

МИНИСТЕРСТВО НАУКИ И ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ  
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ  
НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ИССЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬСКИЙ  
ТОМСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ

# **ВОПРОСЫ ИСТОРИИ, АРХЕОЛОГИИ, ПОЛИТИЧЕСКИХ НАУК И РЕГИОНОВЕДЕНИЯ**

**Сборник материалов XIV Всероссийской  
(с международным участием)  
научной конференции студентов, магистрантов,  
аспирантов и молодых ученых  
(Томск, 25–27 апреля 2018 г.)**

**Выпуск 14  
Том 2**

Томск  
Издательский Дом Томского государственного университета  
2019

13. Rajagopalan, R. India's strategic choices: China and the Balance of power in Asia // Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. 14.09.2017. URL: <http://carnegieindia.org/2017/09/14/india-s-strategic-choices-china-and-balance-of-power-in-asia-pub-73108.html> (accessed 09.03.2018).

14. C. Raja Mohan. Between Eurasia and the Indo-Pacific: India's new geopolitics. // Valdai Club. 20.12.2017. URL: <http://valdaiclub.com/a/highlights/between-eurasia-and-the-indo-pacific-india/.html> (accessed 8.03.2018).

**A.O. Kurlaeva, I.A. Ilyashenko, N. Paermentier**

## **COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE POLICY IN RUSSIA AND IN EUROPEAN AND ASIAN COUNTRIES (BELGIUM AND KAZAKHSTAN)**

*Scientific Advisor* – I. A. Ilyashenko, PhD in Philology

The article examines the language policy of several countries: Russia, Belgium, and Kazakhstan. By conducting a comparative analysis of the policies of these countries, we can determine not only differences, but also similarities. Today, in Russia, little is known about the characteristics of Belgium or Kazakhstan. Therefore, language problems affecting these countries are not known. That is why the topic of this article is relevant. The authors analyze the position of the national language in these countries and the attitude of the population towards the official language and other languages used in the territory of the state.

**Keywords:** language, language policy, Russia, Belgium, Kazakhstan.

Today we can observe the international acceleration of diplomatic, economic, social, and cultural relations, on the one hand, and the coexistence of the diversity of languages and cultures in our societies at the national level, on the other hand. If a Belgian traveler gets an opportunity to travel across Russia, he will certainly be amazed by the differences between Russia and Belgium. Despite the fact that Russia consists of a huge number of nationalities, one language stands out: Russian. Even if we speak the Ingush, the Buryat or the Tatar languages in different regions of Russia, a foreign traveler will think that everybody from Moscow to Vladivostok understands and speaks Russian.

The events of recent years in Russia and Europe make us think about the role of the Russian state and the Russian language in the modern world. Russians in Russia account for 80.9% of the population. Representatives of more than 100 nationalities live in the country, and the share of indigenous people is growing. The territory plays an important role in the formation of a unified multinational state both in legislation and the language aspect. Each person can

use his/her own native language. It is important to note that no one in Russia raises the question of the Russian language domination. The state encourages the development of culture, respect for the traditions of each nation, customs, and the way of life [1].

The Belgian language problem has existed for many years. The law of 31 July 1921 established three distinct linguistic regions: Flanders is Dutch-speaking, Wallonia is French-speaking and Brussels is bilingual [2]. But in practice, it only favors the Francophone population. In Flanders, if a person who speaks French wants to receive official documents in French, he/she will receive them. In Wallonia, on the contrary, this request will be refused. There is a question of the population census, in addition to this problem. Indeed, many francophones, especially in the vicinity of Brussels, move to the Flemish part. Moreover, manipulations of the French-speaking ruling elites help this expansion, according to the results of the census. The first law only emphasized tension between different language communities. In August 1962 another law was adopted. This led to the closure of all French schools in the Dutch part. This was followed by the crisis of the University of Leuven. This crisis led to the creation of a French-speaking University in the Walloon region: Louvain-la-Neuve. In 1994, Belgium officially became a federal state, in which Dutch-speaking, French-speaking, and German-speaking populations were represented. At the linguistic level it is interesting to know that in the Brussels region the bilingual Dutch-French, Flemish region is multilingual. The Walloon region is essentially French, but also includes a small German-speaking part.

In Kazakhstan, the policy of the state language plays an important role in the formation of the integrity of the Kazakh society, which includes more than 130 nationalities. In fact, Kazakhstan is a multinational country. The population of Kazakhstan consists of Kazakhs and Russians, as well as minorities such as Ukrainians, Germans, Uzbeks, Tatars, and Uighurs. According to the Presidential Decree of January 1, 2007, public and administrative affairs are carried out in the Kazakh language, but the Russian language is used as a language of communication between different ethnic groups in the country [3]. Kazakhstan is the only country of the former USSR which could not solve its language problems. You can find many different explanations, but they will be connected with an inefficient language policy. In general, all stakeholders are responsible for it: the government, the national intelligentsia, and the society itself.

The language policy of Kazakhstan is not only inefficient, but also has no purposeful and clear goals. The state is multinational, but instead of promoting the unification of cultures and the rapprochement of nations, Kazakhstan pur-

sues a policy of domination of the national language. For example, in early August 2011, the Kazakh Ministry of Culture passed a law that introduced changes to the language policy of the country. This new measure should make the Kazakh language compulsory for all citizens and state bodies [4]. This could not go unnoticed. The actions of the government in the field of the language policy were very poorly received by the people, or rather by the Russian population living in the territory of the state. The obvious aversion to the Russian language caused a wave of discontent among the Russian population. Subsequently, this led to the exodus of the Russian population from the country.

Russia and Belgium are federal states. Our comparison of the language policies made us notice an important difference. In the Russian Federation, nationalities have the right to freely use their own language. However, we note that the Russian language plays an important role in the unification of this country. On the contrary, Belgium is clearly divided. Communities that coexist in this federation less and less communicate with each other. In Russia we can observe the policy of mutual federalism. But Belgium shows the process of confrontational federalism quite well.

After studying the language policy in Russia, Belgium, and Kazakhstan, we see that, despite territorial proximity and a common history, the language policies in Russia and Kazakhstan are different. The goals and actions in these countries are completely different. If in Russia we see a policy of rallying cultures, languages, and nations, in Kazakhstan this is an open domination of the national language. Unfortunately, the policy of confrontation in Belgium is much closer to the policy of Kazakhstan.

### *References*

1. Ronin V. (1992) *Les Flamands et les Wallons aux yeux des Russes (1815-1914)* // In: Revue belge de philologie et d'histoire. tome 70, fasc. 4, pp. 942-959.
2. Laval University website [Online] Available from: [http://www.axl.cefan.ulaval.ca/europe/belgiqueetat\\_histoire.htm#10\\_Le\\_%ABcompro mis%BB\\_de\\_la\\_partition\\_linguistique](http://www.axl.cefan.ulaval.ca/europe/belgiqueetat_histoire.htm#10_Le_%ABcompro mis%BB_de_la_partition_linguistique) (Accessed: 09.04.2018).
3. Skakova A. (2016) *Politique trilingue et système de Bologne au Kazakhstan* : Astana. P. 359.
4. *Global voices(2011) Kazakhstan : Controverse autour de la langue officielle* [Online] Available from: <https://fr.globalvoices.org/2011/08/30/79011/> (Accessed: 09.04.2018).