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# LANGUAGE AS THE FOUNDATION OF A PEOPLE'S CULTURE

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**Abstract.** This article examines the role of language as the foundation of national culture and an important means of preserving the spiritual values of a people. It analyzes the influence of language on the formation of national identity, traditions, customs, and cultural heritage. Special attention is paid to the relationship between language and culture in the context of globalization and contemporary society. Language is presented as an important factor in transmitting historical experience and strengthening the cultural identity of a nation.

**Keywords:** language, culture, people, national identity, cultural heritage, traditions, spiritual values, society, history, national consciousness.

**Introduction.** Language is one of the most important components of any nation's culture, as it is through language that traditions, spiritual values, historical memory, and a national worldview are transmitted. It serves not only as a means of communication but also as the foundation for the formation of a society's cultural identity. In the modern world, where globalization processes have a significant impact on national cultures, the issue of language preservation has become particularly relevant.

Language is closely connected with the history and way of life of a people. Proverbs, idioms, folklore, and literature reflect the peculiarities of thinking, moral principles, and cultural traditions of a nation. Therefore, the loss of a language often leads to the weakening of national consciousness and cultural heritage.

The relationship between language and culture has been studied by many domestic and foreign scholars, including E. Sapir, B. Whorf, Yu. D. Apresyan, V. A. Maslova, and others. Despite the considerable number of studies conducted in this field, the question of the role of language as the foundation of a people's culture remains relevant and requires further investigation in the context of contemporary social changes.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the role of language in preserving and developing a people's culture, as well as to examine its significance in the formation of national identity. The research materials include scholarly works on linguoculturology, examples from fiction, folklore, and contemporary public discourse.

**Theoretical Foundations of the Research.** In modern linguistics, language is viewed not only as a system of signs and a means of communication but also as an essential element of culture. According to the concept of linguoculturology, language reflects a people's worldview, traditions, values, and historical experience. Every word carries not only a denotative meaning but also cultural information associated with the life of society.

Culture, in turn, represents the totality of material and spiritual values created by a people throughout their historical development. Language serves as the primary instrument for transmitting these values from one generation to another. Through language, national traditions, folklore, customs, and behavioral norms are preserved.

The concept of national identity plays a particularly important role. Language contributes to the formation of a sense of belonging to a particular people and strengthens the spiritual unity of society. In the conditions of globalization and active cultural exchange, the preservation of the native language becomes an important factor in maintaining the cultural independence of a nation.

Within the framework of cognitive linguistics, language is regarded as a means of representing national thinking. The peculiarities of grammar, vocabulary, and fixed expressions make it possible to understand the specific ways different peoples perceive the world. Thus, language functions not only as a means of communication but also as a repository of cultural memory.

**Language as a Preserver of Traditions.** One of the most important functions of language is the preservation of a people's cultural traditions. Proverbs, sayings, legends, and folk songs transmit life experience, moral values, and the worldview of previous generations. Thanks to language, cultural heritage is preserved and continues to exist in contemporary society.

**Language and National Identity.** Language plays a key role in the formation of national consciousness. Through their native language, individuals become aware of their belonging to a particular culture and people. National literature, folklore, and historical texts contribute to strengthening the sense of unity and respect for one's culture.

**Language as a Means of Transmitting Spiritual Values.** Language serves as a vehicle for transmitting moral norms, cultural ideals, and spiritual values of society. Many concepts associated with national culture cannot be fully translated into another language without losing their cultural meaning. This highlights the uniqueness of each language and its close connection with the culture of its people.

**The Influence of Globalization on Language and Culture.** Contemporary globalization processes have a significant impact on national languages. The spread of foreign words and mass culture may gradually weaken traditional linguistic norms. Therefore, the need to preserve and develop the native language as an important part of cultural heritage is becoming increasingly important.

**The Practical Significance of Language in Modern Society.** In modern society, language performs important social and cultural functions. It serves as the foundation of education, science, literature, and mass media. The development of language contributes to the development of culture and the strengthening of national unity.

Language plays a particularly important role in the educational system. The study of the native language helps younger generations better understand the history and traditions of their people. Furthermore, the preservation of linguistic diversity promotes intercultural dialogue and respect for other cultures.

In fiction, language serves as a means of reflecting the national character and spiritual world of a people. The works of writers and poets preserve the cultural characteristics of their era and transmit them to future generations.

**Conclusion.** The conducted analysis demonstrates that language is the foundation of a people's culture and the most important means of preserving national identity. Through language, historical memory, spiritual values, traditions, and the distinctive worldview of society are transmitted. Language performs not only a communicative function but also serves as a guardian of cultural heritage.

In the context of globalization, the preservation and development of the native language in contemporary society acquire particular significance. Prospects for further research are associated with studying the interaction between language and culture in the conditions of digital

communication, as well as analyzing the role of language in intercultural dialogue and the formation of national consciousness.

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