



## TEACHING ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN UZBEKISTAN

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<b>Received:</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	This paper gives information about characteristics of teaching English in Uzbekistan as well as it is mentioned about the role of history while learning a new language and the stages of reforming English by Uzbek government for years. It illustrates the current opportunities which were focused for English language and testing language learners knowledge.
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These days the role of education is highly important in Uzbekistan as well as it is the main factor of country's flourish and economic growth. Uzbek government is currently trying to improve the quality of education, especially, English language because this language is one of the world languages and gives more opportunities when compared to other languages. Therefore, English is playing vital role on a daily basis now.

Uzbekistan is known as an ancient country around the world and it has also long language teaching history. There were many cosmopolitan cities, many migrants used to live there and their native language impacted on noticeably local languages, as a result, most Uzbek people were able to speak more than three languages, for instance, they knew Persian because of commerce, furthermore, local individuals could talk in Arabic due to religion matters. In later stages of history, Uzbekistan was conquered by Russian empire and every person started to speak in Russian according to political influence. It can be seen that even nobody thought about learning English and its importance around the world. In pre-independence period, teaching started English as a foreign language in high schools but it was not taught effectively as other languages. Most books were focused on grammar and reading texts. Teachers only emphasized grammar rules and used translation method during their lesson and it seemed quite tedious to learners.

After the independence of Uzbekistan, government focused on teaching and learning in an effective manner. The end of 1990s and the beginning of 2000s was marked as a new era for English language and it was already high time to change the style of teaching and adding more useful methods for teaching in schools and universities. Finally, Uzbek government reformed foreign language teaching system, therefore, foreign language curricula has been changed from grammar translation method to communicative language teaching in order to improve student's awareness of general English and communicative skills. Later, a new textbook was published for school students in Uzbekistan. It was called Fly High, with the support and assistance of British Council, the government published it and distributed to schools around Uzbekistan. Fly high books were only specialized for high school students and English lessons were not conducted for primary schools. In 2012, the first President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov decided to improve English more and "On measures to further improve foreign languages learning system" was big step in language police. After that English started to teach from primary school to high school and it is predicted that when they are graduating from school, their English level can be intermediate by learning schoolbooks.

Uzbekistan State World Languages University was built for teaching foreign languages and mainly it was majored in English and accepted hundreds of students in order to teach them foreign languages and preparing future English teacher for bright life of Uzbekistan. In addition to this, in every state university, new English faculty was opened and sustained with sufficient materials and well-experienced teachers who teach academic skills.

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) was developed by a council of Europe's international working party set up by the Language Policy Division with a view to promoting transparency and coherence in the learning and teaching of modern languages in Europe. CEFR is based on an action-oriented approach to language learning and use. It includes six proficiency levels for foreign language learning. The first levels are A1 and A2, they are 'basic user', and B1 and B2 are the level of an 'independent user', and people who command C1 or C2 are considered 'proficient users'.

International English Language Testing System was organized in Uzbekistan for testing English learners' level and it is estimated from 1 to 9 in four skills, listening, reading, writing and speaking. Taking this exam and getting at least 6 gives diverse opportunities for entering local universities without English exam or with the help of IELTS certificate they can study in abroad because this certificate is valid around the world.

The main goal of enhancing foreign languages is that providing students with well-qualified knowledge and broadening their horizon. It is obvious that Teaching English as a Foreign Language has been developed more when compared to the past. All the reforms are the requirement of time and have a big impact on foreign language teaching police.

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