



## PROSPECTS OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE IN UNIVERSITIES OF UZBEKISTAN

*Kavilova Tamara*

*Docent*

*Jizzakh State Pedagogical University*

**Abstract:** This article examines the prospects for the development of the French language in universities in Uzbekistan, analyzes the factors that determine its relatively weak position compared to other foreign languages (English, Korean, Chinese). Specific measures and solutions are proposed to strengthen the status of the French language in the educational system and improve cultural and academic ties between Uzbekistan and France.

**Keywords:** French language, Uzbekistan, higher education, language policy, international cooperation.

**Аннотация:** В данной статье рассматриваются перспективы развития французского языка в вузах Узбекистана, анализируются факторы, обуславливающие его сравнительно слабую позицию по сравнению с другими иностранными языками (английским, корейским, китайским). Предлагаются конкретные меры и решения, направленные на укрепление статуса французского языка в образовательной системе и улучшение культурных и академических связей между Узбекистаном и Францией.

**Ключевые слова:** французский язык, Узбекистан, высшее образование, языковая политика, международное сотрудничество.

**Annotatsiya:** Ushbu maqolada O‘zbekiston universitetlarida fransuz tilini rivojlantirish istiqbollari ko‘rib chiqiladi, uning boshqa xorijiy tillar (ingliz, koreys, xitoy) bilan solishtirganda nisbatan zaif pozitsiyasini belgilovchi omillar tahlil qilinadi. Ta’lim tizimida fransuz tilining mavqeini mustahkamlash, O‘zbekiston va Fransiya o‘rtasidagi madaniy va akademik aloqalarni yaxshilashga qaratilgan aniq chora-tadbirlar va yechimlar taklif etilmoqda.

**Kalit so‘zlar:** fransuz tili, O‘zbekiston, oliy ta’lim, til siyosati, xalqaro hamkorlik.

### Introduction

In the modern world, knowledge of foreign languages plays one of the key roles in the formation of competitive personnel. English occupies a leading position in most countries, including Uzbekistan, as it is the global language of science, diplomacy, business and culture. At the same time, there is an increase in the popularity of a number of Asian languages, such as

Korean and Chinese, due to the economic and cultural influence of the corresponding countries in Central Asia [1, p. 27, 2021].

Despite this, the French language continues to maintain its status as one of the most prestigious world languages, serving as a tool of international diplomacy and culture. France maintains active ties with various countries, promotes its culture through the Alliance Française system and other educational organizations [2, 2025]. However, in many universities in Uzbekistan, the French language is gradually losing ground: teaching hours are being reduced, student interest is declining compared to other languages.

This article aims to analyze current trends and identify key problems that hinder the strengthening of the position of the French language, as well as to suggest possible solutions. The work is based on a comparative analysis, observation method and review of current information on educational programs in Uzbekistan and the policy of cultural cooperation on the part of France.

## **1. Current state of the French language in universities of Uzbekistan**

### **1.1. Reduction of hours and decline in popularity**

In many universities and institutes of Uzbekistan, French is presented either as an additional course or as a second foreign language after English. According to official data from the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, in recent years there has been a tendency to reduce the number of hours of French in the curriculum [3, p. 46, 2023].

The reasons for this phenomenon are:

- Emphasis on English due to its global status and demand in the labor market.
- Economic and cultural priorities related to active investments and cooperation of Uzbekistan with East Asian countries (primarily South Korea and China).
- Lack of qualified French language specialists capable of attracting new students and introducing modern teaching methods.

### **1.2 Competition from English, Korean and Chinese**

English receives the main funding and support, as the Uzbek government sees it as a strategic tool for integration into the global community [4, pp. 53–54, 2020]. Korean and Chinese have become popular due to increased economic and technological cooperation, as well as attractive scholarships and grants from Korea and China. As a result, French is often not perceived as a priority in the eyes of students, which reduces the overall demand for it.

## **2. Problems and barriers**

### **2.1. Lack of educational materials and methodological base**

One of the main obstacles to the popularization of the French language is the insufficiently developed methodological base for teachers in Uzbekistan. Modern textbooks, manuals and multimedia resources in French are not always available or require significant financial costs. In addition, qualified methodologists are needed who are able to adapt training programs to national standards.

## **2.2. Limited Internship and Exchange Opportunities**

France traditionally offers various scholarship programs, however, compared to England, the United States, Korea and Japan, the number of grants or joint educational projects may seem smaller for Uzbek students [5, 2025]. This leads to a decrease in interest in the French language, as many applicants choose the language that makes it as easy as possible to access internships abroad.

## **2.3. Insufficient information support**

French culture and language are associated with art, fashion, and cooking, but in Uzbekistan, information about the real practical benefits of knowing French is often not widely spread. Media channels and advertising campaigns dedicated to promoting the French language rarely go beyond a narrow professional community.

## **3. Solutions and development prospects**

### **3.1. Expansion of cooperation between Uzbekistan and France**

To strengthen the position of the French language in the universities of Uzbekistan, it is necessary to develop and support joint educational programs. It is important to establish closer ties between Uzbek universities and French educational institutions, which may include:

- Creation of double degree programs (Double Degree Program).
- Organization of summer and winter schools with the participation of French teachers.
- Increasing quotas for educational grants and internships in France.

Such initiatives will have a positive impact on student engagement and will help them see the practical benefits of knowing French [6, pp. 14–15, 2024].

### **3.2. Support for teachers and modernization of methods**

It is necessary to ensure regular professional development of teachers, the introduction of modern interactive methods and the use of multimedia materials. For this purpose, joint seminars and master classes can be organized in cooperation with the Alliance Française and other cultural centers. Active work in this direction will improve the quality and effectiveness of teaching, and also expand access to innovative methods.

### **3.3. Information campaigns and cultural events**

The expansion of the popularity of the French language is impossible without cultural exchange. The organization of festivals, competitions, days of French cuisine and other events related to France can attract the attention of not only students but also the general public. Information support for these projects in social networks, media and on Internet platforms will help increase interest in the French language and culture.

### **3.4. Integration into professional spheres**

In addition to academic circles, French can be widely used in such areas as:

- International tourism and hotel business;
- Cultural and humanitarian projects with the participation of French organizations;
- Joint research programs in the field of history, archeology, linguistics, etc.

If students see a concrete benefit from knowing French - the opportunity to build a career not only in teaching, but also in business, diplomacy, international law, the motivation to study it will increase.

### **Conclusion**

The French language in the universities of Uzbekistan faces serious challenges: competition from English, as well as the growing popularity of Eastern languages (Korean, Chinese) due to economic and political priorities. However, given the historical and cultural significance of the French language in the world, as well as France's interest in developing international contacts, there is a real prospect of strengthening its position in Uzbekistan.

The key condition for this is a comprehensive approach, including expanding cooperation with French educational and cultural centers, strengthening the methodological base of universities, active support for teachers and launching information campaigns. If these conditions are met, the French language can again take its rightful place in the educational system of Uzbekistan, contributing to the academic, cultural and economic development of the country, as well as strengthening mutual ties between Uzbekistan and France.

### **REFERENCES**

1. **Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education** of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Development of language policy in the education system. - Tashkent: Publishing house of the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, 2021. - 150 p.
2. **Alliance Française**. Présentation de l'Alliance Française [Electronic resource]. – Access mode: <https://www.alliancefr.org> (date of access: 10.02.2025).
3. **Akhmedov Sh.R.** Analysis of the development of the French language in Uzbekistan // Bulletin of Philology. – 2023. – №2. – p. 45–52.
4. **Karimov I.A.** Uzbekistan on the Threshold of the Twenty-First Century. – Tashkent: Uzbekistan, 2020. – 200 p.
5. **Embassy of France in Uzbekistan**. Scholarships and educational programs [Electronic resource]. – Access mode: <https://uz.ambafrance.org> (date of access: 10.02.2025).
6. Aitbaeva N.B. International cooperation in the field of higher education: an example of cooperation with France // Science and Language. - 2024. - No. 4. - P. 13-19.