


**PROFESSIONAL ORIENTATION OF THE YOUTH OF THE NEW  
UZBEKISTAN: POPULARIZING THE STUDY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES  
AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE, TOWARDS A NEW ERA**

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
<p><b>Article history:</b> Received Sep 17, 2024 Revised Sep 19, 2024 Accepted Oct 17, 2024</p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> <i>Global, Language Skills, Education, Social Participation, Cultural Enrichment</i></p>	<p>In the new era of Uzbekistan, determining the professional direction of young people, special attention is paid to their learning of foreign languages. Knowledge of foreign languages is an important factor for competitiveness in the modern global economy. This study examines the importance of learning foreign languages among young people, their role in achieving their professional goals, and how the educational process can be developed using modern technologies. As global interconnectedness increases, mastering foreign languages is becoming an important skill that provides significant cultural, educational, and professional advantages for young people. This article examines how the popularization of foreign language learning among young people can be raised to a new qualitative level by integrating technology, increasing cultural relevance, and promoting multilingualism as a social norm. It highlights the role of immersive learning tools, policy support, and global youth networks in creating a multilingual future.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">This is an open-access article under the <a href="https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/">CC-BY 4.0</a> license.</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>

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## INTRODUCTION

Currently, a number of activities are being carried out to support, popularize and create the necessary conditions for young people who are interested in learning foreign languages.

In a world that is becoming increasingly interconnected, the mastery of foreign languages is more than just a valuable skill; it is a gateway to cultural understanding, professional opportunities, and global citizenship. The importance of popularizing foreign language learning, particularly among young people, cannot be overstated. To elevate these efforts to a qualitatively new level, we must adopt a multi-faceted approach that integrates technology, innovation, pedagogy, and social motivation.

### **The Global Imperative for Language Learning**

In the 21st century, language skills are essential tools for navigating global complexities. Proficiency in languages other than one's mother tongue enhances career prospects, as global companies often seek multilingual candidates to handle international operations. Beyond economic factors, language learning fosters intercultural awareness and empathy, bridging cultural divides and nurturing global citizens who can contribute to solving transnational issues such as climate change, migration, and public health.

Yet, despite the clear advantages of foreign language acquisition, many youths around the world remain monolingual or do not prioritize language learning. In order to make language learning more attractive, accessible, and effective, we must rethink our strategies and align them with the realities and aspirations of today's youth.

## METHODS

This article is founded on a comprehensive examination of relevant literature, including scholarly opinions and legal documents, to gain insights into the current landscape of foreign language learning among young people. A qualitative approach was employed, gathering data through surveys and interviews that focused on the experiences and perceptions of youth regarding language acquisition. Additionally, statistical analysis was conducted on survey responses from 2,138 young individuals to identify common barriers to language learning, such as financial constraints, lack of qualified teachers, and connectivity issues. By integrating various data sources and analytical methods, the study aims to provide a robust framework for understanding the challenges and opportunities in promoting foreign language education in contemporary society.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### **Reimagining Language Learning: A Multi-Dimensional Approach**

#### **1. Leveraging Technology for Immersive Learning Experiences**

Technology is reshaping how young people learn languages, with applications, games, and artificial intelligence making learning more engaging and interactive. Platforms like Duolingo, Memrise, and Babbel are already revolutionizing language learning by making it accessible to anyone with a smartphone. Virtual reality (VR) and

augmented reality (AR) can take this further by creating immersive environments where learners can practice speaking with native speakers in simulated real-world contexts, such as ordering food in a Parisian café or navigating Tokyo's metro system.

AI-driven language learning platforms offer personalized experiences, adapting lessons based on a learner's progress and weaknesses. The next step is to integrate these technologies with social media, streaming services, and e-learning platforms to reach wider audiences and create learning communities where young people can practice languages with peers from around the world.

## **2. Developing Culturally Relevant Language Curriculums**

To engage youth, language curriculums must go beyond grammar and vocabulary drills. Learning a language should be an entry point to understanding a culture. By integrating cultural content—such as films, music, history, and current events—into language learning, educators can inspire curiosity about different parts of the world. For instance, a lesson on Spanish can include an exploration of Latin American cinema, while learning French can be tied to discussions on contemporary Francophone literature or fashion.

This cultural approach not only makes language learning more relevant but also helps students appreciate the value of becoming multilingual. It promotes the idea that learning a language is not just a skill but a doorway to experiencing new perspectives and lifestyles.

## **3. Promoting Multilingualism as a Social and Professional Norm**

Language learning must be framed as both socially desirable and professionally beneficial. Governments, educational institutions, and businesses can collaborate to promote foreign language proficiency as a critical skill for career success. Scholarships, internships, and mentorships can be offered to multilingual students, and international companies can sponsor language-learning programs to build a workforce ready for global challenges.

Moreover, media campaigns that highlight the stories of successful multilingual professionals can inspire young people to pursue language learning. Youth are more likely to embrace foreign languages if they see role models and influencers demonstrating how language skills have enhanced their personal and professional lives.

## **4. Supporting Language Learning through Policy and Infrastructure**

Government policies play a pivotal role in popularizing language learning. Educational reforms that introduce foreign language education at an earlier age, as well as increased funding for language teachers and programs, are critical. Schools and universities must also be equipped with the latest technological tools and teaching resources.

Governments can partner with tech companies and cultural institutions to provide free or subsidized language learning tools and organize cultural exchange programs. These exchanges—whether physical or virtual—give young learners authentic opportunities to practice their language skills in real-world settings. National policies that

prioritize multilingualism as part of the education system and workforce development can set the tone for a society that values and invests in foreign language skills.

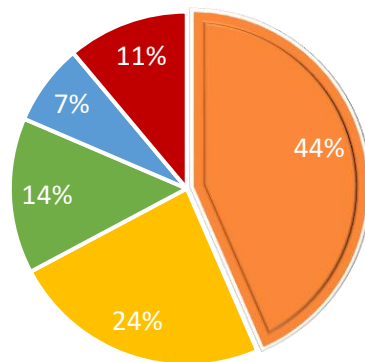
**5. Harnessing the Power of Global Youth Networks**

Young people are already connecting across borders through digital platforms, social media, and gaming. Language-learning communities can be nurtured by creating forums, chatrooms, and virtual spaces where youth can practice languages with native speakers. Competitions and challenges, such as language-learning marathons or collaborative projects with international students, can foster healthy competition and motivate consistent progress.

Global youth networks can also be leveraged to address global challenges through multilingual cooperation. For example, international environmental campaigns or entrepreneurial contests can encourage youth from different linguistic backgrounds to work together, using language skills as tools for collaboration.

When 2,138 young people were asked what problems there are in learning foreign languages (getting a certificate) and their popularity among young people, 44% of them said that the cost of language learning is expensive, 24% was the lack of qualified teachers, 14% was the poor quality of the Internet connection, and 11% were supported by parents and close relatives - which indicated that it is not powered (Figure 1).

**Problems In Learning Foreign Languages And Their Popularity Among Young People**



**Figure 1.** Problems in learning foreign languages and their popularity among young people

Popularization of learning foreign languages among young people can be achieved by strengthening the system of training qualified language teachers, increasing the quality and speed of the Internet in the regions, and emphasizing the continuous propaganda work among parents.

**Fostering a Language-Learning Mindset: Beyond Classrooms**

To elevate language learning among youth, the approach must extend beyond the formal education system. Community engagement and informal learning

opportunities are essential. Libraries, community centers, and cultural institutes can offer free language workshops, conversation clubs, and immersion events where students can practice their skills in a low-pressure environment. These activities encourage real-world application and interaction, which is key to retaining and improving language skills.

Families, too, play a crucial role in fostering a language-learning environment. Parents who speak multiple languages should be encouraged to pass on their linguistic heritage, while communities can promote bilingualism or multilingualism as a norm rather than an exception.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, several key activities are essential to elevate foreign language learning among young people to a qualitatively new level. First, the lack of training centers for modern professions and foreign languages in various districts presents challenges for youth, particularly due to the territorial size and distance between these areas. To address this, there should be increased benefits to support the establishment of educational centers, along with a system for allocating subsidies to cover travel fees or accommodation for students from remote neighborhoods and villages. Additionally, while initiatives like the "Children of Ibrat" project provide free and creative foreign language instruction, there is a pressing need to enhance promotion and awareness in regions such as Jizzakh and Surkhandarya, where interest has reportedly grown. Furthermore, young people have highlighted the high cost of language courses in cities like Tashkent and Fergana, indicating a necessity for ongoing support and improvements in the subsidy allocation system. Despite the government's efforts to facilitate remote and online language learning, a significant portion of youth has expressed dissatisfaction with internet quality, underscoring the need for enhanced communication infrastructure, including the establishment of free Wi-Fi zones in remote areas. Moreover, young people have frequently suggested increasing state grants for studying abroad and enhancing support for those pursuing modern professions. Finally, to foster greater interest in foreign languages, it is recommended to implement a procedure for subsidizing 25% of the certificate fee for youth obtaining a B2 language certificate, following existing frameworks for other languages like Korean, French, German, Chinese, and Japanese. These initiatives collectively aim to create a more accessible, engaging, and supportive environment for young learners in their pursuit of foreign language acquisition.

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