



LANGUAGE AND IDENTITY: THE FORMATION AND PRESERVATION OF NATIONAL DISCOURSE

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ABSTRACT

Language is a fundamental factor in the formation and preservation of national identity. It functions not only as a means of communication but also as a carrier of historical memory, cultural values, and collective worldview. In the modern era, marked by globalization, migration, and digital communication, the preservation of national discourse through language has become increasingly important. This article examines the relationship between language and identity and analyzes the role of language in shaping and sustaining national discourse. The study shows that national discourse develops through the interaction of language, cultural memory, education, and public communication. It concludes that the preservation of national discourse depends on the active use of the native language in education, literature, media, and social life.

KEYWORDS: Language, identity, national discourse, linguistic identity, cultural memory, national consciousness, discourse, language preservation.

INTRODUCTION

Language has always been one of the main foundations of national existence. Through language, a people preserve their history, transmit moral values, and express their worldview. Language unites individuals into a cultural community and gives meaning to collective experience. Therefore, language is directly connected with identity.

Identity is not only a personal characteristic but also a social and cultural phenomenon. National identity is formed through shared values, traditions, historical memory, and communicative practices. In this process, language plays a central role, because it gives people the means to name reality, interpret cultural symbols, and participate in collective discourse. National discourse can be understood as the system of meanings, narratives, and symbolic expressions through which a nation represents itself.

In the context of globalization, the issue of preserving national discourse has become especially urgent. External linguistic influence, the dominance of international communication models, and the spread of digital media often affect the stability of native linguistic and cultural patterns. Therefore, studying the role of language in the formation and preservation of national discourse is both theoretically and practically significant.

The purpose of this article is to analyze how language contributes to the formation of national discourse and what conditions are necessary for its preservation.

The article is based on theoretical analysis of linguistic, pedagogical, and cultural studies literature. Conceptual analysis was used to clarify the terms language, identity, and national discourse. Comparative and systematic approaches helped reveal the relationship between

language, cultural memory, education, and public communication. The method of synthesis was applied to generalize scholarly views and formulate a coherent understanding of the problem. The analysis shows that language is the main symbolic basis of national discourse. It allows a nation to preserve its historical memory, reflect its values, and express its collective consciousness. Words, idioms, metaphors, and other linguistic forms often contain cultural meanings that distinguish one people from another. Because of this, national discourse cannot exist outside language.

The study also demonstrates that linguistic identity is formed through participation in communicative practice. When individuals use their native language in family, school, literature, and public life, they internalize the cultural meanings embedded in that language. In this way, language becomes the medium through which people feel belonging to a nation.

Another important result is that education plays a decisive role in preserving national discourse. Schools and universities do not simply teach grammar and literacy. They also introduce students to literary heritage, historical narratives, and moral concepts expressed through language. If education is separated from national-cultural content, language may remain only a technical means of communication and lose its identity-forming function.

The findings further show that literature and media are major spaces where national discourse is created and renewed. Literature preserves the expressive richness of the language and reflects collective memory. Media shapes how language functions in public life. If media language becomes detached from national norms and values, the coherence of national discourse weakens. Conversely, responsible cultural and media practices strengthen linguistic identity.

The results confirm that language and identity are closely interconnected. Language forms identity by providing categories of thought and cultural interpretation, while identity supports language by motivating communities to value and preserve it. National discourse emerges from this mutual relationship.

In modern conditions, preserving national discourse does not mean isolating oneself from the outside world. It means maintaining the ability of the national language to express modern realities, scientific ideas, and social changes without losing its cultural depth. A strong national discourse is not one that rejects global interaction, but one that enters such interaction while preserving its own voice.

The pedagogical dimension of this issue is especially important. Students should not only learn their native language mechanically but also understand its role in preserving collective dignity, memory, and culture. This requires meaningful language education based on literature, history, and value-oriented communication.

Language is not merely a communicative instrument; it is a core element of national identity and the main means of forming and preserving national discourse. The study confirms that national discourse is sustained through language, cultural memory, education, literature, and media. In the era of globalization, the preservation of national discourse requires conscious support for the native language in all spheres of social and cultural life. Thus, language remains one of the most important guarantees of cultural continuity and national self-awareness.

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