign policy of our state with countries of their residence, which interstate relations are influenced by position of Kazakhs as ethnic minority in foreign ethnic media, whose historic homeland is Kazakhstan [Initiatives directed to world / Edited by M.Kh. Abuseitova. – Almaty: “Kazak entsiklopediyasy”, 2011. – 400 p.; 128]. Two trends are pretty clear in modern Kazakh diasporas: (1) attempt to save and develop their ethnic identity in foreign ethnic media, (2) repatriation to Kazakhstan. These trends started their development after 1991, when Kazakhstan declared the independence and started to form the relations with Kazakh diasporas step by step.

More than a third of all the ethnic Kazakhs live out of the territory of Kazakhstan. In 2010 population of Kazakh diaspora in PRC reached 1462 thousand people (Ethnic composition of PRC population. – URL.: [www.stats.gov.cn](http://www.stats.gov.cn). [access: 08.04.2015]). Kazakhs of China densely live in Ile-Kazakh autonomous region and in Ghansu province, Aksay-Kazakh, Mori-Kazakh and Barkol-Kazakh districts of Xinjiang-Uygur autonomous district.

About 884,2 thousand of Kazakhs live in the Republic of Uzbekistan (The World Factbook. – URL.: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/uz.html> [access: 08.04.2015]).

In Russia Kazakh population live mainly in regions, neighboring to Kazakhstan. According to the latest population census (2010) 648 thousand of Kazakhs live in Russian Federation, mainly in the following regions: Astrakhan, Volgograd, Saratov, Samara, Orenburg, Chelyabinsk, Kurgan, Tyumen, Omsk, Novosibirsk, the Altai Territory and Republic of Altai (National census. National composition and language skills, citizenship. – URL.: [http://www.gks.ru/free\\_doc/new\\_site/perepis2010/croc/perepis\\_itogi1612.htm](http://www.gks.ru/free_doc/new_site/perepis2010/croc/perepis_itogi1612.htm) [access: 08.04.2015]).

101,5 thousand Kazakhs live in Mongolia, and in Bayan-Olgi district Kazakhs compose almost 90% of population (Results of population census in Mongolia in 2010. – URL.: [http://ubstat.mn/Upload/Reports/khaos-nii\\_2010\\_onii\\_ulsiiin\\_toollogiin\\_negdsen\\_dun\\_niislel\\_2011-11.pdf](http://ubstat.mn/Upload/Reports/khaos-nii_2010_onii_ulsiiin_toollogiin_negdsen_dun_niislel_2011-11.pdf) [access: 08.12.2015]).

Rampant development of the Republic of Kazakhstan presents the possibility to participate in creation of Kazakh societies in different countries all around the world. Representatives of Kazakh diasporas today try to meet more often, organize joint cultural and sport events, and this is the strategy of Kazakh diaspora – saving of ethnic identity.

With obtaining of independence, Kazakh scientific society got the possibility to study the history and modern position of Kazakhs, residing in different countries of the world, establish the multilateral contacts with compatriots. This policy is the most important condition for development of polyethnic Kazakhstan, which cares on consolidation and unity of both Kazakh nation and new community of people, residing in the Republic; as well, Kazakhstan is protecting its compatriots, who are out of their historic homeland. Kazakhstan, as well as foreign Kazakhs, is interested in close collaboration in all the spheres of life [Mendikulova G.M. Kazakh diaspora and Republic of Kazakhstan: problems and perspectives // Kazakhstan-Spektr. – 1998. – No. 1. – P. 73-77.].

**Social institutes of ethnocultural and language policy:** Main institute of consolidation of Kazakhs is the World association of Kazakhs (WAK), in the limits of which events are carried, directed to the consolidation of Kazakh-speaking diaspora, both in the spheres of science, education, cultural-spiritual and social-economical development, and in social life of Kazakh cultural centers. With the assistance of WAK, four World Quriltais of Kazakhs were carried. Country, on the basis of special program, is financing events, which help to create favorable conditions for saving of ethnic identity among Kazakhs, living abroad, saving and learning native language, history of Kazakhstan, participation in national traditions and culture. Republic of Kazakhstan presents quotas and prepare the representatives of diaspora for living in Kazakhstan, finances repatriation, assists in enrollment to Kazakh Universities and institutes and participates in forging business relationships with Kazakh entrepreneurs [Initiatives directed to world / Edited by M.Kh. Abuseitova. – Almaty: “Kazak entsiklopediyasy”, 2011. – 400 p.; 134].

Kazakhstan model of ethnocultural and language policy is supported by the activity of specially created symbiosis of public and social organizations – Assembly of Nations of Kazakhstan. At his speech in the first organizational session of the assembly, N.A. Nazarbayev denoted: “Implementing the national policy, we shall consider the ethnic composition of population of Kazakhstan and process of its formation, which was rather complicated” [Nazarbayev N.A. Collection of reports in 1-10 sessions of Assembly of Nations of Kazakhstan. – Astana: Yeorda, 2005. – 440 p.; 255].

From the very beginning of the independence, administration of the republic gradually implemented the political course directed to the strengthening of social harmony, interethnic and interconfession tolerance: adoption of Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan and incorporation of Assembly of Nations of Kazakhstan (1995); constitutional changes in 2007; adoption of Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On Assembly of Nations of Kazakhstan” (2008); definition of basic principles (2008-2009); development, discussion, social expertise and adoption of Doctrine of national unity of Kazakhstan (2009-2010).

Main objectives of Assembly of Nations of Kazakhstan are the following:

- (a) formation of Kazakh identity by consolidation of ethnoses of Kazakhstan on the basis of civil and spiritual-cultural community at the main role of state language and culture of Kazakh nation;
- (b) provision of efficient interrelation of governmental bodies and institutes of civil society in the sphere of interethnic relations;
- (c) integration of efforts of ethnocultural unions in provision of harmonic interethnic relations in Kazakhstan;
- (d) formation of system of pre-emptive mechanisms on prophylaxis of negative trends in the sphere of interethnic relations and neutralization of possible menaces, zero tolerance to politization of ethnic factor;
- (e) improvement of activity of Assembly of Nations of Kazakhstan on implementation of state policy in the sphere of interethnic relations and increase of its role in democratization of political system, solving of urgent issues of social development [Rustembekova D.K. Role of Assembly of Nations of Kazakhstan in formation of Kazakh model of unity and tolerance // Digest of Karaganda State University. Series of Jurisprudence. – 2011. – No. 1 (61). – P. 96-102.; 97].

With adoption of Doctrine of national unity of Kazakhstan in 2010 examined process reached the whole new level. Earlier the organization of events on folklore level did not reflect the idea of Assembly of Nations of Kazakhstan, but today Assembly of Nations of Kazakhstan took a serious place in scientific and political world. Kazakh model of ethnocultural and language policy, constructed on the basis of activity of Assembly of Nations of Kazakhstan, provides everything necessary for interethnic consolidation in the limits of unique civil and language identity.

**Role of mass media in implementation of ethnocultural and language policy:**

Start of “publicity” stage in 1985-1991, appearance of free press, appearance of the first private TV-channels, obtaining of wide access to foreign content significantly modified the value orientation of Soviet citizens. These modifications lead, on one hand, to the growth of democratic rights and freedoms, on another – depreciated the attitude to career, family values, alcohol, drugs. With adoption of Law “On printing and other mass-media” on June 28, 1991, new stage of media field formation started. Problem of formation of own media-field in 1990s arose in front of the government of young Republic of Kazakhstan immediately after obtaining of independence. In the period from 1991 till 1996 new different mass-media were born. Despite the expansion of rights and freedoms, majority of mass-media did not have the development opportunities due to serious financial difficulties. After collapse of Soviet Union there appeared the understanding that state sovereignty shall be supported by independent informational space.

In the end of 1990s informational field, due to economic growth, obtained strong material resources. Step by step, mass-media become an instrument in political fight, mainly in the period of elections. Mass-media politization was directly connected with the activity of oligarchal groups. Significant share of consumed information in produced by TV and radio companies and printing media, mainly in Russian. Internet, due to weak development of technical means, did not have significant influence on forming of public opinion. In 2000, number of Internet users of our country amounted 70 thousand people, or just 0,5% of country population.

Since May 5, 2003 under the aegis of Assembly of Nations of Kazakhstan, “Dostyk-Druzhba” magazine is published. Since the day of creation, magazine is the hand-out in annual sessions of Assembly of Nations of Kazakhstan, World Quriltais of Kazakhs, in almost all international conferences, meetings at “round table”.

Since 2006, media space of the country has undergone a dramatic changes. Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan adopted the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On amendments and modifications to several legislative acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan subject to issues of mass-media”, and “Development concept of competitive ability of informational space of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2006-2009” was approved by the Order of the President. State positions in media field were enhanced due to bids. Thanks to improvement of material and technical base, broadband Internet access appears, and number of users increases up to 1247 thousand people, or 8,5% of population (Kazakhstan Internet Usage and Telecommunications Reports. – URL.: <http://www.internetworldstats.com/asia/kz.htm> [access: 20.04.2016]).

Modern stage started from the approval of “State program of languages development and functioning in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2011-2020” by the Order of the President dd. June 29, 2011. Key issue of the program is to strengthen the role of mass media in formation of language media by creation of new TV channels, broadcasting in state language (On State program of languages development and functioning in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2011-2020. – URL.: <http://prokuror.gov.kz/rus/dokumenty/gosudarstvennyy-yazyk/o-gosudarstvennoy-programme-razvitiya-i-funkcionirovaniya-yazykov-v> [access: 20.04.2016]). newly created TV channels allowed Kazakhstan to start the formation of own informational space. On the base of “Khabar” and “Kazakhstan” Corporations Republican projects were started – informational channel “24.kz”, full-time satellite-assisted informational and public channel “Kazakh TV” (created on the base of “CaspioNet” channel), sport channel “KazSport”, educational channel “Bilim zhane Madeniyet”. Problem of informational vacuum, appeared in 1990s, started to be solved by Kazakhstan due to content of high quality, produced inside the country – TV and radio programmes, TV series, feature and documental films.



“Kazakhstan” channel broadcasts the programs, devoted to the history, authentic culture of different diaspores, residing in the territory of the country. TV program “Yedinstvo.kz” is devoted to covering the peaceful policy of the country, directed to the enhancing of world, agreement and friendship of nations, residing in Kazakhstan. Together with this, activity of Assembly of Nations of Kazakhstan and ethnocultural unions of our republic is actively covered in the limits of the program. “Birlik” program is of informational and social nature, promulgates the international consent and tolerance. Representatives of different ethnoses, both residing in Kazakhstan, and visited Kazakhstan as guests, live on television tell about culture, traditions, mentality of their nation (List of programs of “Kazakhstan” channel. – URL.: <http://astanafm.kz/ru/programs> [access: 21.05.2016]). “Khabar” agency makes the TV programs in the limits of series “We are strong together!” (Assembly of Nations of Kazakhstan – “Khabar” TV channel. Official web-site.. – URL.: <http://khabar.kz/ru/news/itemlist/tag/AHK> [access: 22.05.2016]).

State shall force the development of own mass media space in the limits of ethnocultural and language policy. Informational opposition to “hybrid wars” is the most complicated issue in domestic policy. Due to technologies development, number of Kazakh Internet users in 2016 reached 7000 thousand people, or covered almost 50% of country population. Formation and control of own mass media space gives the possibility to define the clear targets of future development of ethnocultural and language relations.

**Language policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan:** Subject of regulation of language policy is in public relations appeared due to using of languages in the activity of public and non-governmental organizations and local government bodies. [Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dd. July 11, 1997 No. 151-I “On languages in Republic of Kazakhstan” (with amendments and modifications as of 24.11.2015) [https://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc\\_id=1008034#pos=1;-217](https://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc_id=1008034#pos=1;-217)] Since 1991 post-Soviet countries started the process of derussianization and indigenization. In some countries, which became independent, appeared controversial contentions of language policy, acts of infringing of linguistic rights increased, which became a subject of multiple discussions and often caused the protest actions.

Statistic data certify the role of language policy and necessity to protect the linguistic rights of citizens subject to the issue of state stability. In 1991-1997 country population decreased more than by 1500 thousand people. After adoption of Law “On languages in the Republic of Kazakhstan” in 1997 debates subject to issues of double status of languages stopped, which influences the decrease of emigration flow. [Zhumashev R.M., Zhetpisbayev A.O. Main trends and achievements of ethnocultural policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan // Kazakhstan Spektr. – 2016. – No. 4. – C. 54-75.; 60].

Republic of Kazakhstan followed the suit of strengthening of legal base and implementation of polylingual policy, promoting the citizens’ understanding

of necessity to master the state and English languages without decreasing the significance of Russian language. Idea of language triunity in Kazakhstan was first announced by the President N.A. Nazarbayev in 2004, at was returned to many times. In October 2006 in XII session of Assembly of Nations of Kazakhstan, Head of the country denoted again, that mastering minimum three languages is important for the future of our children. And in 2007 in the Message to the Folk of Kazakhstan “New Kazakhstan in new world” Head of the country offered to start the gradual implementation of cultural project “Language triunity”. This was the very moment of start of new language policy of independent Kazakhstan, which today is the example for other countries of the world subject to the level of popularity in the society and level of the efficiency [Zhetpisbayeva B.A., Arinova O.T. From the idea of “Languages triunity” of N.A.Nazarbayev to polylingual education in Kazakhstan // Digest of Karaganda State University. Series of Pedagogics. – 2012. – No. 4 (68). – P. 19-23.; 23].

Scientific idea of using the simultaneous mastering of several languages as the base of polylingual space as “fragment” of socially significant experience of the humanity was developed in the works of O.T. Arinova, B.A. Zhetpisbayeva, N.E. Pfeifer, T.T. Sultanov, etc.

Today Republic of Kazakhstan has the positive experience of adoption of polylingual space in the system of higher education. By the start of 2015/2016 academic year 127 higher education institutions with total number of students of 459,3 thousand people were working in Kazakhstan. Number of student, taught in state language, amounted 288 thousand people, or 62,6%, in Russian – 157 thousand people, or 34,26%, in English – 13,9 thousand people or 3% [Distribution of number of students subject to languages of study. – URL.: <http://stat.gov.kz/getImg?id=ESTAT108365> [access: 15.05.2016].

Policy of polylingual space has opponents among the public figures, who take diametrically opposite positions. Russian-speaking opponents of polylingual space consider that enhancing of role of English and Kazakh languages may cause the drop of positions of Russian language and social groups related to it. At the same time, part of population and social figures, speaking Kazakh, say that Kazakh language may die, failing the competition with Russian and English.

Orientation to formation of polylingual society allows citizens of Kazakhstan to increase their competitive ability in the domestic and foreign labor market. Each of the languages has its own sphere: Kazakh language is the key for native culture, history and all the Turkic world; modern achievements in the sphere of science and techniques are available in English, Russian takes its place as the language of interethnic communication.

Important means for solving of issues of language policy – principle of free development of the languages of Kazakh ethnoses. In schools of general education,

in 2014-2015 academic year 2616 thousand people were studying, among them 804 thousand people were studying in Kazakh, 1714 thousand people – in Russian, in cohort of schools with Uzbek language of study 78 thousand people are studying, 14,7 thousand people study in Uygur language, 4 thousand people – in Tajik [Provision of textbooks for pupils for 2014-2015 academic year considering the enrollments of 2014. – URL.: <http://stat.gov.kz/getImg?id=ESTAT096376> [access: 22.06.2015].

New trend in language policy is the orientation of Kazakhstan in transfer to use of Latin alphabet in Kazakh language instead of Cyrillic letters. One of the versions of Latin alphabet was used by Kazakhs in the period from 1929 till 1940. It is still used by representative of Kazakh diasporas, living in Turkey and countries of West Europe.

Transfer of Kazakh language to Latin alphabet is reasoned by the following provisions:

- Easier access of Kazakh speaking population of Kazakhstan to mastering the English language, which is dominating today in world science, trade, culture and politics;
- Establishing of closer contacts with Kazakh diasporas, living in more than 48 countries of the world;
- Adoption of Latin alphabet simplifies the access to growing digital world, whose technical solutions are based upon Latin alphabet;
- Latin graphics transfers the specific sounds of Kazakh language more exactly, than Cyrillic letters;
- Adoption of Latin alphabet is possible applying the positive experience of Turkey, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan;
- Assistance in formation of common informational space with Turkic language countries, applying Latin alphabet;
- Republic of Kazakhstan, due to its powerful economic potential, may put this reform in place relatively painlessly, compared to Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Critics of adoption of Latin alphabet tell about possible weakening of contacts with Russian Federation, huge financial expenses for implementation of reform and loss of intellectual and cultural layer, created in the period of Cyrillic alphabet use.

Debates subject to necessity to adopt the Latin alphabet were completely stopped on April 12, 2017, when President N.A. Nazarbayev, in his article in “Yegemen Kazakstan” newspaper, announced the start of implementation of plans for transfer of Kazakh language from Cyrillic alphabet to Latin one by 2025. It is worth noting the severe consequence of reforms, implemented in Kazakhstan, carried with consideration of saving and protection of linguistic rights and freedoms. [Zhumashev

R.M., Zhetpisbayev A.O. Nygmetuly D. Language policy and linguistic rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan: historical, political and social trends / Fundamental and applied studies in modern world: Materials of XVIII International scientific and practical conference. – Saint Petersburg, 2017. – P.155-159]

## DISCUSSION

Main principles of implementation of state ethnocultural and language policy was formed by Ye.L. Tugzhanov. As one of the participants of formation of ethnocultural and language policy, Ye.L. Tugzhanov writes about three main levels of ethnocultural policy:

- normative (Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Decree on Assembly of Nations of Kazakhstan, Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On religious activity and religious unions” etc.);
- doctrinal (Doctrine of national unity, Concept of development of Assembly of Nations of Kazakhstan up to 2025, Concept of strengthening and development of Kazakh identity and unity);
- institutional (Assembly of Nations of Kazakhstan, World Quriltais of Kazakhs, ethnocultural unions) [Tugzhanov Ye.L. Policy of interethnic tolerance and social harmony in the Republic of Kazakhstan: politological analysis: resume / Tugzhanov Ye.L. – Astana, 2010. – 44 p.; 24].

State ethnocultural and language policy is constructed on the following basic principles: supremacy of the statute law, prohibition of any forms of limitation of human rights subject to social, racial, ethnic, language or religious affiliation, strengthening of state independence, formation of unique nation as national and state community. Thus, each citizen, despite his ethnic origin or language affiliation, connects his destiny and future with Kazakhstan. Unique past, joint present and common responsibility for future connects the society to one whole: “We have one Motherland, one native land – Independent Kazakhstan”. Awareness of this selection is main uniting point – (Doctrine of national unity of Kazakhstan. – URL.: <http://assembly.kz/ru/doktrina-nacionalnogo-edinstva> [access: 18.03.2014]).

Important, competent and considered opinion is represented by Russian scientist Yu.V. Yakusheva. In her dissertation she is studying the history of establishment of ethnic policy in the period of the independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Yu.V. Yakusheva makes the conclusion, that Kazakhstan successfully solved the issue, posed in early 1990s, to provide the interethnic peace inside the country. During the years of independence, despite the polyethnic content of population and presence of definite conflict potential, provoked by the complex of problems of social and economical nature no significant conflicts of interethnic nature was registered in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Formation of mechanisms of constructive interrelation between ethnoses and creation of entire system of prevention and

solving of conflicts played the significant role in saving the stable situation [Yakusheva Yu.V. State policy in the sphere of ethnic integration in the Republic of Kazakhstan (1991-1996) // Ethnocommunity and interethnic culture. – 2013. – No. 6(60). – P. 177-186.].

Modern researchers characterize the political solutions as an example of maximal success of political theory and practice of Kazakh model of ethnocultural and language policy in the issue of formation of civil nation and identity.

Goal of reasonable and comprehensive ethnocultural and language policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan is the harmonization of interethnic relations, with enhancement of role of state language in formation of civil nation. The work makes an attempt to find the key peculiarities of ethnocultural and language policy and describe the history of their formation.

Support of language, economical, cultural and political relations with compatriots, living abroad (Kazakh diaspora) is the important part of state ethnocultural policy. Kazakhstan, when financing the programs on return of compatriots and support of diasporas, reaches the new orbit of ethnocultural and language policy, being supported by powerful human potential of Kazakh diaspora.

In whole, implementation of language policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan does not contravene the international norms and is conditioned by the necessity of formation of new generations of country citizens, speaking several languages, having wide opportunities for implementation of personal potential and formation of competitive ability in professional media.

Of further note is severe consequence of reforms, implemented in Kazakhstan, placed with consideration of saving and protection of linguistic rights and freedoms. It is necessary to strengthen the state participation in formation and control of own informational space, which is an integral condition of further sustainable development of ethnocultural policy and informational safety of the country.

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