**Prof.Dr. Elchin IBRAHIMOV[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**LANGUAGE POLICY IN INDEPENDENT TURKIC REPUBLICS (MODERN PERIOD)**

**Summary**

One of the similar common features of the independent countries established after the collapse of the USSR was the complete lack of assimilation of Russian culture and communist philosophy, which lasted for about 70 years. Because the Russian culture despised the national and cultural values of these peoples, and the communist model caused them to remain poor. For this reason, as soon as they gained independence, they switched to a market economy and began to rebuild their nation-states within the framework of their cultural values.

In some of the new republics, the language policy was mainly based on the concept of nationalism (Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan). The main reason for this was the fact that local languages (mother tongues) were at the center of the policy of nations carried out during the tsarism and the USSR. The issue of national languages was the “main instrument” of the Soviet language policy.

During the 70-year Soviet period, the language issue became such a sensitive point that, even before the collapse of the Union, several republics passed successive language laws between 1989 and 1990. In Estonia (January 18, 1989), Azerbaijan (September 23, 1989), Uzbekistan (October 21, 1989) issued decisions declaring their national languages as state languages. Adoption of laws related to national languages caused concern of minority peoples in some countries, Abkhazians in Georgia, Russians and Poles in Latvia, Gagauzians held protest rallies in Moldova, and these protests made the situation even more tense.

The Turkic republics that gained independence entered the stage of integration with the world in education, science, economy, and generally in many fields. In the context of the development of science and technology and the rapid integration of the peoples of the world in the globalized environment, as well as the expansion of the information space, the issue of communication of the Turkic people in a common language has become a necessity.

**Key words:** *Turkic republics, language policy, national languages, Soviet period, Turkic world, minority peoples.*

1. Prof. Dr. Director of the Center for Turkic World Studies, Azerbaijan University of Languages, e-posta: [elchinibrahimov85@mail.ru](mailto:elchinibrahimov85@mail.ru), **ORCID iD** <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1105-9345> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)