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SECTION 13. History.

ABOUT UIGHURS «FERGANA DIALECT» OF UIGHUR LANGUAGE IN THE ETHNO-CULTURAL PROCESS OF FERGANA VALLEY (Analysis of ethnic linguistic processes)

Abstract: The paper analyzed living Uighurs in the Fergana Valley and their language peculiarities as such informed about Uighur language's «Fergana dialect».

Key words: Fergana Valley, Uighur, Uzbek, language, Turkish tribes, dialect, umlaut.

Language: English

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Introduction

It is well known that Uzbek-Uighur ethnical and linguistic relations take significant place in the history of relations between ethnical groups of the world. Unity of language and religion, alikeness of traditions and the fact that people in two areas lived intermingled made the two nations even closer. Of course, ethnical groups who lived intermingled did not limit themselves only with economic and cultural aspects, mutual closeness found its reflection in the languages of the two nations as well. As a rule, inter-language processes go faster in ethnically intermingled areas. The phenomenon of bilingualism can often be seen in such areas of ethnical communication. Fergana Valley is considered to be one of such areas of ethnical communication. A number of ethnical group live together with Uzbeks in this area and it is necessary to speak about their role in inter-ethnic processes which and are taking place, namely about their active role in ethnic-linguistic processes.

Materials and Methods

If we have a look at history, the Uighur language was developed in ancient times, and served as a means of communication of a number of Turkish tribes. Tribes of Central Asia living close to each other had great influence in the formation of Uyghur language. In its turn, the Uighur language also played a significant role in the beginnings of other languages [10]. In the middle of the VIII century in

the territory of today's Mongolia there appeared the Uighur Khanate. In the 60s of the same century an ethnic group of Karluks emerged in Yettisuv, and later in the 40s of the IX century the state of Karluks came into being in the vast territory. After these historic events, Uighur and Karluk languages began to develop independently. When in the IX-X centuries in Yettisuv, Fergana and other regions of Movarounnahr the majority of the people speaking Turkish were Karluks, in Mongolia, later (from 840) in the larger area of Eastern Turkestan even in northern China Turkish speaking people were led by Uighurs. In the territories where the Uighurs took up political leadership, the Uighur language prevailed and in the territory of Karluk-Korahiniys the Karluk language was dominant. During the period of Mogul rule Uighurs were involved in the process of writing[11]. The same information can also be met in "Shajarai Turk" by Abulgoziy[2].

A linguist academician K.K. Yudahin points out that it is impossible not to pay attention to the closeness of the Uighur language and Tashkent-Fergana dialectal groups of the Uzbek language and the dialects of the Uzbek language in Kazakhstan[18]. The researcher lived in such cities Eastern Turkestan as Kashkar, Oksu, Urumchi, Gulja for almost 10 years in and learned the peculiarities of the Uighur language. On the basis of his researches, this scientist puts forward the idea that Uzbeks living in such cities of Fergana Valley as Namangan, Uychi, Osh have some peculiarities of the Uighur



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language, and shows some phonetic-morphologic similarities between the Uighur and “Umlaut” or “Uighurid” dialects of the Uzbek languages and confirmed once again that the Uighurs and Uzbeks had had ethnical-cultural ties from ancient times. Indeed, such dialects of the Fergana dialectal group of the Uzbek Language as Uychi, Chortok of Namangan city type have some phonetic and morphological peculiarities and elements of the Uighur language. Some researchers admit the closeness of the Uighur and Uzbek languages, and say that the Uighur Language was one of the basis of the formation of the Uzbek language. Of course, there are so many similarities between these two languages. It is true that ethnical-linguistic relations between these two nations appeared not recently. The historical basis of these similarities go back to the period of Korahonods and this fact has found its scientific basis. One can notice likeness between these two languages in the dialects of Tashkent-Fergana group[12]. In spite of this and ethnographer U. Abdullayev, learning the linguistic processes of ethnics of the Fergana Valley, says that giving too much a role to the Uighur language in the formation of the Uzbek language is far from the reality[1]. Uighurs living in Fergana Valley mainly were under the ethnical influence of Uzbek and Kirghiz people. But in the villages and neighborhoods were predominantly lived Uighurs the peculiarities of Uighur had more privilege. Besides, because of ethno-linguistic processes in the territory of Fergana Valley some languages began to be Uighurized. As a result, “Umlaut” dialects came into being. A.K. Borovkov who learned this process said that Namangan dialect of the Uzbek language is “Uighurised”[4]. Indeed, umlaut process can be seen mostly in Namangan dialect. Elements, some phonetic and morphologic features of the Uighur language can be clearly seen in Uychi, Chortok dialects of Namangan region[1]. Namangan dialect is the closest to the Uighur language[12]. That is why, Namangan dialect is considered to be undergone umlaut or uighurization[17]. Such linguists as K. Borovkov, A. Aliyev, V. Reshetov say that dialects in some villages around Namangan were also under the influence of umlaut process. Uychi dialect can be point out as a bright example[4;12;3]. Here a change of vowel sounds in the second syllable into {e} [3]. We have to mention that jargon of the Uzbeks living in Osh city of Fergana valley and that of Uyghur’s were so close that the difference was almost unnoticeable [18].

In the course of time some changes occurred in the dialect of Uighurs living in Fergana valley. This can be explained by medley (metization)of the Uzbek and Uighur Languages. A linguist Sadavakasov G.S. considers the Fergana dialect of the Uighur language to be a dialect between Uzbek and English [13]. We must point out that the Fergana dialect of the Uighur

language formed as an independent dialect, it differs from the language of Yettisuv Uighurs[8]. Uighur ethnos of Fergana valley does not realize Uzbek elements in their language. Fergana dialect of which formed in this area is adaptable.

In general the Uighur people who were under the strong influence of the Uzbek language used both languages, and bilingualism could be observed. Such layer of population is called “Bilingual” or “blended”. Population which lived in the cities and towns did not preserve their own historical peculiarities. The conducted survey showed that respondents over 50-60 preserved the Uighur language in full, when the younger generation used Uzbek Uighur dialect, that is “Fergana dialect”. 79% of the respondents answered the question “How well do you speak the Uighur language?” that they knew the Uighur language excellently [20].

We must also point out that some small dialectic units have been preserved in the language of Fergana Valley Uighurs though the influence of the Uzbek population was very great. On the basis of the results of the survey the Uighur villages can be divided into the three uzbekish, blended and preserved Uighur well villages. For example, the language of the Uighurs living in Ahtachi village of Asaka district of Andijan region is uzbekish, the language of Uighurs living in Andijan and Osh cities is uzbekish and blended, Uighurs living in Pahtaabad, Shahrihan districts of Andijan region preserved Uighur dialects (Kashkar and Oksu dialects)well[13]. There are such words in different areas of the Fergana Valley which are peculiar to the Uighur language but they took regional features. For examplesuch words as “tag’in” (again), adash (friend), ocha (sister) are used by Uzbeks, Kirgiz’s, Kipchoks, Turks and others living in the Fergana Valley, these word are borrowed from the Uighur language. At the same time some international words, Uzbek, Kirghiz, Kazakh even Russian words can be met in Uighur dialect of the Fergana Valley. One more thing, the letters “и” and “ы” were widely used in the alphabet but they were pronounced restrictedly. When attention was paid to respondents’ speaking in dialects in ethno-sociological surveys, it was found out that local features exist in the pronunciation of such sounds as “ў, нз, л, э, қ”. Besides such umlaut suffixes as “вет, ват, ли, ум, қа” were also widely used.

It is not secret that the language of the Uighurs of Fergana Valley changed a lot in the course of time. In spite of this, in some villages, language isolation, that is, in small limited areas people use their mother tongue can be observed. In other words the language of Fergana Valley Uighurs is undergoing differentiation according to objective reasons [6]. In other words the language of Fergana Valley Uighurs is undergoing differentiation [14].

- Writing, education, literature and mass media play a decisive role in the development of a

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language. The Uighur language was reformed several times in its historical development. For example, the paper “Kambagallar Ovozi” (the voice of the poor) raised a question of reforming the language of Uighurs living in the country of Soviets [7]. The Uighur writing used to be in Arabic alphabet and the process of transforming the Uighur writing from Arabic alphabet into the Latin began. With this aim conferences in Tashkent (1921), in Samarkand (1929), in Alma-Ata (1930) were held [5]. The main question of these conferences was to reform the Uighur language and its writing system, also the problems of orthography and of preparing teachers were also discussed.

- Like all the people living in the Central Asia, the Uighurs also carried over to Latin graphics. Newspapers and magazines were published in the new alphabet. This fact had negative impact on learning the language, transferring it from one generation into the other and on educated people. And in 1947 writing was changed into Russian graphics and the Uighur alphabet changed again [16]. The newly adopted alphabet consisted of 41 letters, such marks as “ъ” and “ь” do not represent a special sound but have separating and softening effects, other 39 letters represent this or that sound [7].

- The Uighur language, writing and education were inseparably connected with each other. In 1920s tens of Uighur schools were established in Fergana Valley according to the demand of people. Namely, three schools in Uighurobod village of

Pahtaobod district of Andizhan region were specialized in Uighur language [19]. In 1930 more than 5000 school goers studied in their mother tongue, and the specialist teacher were prepared in Andizhan Uighur pedagogical technical school [15].

- Education was carried on in Uighur language in these schools. Because of dishonest policy of the former soviet regime, the problem of preparing specialists was not paid due attention. Supplying with textbooks became poorer each year and schools with Uighur language were closed down and changed into Uzbek schools.

Conclusion

In conclusion we would like to say that though Uighurs who moved to Fergana Valley live side by side with Uzbeks their language differs, and it even differs from dialects of Eastern Turkestan (what is now Xinjiang) and Kashkar. As Fergana dialect of Uighur language was under the strong influence of the Uzbek language, bilingualism can be met among the population. The Uighur people use their mother tongue in the family. The main aim of the policy of our international country is saving and preserving nations as gene pool values of the world. This is why, modern researching the influence of ethnic-linguistic processes and ethnic-cultural relations which took place in Fergana Valley is considered to be one of the actual problems of ethnology, ethnic-sociology and ethnic-psychology.

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