

RUSSIAN LANGUAGE IN THE MULTILINGUAL AND MULTICULTURAL SPACE<sup>1</sup>

M.A. Gasanova

*Dagestan State University; Russia, 367001, Makhachkala, M. Hajiyev St., 43a; gas.marina@mail.ru*

Marisa O. Ibragimova

*Doctor of Philology, Leading Researcher of Institute of Language, Literature and Art, Dagestan Scientific Center, Russian Academy of Sciences, mariza71@mail.ru*

**Abstract.** This article considers the problems of the sociolinguistic and linguistic conditions for the functioning of languages in a multi-ethnic and multicultural region of the Republic of Dagestan. Such a multi aspect scientific problem includes the study of various types of interference in the Russian language of Dagestanis and the analysis of the specifics of their Russian language, the problems of the linguistic identity of students in Dagestan schools and universities, the dynamics of the development of the language situation and the research of the role and importance of Russian as a factor of interethnic interaction in the region. The Russian language is acquired in contact with national languages, acquiring characteristic specificity at all language levels. This serves to form a specific version of the Russian language. The regional version of the Russian literary language - ethnolect - is formed on the basis of not one, but various numerous ethnic groups, which leads to its internal heterogeneity.

**Keywords:** Russian language, Dagestan languages, sociolinguistics, language situation, national language corps, interference, bilingualism, national-Russian bilingualism.

### 1. Introduction

A special situation requiring analysis is with having no written languages. They do not have official status; the so-called "title" literary language is taught as a "native" language in rural schools. Therefore, trilingualism is the norm for many Dagestan nationalities. But even writing Dagestan languages, which have a long literary tradition, do not all have explanatory dictionaries and theoretical grammars.

Dagestan is an ideal platform for the study of language contacts and models of multilingualism. The basis of its communicative community consists of several dozen ethnic groups. The linguistic situation in the region is difficult due to its exoglossy and imbalance (on a national scale). Republic after New Caledonia, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands is the champion, entering the top ten regions of the world in terms of language/area ratio: 32 languages are functioning on a total area of 50.3 thousand sq. km (14 - writing, 18 - unwritten). But many researchers agree that there are more than 40 languages. These are languages and dialects belonging to the Caucasian, Turkic and Indo-European language families. Quantitative variations are due to the allocation of various languages in dialect-language clusters: Dargin, Avar, etc. From the ethno-linguistic point of view, Dagestan is a multi-ethnic phenomenon that is not typical for other Russian regions, but experts today unanimously call the situation with the national languages of Dagestan pre-catastrophic.

The language situation in Dagestan is complicated by processes of a global nature. In particular, this is due to the outflow of the rural population to the cities since the second half of the twentieth century, migration from the mountainous part to the lowland part of the Republic of Dagestan - the zone of linguistic and ethnic homogeneity to the multiethnic-language zone. According to the data of 2007, 42.6 percent of the total population of the republic lived in Dagestan cities, and in 2018 this was already 45, 16% [[https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Population\\_Daghestan](https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Population_Daghestan)]. Mountain areas and rural settlements are mostly mono-ethnic. They mostly use their native language in everyday life, and in a city where practically the entire language spectrum is represented today, this function is performed by the Russian language, significantly narrowing the scope of application of national languages or sometimes completely excluding it. At the same time, there is a decrease in the quality level of proficiency in Russian, which is possibly explained by a decrease in the number of the Russian population.

Such rapid urbanization of the region against the background of the functional narrowing of the scope of national languages and even the fall of their prestige leads to the difficulty of constructing ethnic identification among Dagestan youth, "deprived" of ethnic language as the basis of ethnicity and national culture.

A special situation requiring analysis is also true for having no written languages. For example, 14 Ando-Tsez having no written languages, which, on the one hand, are supplanted by the Avar language, and on the other, by Russian. Since unwritten languages have no official status, the so-called "titular" literary language is taught as a "native" language in rural schools. The language repertoire of a modern Dagestan rural resident is, as a rule, represented in three languages - a literary version of the native language, a dialect or a local language, which can differ to a large extent

<sup>1</sup> The article was made under the project of Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation "Large-scale informational-propagandistic support and development of the Russian language in the multilingual cultural space of the Republic of Dagestan". The work also raises an urgent issue related to the representation and functioning of the Dagestan languages in the information space and the creation of national buildings. The Dagestan "national" segment has not been subjected to such studies. Not only are the texts in the Dagestan languages posted on the Internet of interest, but also the representation of ethno-cultural information in Russian

from the literary version, and Russian. Therefore, trilingualism is the norm for many Dagestan nationalities. But even written Dagestani languages, which have a long literary tradition, not all still have explanatory dictionaries and theoretical grammars: they lack a legalized standard form of codification and regulation, which does not allow to them to be considered literary languages in a strictly scientific sense of the word.

The study of the specificity of the ethnolect of the Russian language in Dagestan, where it performs the function of inter-ethnic communication and bears the status of the state language, is of particular interest. Only the Russian language managed to unite all its territory, becoming the lingua franca of the whole of Dagestan. It is absorbed in contact with local languages, acquiring the characteristic specificity at all language levels: phonetic, morphological, syntactic and lexical [Luo et al, 2018; Courtney, 2018].

Many domestic linguists have repeatedly addressed to the problems of research of multilingualism, the functioning of languages and language contacts, the regional variation of a literary language in a multi-ethnic society. This direction was of particular importance in the national republics. Such Soviet linguists as E.V. Tikhonov, A.V. Mirtov, I.U. Asfandiyarov, E.N. Kushlina, T.A. Bobrova M.N. Dzhumartova and others dealt with this problem. In the post-Soviet period, after the collapse of the USSR, the study of the Russian language in a foreign language environment was continued: in Ukraine — T.V. Krech, O.S. Parfenova, in Lithuania — M.V. Zavyalova, in Georgia — L.S. Pukhaeva, in the republics of the Russian Federation (N.A. Prokurovskaya, N.S. Sergiyeva, E.A. Yakovleva, L.L. Ayupova, M.M. Syvorotkin and others).

In the scientific literature today there are two almost opposite points of view on the problem of the regional Russian literary language:

1. When an oral-spoken literary language is perceived as unified, but at the same time as complex and varying over a vast territory one: I.I. Sreznevsky, A.M. Sobolevsky, F.E. Korsh, A.N. Tomson, V.A. Bogoroditsky, A.A. Shakhmatov, N.M. Karinsky, R.R. Gelgardt, Z.M. Almukhamedova, N.V. Parikova, K.I. Churkina, M.V. Panov, I.G. Dobrodomov, T.I. Erofeeva, O.D. Kryzhanovskaya, M.D. Harlamov and others;

2. Regional variation of the language is not recognized, since unity and strict normalization are mandatory properties of the literary language: E.F. Budde, V.I. Chernyshev, V.K. Favorin, V.V. Vinogradov, F.P. Filin, V.G. Orlova and L.I. Skvortsov.

In the works of Dagestan linguists, the problems of interference in the Russian language of Dagestanis were partially raised, the features of the sociolinguistic functioning of the Russian language in the Republic of Dagestan were studied, issues related to the language personality of Dagestan students were examined, etc. But both detailed studies of specific regions of Dagestan and the system-integrated study of multilingual communications in the region are still relevant [Akbari, 2013; Safdari et al, 2013].

The widespread functioning of the Russian language in the conditions of multilingual Dagestan as the state language and the language of international communication brings to the forefront the requirements for improving the methodology of teaching Russian in the national audience in secondary and high schools, that can be achieved, among other things, by creating an appropriate data bank on the functioning of the Russian language in Dagestan and on interference phenomena in the Russian language of Dagestanis. Compiling a complete data bank on the functioning and features of the development of the Russian language in Dagestan will contribute to solving the problems of the relationship between language and thinking in bilingual and multilingualism. It is obvious that the interaction of languages and the convergence of their structures in the process of interaction can take place if there is any intermediary link between them and this link and the “place” for the interaction of languages in the process of their contact is bilingual thinking. Therefore, one of the priority goals in this direction is to create a corps of Dagestan Russian as a research tool for studying and describing the sociolinguistic and linguistic features of the urban and rural versions of the Russian language in Dagestan.

It is necessary to analyze the description of the channels of mastering the Russian language at the present time. The situation in cities and villages is fundamentally different. Ethnic Russians practically do not live in the mountainous regions, although in the 1950s – 1970s Russian teachers often went to work in Dagestan rural schools. Therefore, one of the main sources of mastering the Russian language is still television. For rural children the practice of using the Russian language begins only when they enter school (but in the elementary grades of rural schools, instruction is conducted in their native language). In the city, the situation is fundamentally different. The Russian language performs the function of inter-ethnic communication, and urban children, as a rule, do not speak or have a poor command of their native language (for example, the level of proficiency in a language can only be reduced to an understanding of the speech addressed to him). Or communication in the national language is very limited (for example, the child communicates in his native language only with his grandmother). For an urban child, the main source of learning the Russian language is his parents and close circle. It is necessary to take into account the fact that parents are often displaced from villages. Therefore, today Dagestan is a region with a rapidly growing Russian-speaking population with a very low representation of the ethnic Russian population. According to statistics of 2002, it is 4.7 percent, and in 2010 it is already 3.6 percent of ethnic Russians lived in Dagestan cities.

Naturally, this contributes to the formation of a specific version of the Russian language, which has certain distinctive features. The regional version of the Russian literary language - ethnolect, functioning on the territory of Dagestan, is complicated by the fact that the Russian language in Dagestan is formed on the basis of not just one, but

various numerous ethnic groups. Accordingly, the regional version of the Russian language of Dagestan will reveal internal heterogeneity. Dagestan's Russian language exists in many variants, developing in close contact with several dozen local languages. And the Russian language of the speakers of each of these languages will detect some specific features caused by this language. First of all, it concerns the speech of the inhabitants of rural areas. In this connection, an extensive study of the Dagestan's Russian language in its urban and rural variants and socially conditioned divergent processes in linguogenesis is necessary.

In addition to the linguistic, monitoring and analysis of the linguistic situation in the republic has also the great political importance in the conditions of multinational and multilingual Dagestan. The situation is complicated by the fact that there is still no language legislative act. And the adoption of the republican law about languages, as it has been repeatedly voiced by specialists and public activists, is extremely necessary, given the critical situation with native languages. Numerous attempts may be said to discuss a such law still have little success, due to political and ethnic engagement, and also - the lack of objective data about the actual language situation. Consequently, the results of such researches have not only scientific, but also the great socio-political importance.

The aspect of research, related to the representation and functioning of the Dagestan languages in the information space, is relevant. Today the Internet is an important keeper of sociocultural and linguistic information. However, until now, segments of the global network associated with ethnic minorities remain unexplored. An important defining marker of the localization of the boundaries of the ethnic segment of the Internet is language. And the task of the research is to study the functionality and functional significance of a particular language in this relatively new (for national languages) linguistic field. Nowadays there are already quite a large number of works devoted to the transformation of forms of communication, the study of the pragmatics of communication, methods and mechanisms of lexical-stylistic shifts on the material, for example, of Russian language. There are some works devoted to the "national" Internet - Bashnet and Tatnet (the Bashkir and Tatar segments of the World Wide Web), but the Dagestan segment has not been subjected to such research. Not only the texts posted in the Dagestan languages on the Internet, but also the representation of ethno-cultural information in Russian, are of interest.

The question of creating national corps of Dagestan languages remains topical, although numerous attempts have been made to create them. At the moment, there are two language corps in Dagestan languages:

1) The Avar language corps contains 2.3 million word usages. The texts of the corps are labeled using an automatic morphological analyzer, about 76% of the word forms of the corps have parsing. Homonymy in the corps was not removed, i.e. all possible options for parsing without context are assigned for each word form. The last update of the corps was made on February 14, 2016. The search system of the Eastern Armenian National Corps (EANC) [[http://web-corpora.net/AvarCorpus/search/?interface\\_language=ru](http://web-corpora.net/AvarCorpus/search/?interface_language=ru)] was adapted for the corps.

2) The Lezghian language corps was created by D.S. Ganenkov with financial support from with the financial support of the Program of fundamental research of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences "Corps' Linguistics" (2011). This is a search engine based on a collection of Lezgi texts in electronic form. At present, the corps includes original works in the Lezgin literary language (novels, stories, novelettes, collections of fairy tales and anecdotes, articles from newspapers), written in the second half of the XX - early XXI century. The texts included in the corps are provided with morphological markup - information about the belonging of each word form to the lexeme and its grammatical characteristics. Automatic morphological markup allows you to search by exact word form, by lexeme, Russian or English translation of a lexeme, by grammatical characteristics of the word form, and also by any combination of these parameters and by combinations of word forms at a given distance [<http://www.dag-languages.org/LezgianCorpus/search/>].

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