

Investigating the Relationship between Learning the Russian Language and Transferring Russian Culture

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Abstract:- This article examines the relationship between learning Russian language and Russian culture. This relationship is mutual and deep. On the one hand, the Russian language acts as a carrier and reflection of Russian culture. Russian vocabulary, idioms, and language structures reflect various aspects of the country's culture, and learning Russian allows one to gain a deeper understanding of Russian culture. On the other hand, Russian culture acts as a facilitator of Russian language learning. Getting to know the Russian culture and understanding the cultural background helps a person to understand the Russian language better and use it more correctly. In addition, knowledge of Russian cultural concepts allows one to better understand linguistic subtleties, and a deep understanding of Russian culture helps the learner to be more motivated to learn Russian. In sum, this paper shows that the Russian language and Russian culture are mutually related, and each contributes to the understanding and transmission of the other.

Keywords:- Russian Language, Russian Culture, Russia

I. INTRODUCTION

Broadly, languages are considered as one of the most important cultural elements of societies that play an essential role in the transmission and preservation of cultural values. Each language, with its unique structure, terms, vocabulary, literature and concepts, expresses the culture and history of a society. In this regard, teaching foreign languages, especially languages that have a rich culture and a long history, has become one of the main ways to transfer the cultural values of societies to other societies.

One of the languages that has a lot of importance and influence in its culture and history is the Russian language. Russia, as one of the countries with a long and rich cultural history, contains many cultural values that are transmitted to other societies through the Russian language. But how to transfer these values through Russian language education to other societies, especially the Persian-speaking society, is a matter of great importance as a research topic.

In this article, we intend to examine the relationship between Russian language education and the transfer of cultural values of Russian society. By focusing on the effects of Russian language education on the transfer of culture and

society's identity, we are looking for how Russian language education can be an effective bridge to transfer Russian cultural values to other societies. This research examines the role of Russian language education in strengthening cultural exchange and increasing cultural diversity in different societies, and its results can help policymakers and language education professionals to propose better strategies to promote this process.

II. DEFINITIONS AND CONCEPTS

➤ Definition of Language

The society as the field of social duties and the position of the people who responsible for those duties leads us to the fact that in order to fulfill the duties and relationships of people and to connect the generations with each other, another special institution must be involved. Language is a set of arguments that arise in society and it becomes a factor in the communication/connecting of its people with each other and it establishes a relationship between the same society with its past and future. (Saboktakin , 2013).

➤ The Root of the Language

From the very beginning of human life and the formation of primitive societies, language emerged as a social matter and a tool to meet the needs of society, a factor for the relationship between people in society, and a means to express and understand common social issues. The origin of language was at the same time as the origin of man; it means that language has existed in every society, however weak it may have been. (Saboktakin , 2013).

➤ Language Learning

Language has existed since the beginning of human life as a factor that connects members of society with each other and with past and future generations. This, which is a kind of "argument", is achieved through words that contain different concepts and feelings. Different types of language affect the new generations of society. Language has found an important position in terms of education and transfer of scientific and cultural concepts of language and language learning in new psychology. (Saboktakin , 2013).

➤ Factors affecting Language in Society

Language, as a socio-cultural phenomenon, is influenced by various factors that can be classified into three main categories:

- *Political Factors:*

Language policies of governments are one of the most important factors affecting language. Political decisions about the official language, languages of education, minority languages, etc. can lead to the expansion, restriction or even elimination of some languages. Political changes and revolutions can also affect the expansion or restriction of languages and dialects. In addition, international relations and foreign policy can also be effective on expanding or reducing the influence of foreign languages.

- *Religious Factors:*

The role of sacred languages in different religions is one of the important factors in their preservation and expansion. Like the Arabic language in Islam, Sanskrit in Hinduism and Latin in Christianity. The influence of religion on the expansion or limitation of languages is also significant. For example, the role of religion in preserving and expanding indigenous languages or its influence on local accents and dialects.

- *Cultural factors:*

Culture is known as one of the most important factors affecting the formation and evolution of languages. This influence can be seen in vocabulary, grammar and phonetics. In addition, the role of language in preserving and transmitting cultural heritage is very important. Cultural currents can also affect the expansion or limitation of languages. Moreover, migration and cultural interaction can cause changes in languages.

- *Definition of Culture*

There are many and sometimes contradictory theories about the definition of culture. Some have defined it as follows by emphasizing the acquired nature of culture: it is a set of behavioral patterns or norms that are passed from one generation to another through learning. (Razavi, 2013).

- *The Mutual Relationship between Language and Culture*

For more than a century, the issue of the mutual relationship between language and culture has occupied the minds of many scientists. Some people think that the relationship between language and culture is the relationship between part and whole, and some others are based on the opinion that language is the only form of expression of culture. The third group believes that language is neither a form nor an element of culture. For example, we refer to the words of two famous scientists, Edward Sapir and Nikita Ilyich Tolstoy, one of whom is the founder of the school of linguistics based on ethnology in the United States and the other in Russia. According to Edward Sapir, the expression and definition of culture is like a category that the target society uses and thinks, and language is how the society thinks. Tolstoy says "The relationship between language and culture can be considered as the relationship between whole and part. Language can be understood as a constituent element of culture or a tool of culture, but at the same time, language in general has an independent nature in relation to culture, and it can be examined separately from language...

or, they analyze language compared to culture as a balanced, synonymous and equal phenomenon. (Moradi, 2016).

III. CULTURE AND DIMENSIONS OF CULTURE IN RUSSIA

➤ *Definition of Culture in Russian Society*

Russian culture refers to a set of values, beliefs, traditions, customs, art, literature, music, architecture and other aspects of the social, spiritual and material life of the people of this country. This culture has its roots in the long and complex history of Russia and has been formed under the influence of several factors such as the Christian Orthodox religion, the influence of Slavic and Byzantine cultures, the experience of different governments, as well as interaction with other cultures. Russian culture is known as one of the richest and most influential cultures in the world.

➤ *Dimensions of Culture in Russian Society*

- *Religious and Spiritual Dimension:*

The Christian Orthodox religion plays a very important role in the formation of the national identity, moral values and traditions of the Russian people. This religion is considered as one of the main pillars of Russian culture and has influenced the art, literature and architecture of this country throughout history.

- *Artistic and Literary Dimension:*

Russia has a rich and lasting tradition in visual arts (painting, sculpture), classical music, literature and theater. The works of great artists and writers such as Pushkin, Dostoyevsky, Chekhov, Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich are known worldwide.

- *Social and Traditional Dimension:*

Russian culture includes the customs, traditions, celebrations and lifestyle of the people of this country, which have been formed throughout history and contributed to their national and social identity. Some of these traditions and customs, such as the traditions related to national holidays, religious rituals, and the style of clothing and traditional foods, are still prevalent among the Russian people.

➤ *Political and Historical Dimension:*

Russian culture is influenced by the historical experiences of this country. As one of the world's great powers, Russia has been administered by different governments throughout history, including the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union, and the Russian Federation. Each of these governments have influenced the culture, values and national identity of Russia. Therefore, the political and historical dimension is considered as one of the important dimensions of Russian culture, which has played a significant role throughout the history of this country.

➤ *Scientific and Technological Dimension:*

Russia has a brilliant history in the field of science and technology. Throughout history, Russian scientists and inventors have made great achievements in various scientific fields, including mathematics, physics, astronomy,

engineering, medicine, and astronautics. Some of these achievements include the discovery of the elements of the periodic table, the construction of the world's first artificial satellite (Sputnik), the launch of the first man into space (Yuri Gagarin), and the development of nuclear technologies. These achievements show the high level of science and technology in Russian culture. Therefore, the scientific and technological dimension is considered as one of the important dimensions of Russian culture, which has played a very important role throughout the history of this country.

The relationship between Russian language learning and the transmission of Russian culture.

➤ *Russian Language, the main means of Transmitting Russian Culture:*

Russian language carries the values, traditions, literature, art and history of Russia. This language is a platform for transferring Russian cultural heritage to the next generations and other cultures. For example, the literary works of Russian classical authors such as Pushkin, Dostoyevsky and Tolstoy reflect the moral values, worldview and traditions of Russian culture. In order to deeply understand these works and convey them to the readers, familiarity with the Russian language is necessary.

➤ *Russian Culture is Rooted in the Russian Language:*

The structure of the Russian language reflects the cultural characteristics of Russia. Vocabulary, terms and expressions in the Russian language reflect the worldview and cultural values of this country.

• *Learning the Russian Language Enables a Deeper Understanding of the Russian Culture:*

Mastery of the Russian language provides access to the main sources of Russian culture. This makes it possible to understand the subtleties and complexities of Russian culture. For example, concepts like "судьба" (fate/ destiny) and "душа" (soul) are very important in Russian culture. A deep understanding of these concepts and their roots in Russian culture requires mastery of the Russian language and familiarity with the literature and art of this country.

In other words, it can be said that Russian language and Russian culture are closely related to each other. Learning the Russian language allows for a deeper understanding and more effective transmission of Russian culture. This two-way relationship shows the importance of Russian language education in the transmission of Russian cultural heritage.

• *The Relationship between Linguistic Structures and Russian Culture*

Russian linguistic structures are deeply rooted in the culture, history, geographical environment and worldview of Russians. This close connection between language and culture shows the importance of language learning to understand culture, for example:

➤ *Vocabulary:*

Vocabulary related to Russian culture such as "dacha" (Russian summer and recreational homes), "balalaika" (a traditional Russian three-stringed musical instrument) and "matryoshka" (wooden nesting dolls that symbolize traditional Russian culture and art) are rooted in Russian history, geographical environment and traditions. This vocabulary reflect important elements in the daily life and cultural identity of Russians.

• *Grammatical Structure:*

The complex grammatical structure of the Russian language with six nominal cases is rooted in the intellectual and cultural complexity of Russians. This grammatical structure allows for the expression of nuances and details that reflect the Russians' view of the world and their experiences.

• *Idioms and Proverbs:*

Russian idioms and proverbs such as "не в своей тарелке" (feeling discomfort and uncomfortable) and "медведь на ухо наступил" (Said to someone who does not know music well) are rooted in the experiences, beliefs, and cultural worldview of Russians. These terms reflect the values, norms and cultural attitudes of Russians.

• *Tone and Style of Expression:*

The tone and style of Russian expression, which reflects cultural characteristics such as intimacy and do not stand on ceremony, is rooted in the social and cultural characteristics of Russians. These features are reflected in the daily interactions and communications of Russians.

➤ *The Influence of Russian Language and Culture on each Other*

Russian language and Russian culture are closely related to each other and this relationship is two-way. In other words, the Russian language helps to transmit and preserve the Russian culture, and at the same time, the Russian culture also helps to learn and understand the Russian language more deeply:

• *Russian Language and Culture Transmit :*

- ✓ Russian language carries the values, traditions, beliefs and history of Russian culture.
- ✓ Russian vocabulary, terms and linguistic structures reflect different aspects of the culture of this country.
- ✓ Learning Russian allows one to gain a deeper understanding of Russian culture.

• *Russian Culture and Language Learning:*

Getting to know the Russian culture and understanding the cultural context helps a person to understand the Russian language better and use it more correctly.

- ✓ Knowledge of Russian cultural concepts allows one to better understand linguistic subtleties.
- ✓ Deep understanding of Russian culture helps the learner to be more motivated to learn Russian language.

Therefore, Russian language and Russian culture have a reciprocal relationship and each one helps to understand and transmit the other. This close relationship between language and culture is one of the important features of the Russian language.

IV. CONCLUSION

➤ *Russian Language is the carrier of Russian Culture.*

- The Russian language reflects the values, traditions, beliefs and history of Russian culture.
- Russian vocabulary, terms and linguistic structures reflect different aspects of this country's culture.
- Learning Russian allows one to gain a deeper understanding of Russian culture.

➤ *Russian Culture Facilitates Learning the Russian Language.*

Getting to know the Russian culture and understanding the cultural background helps a person to understand the Russian language better and use it more correctly.

- Knowledge of Russian cultural concepts allows one to better understand linguistic nuances.
- Deep understanding of Russian culture helps the learner to be more motivated to learn Russian language.

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