



## HOW ENGLISH LANGUAGE EFFECTS IN YOUNG UZBEK GENERATION

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### ABSTRACT

*This article provides a detailed analysis of the influence of the English language on the young generation of Uzbekistan. It examines the role of the language in specific fields, access to scientific and technological resources, professional development, and advantages in the labor market, as well as its impact on cultural exchange and a global worldview. The article also offers recommendations for young people to learn English effectively and purposefully while preserving their native language and culture.*

### Introduction

The British Council has been working in Uzbekistan since 1996, supporting the development of education and particularly the development of English language competence across the country. The past five or six years since 2017 have seen rapid transformation in Uzbekistan, with a growing need for foreign language knowledge, and a massive increase in the demand for English. The British Council's work in English includes reform of the national pre-service teacher training (PRESETT) curriculum; mapping of the professional development journey of an English teacher in public education and development of major principles of Continuing Professional Development (CPD); modern English Curriculum and assessment consultancies and training for major stakeholders; cutting-edge digital resources and products and delivery of modern, communicative, four-skills examinations for teachers and learners of English. Our current flagship programme with the Ministry of Pre-School and School Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan is called Future English. It aims to understand and address the perceived issue of the low level of English skills of school leavers and to develop solutions to bring about sustainable change. Based on the extensive research into English teaching skills in public schools conducted by the British Council in 2020, we developed the Online Teacher Community (OTC) programme that brings together teachers from different countries in the world and offers a number of tailored courses around teaching skills, classroom research, assessment and English for teachers. Annually around 4000 English teachers from Uzbekistan join our OTC.

The English language effects on young Uzbeks are shaping their social identity, increasing opportunities, and influencing their slang through a blend of global culture and local language. This influence is driven by global media, the internet, and educational trends, leading to increased professional and personal opportunities, but also creating challenges related to access and cultural integration. Young people are adopting English loanwords, which have become a prominent feature in their everyday communication.

#### **Linguistic and social effects**

**Slang and identity:** English loanwords are becoming a significant part of Uzbek youth slang, helping to shape their social identity and connect them with global culture. This reflects a broader trend of adapting global language to local needs and strengthening in-group solidarity.

**Global connection:** English is seen as a tool for connecting with the West and participating in the globalized world. This is partly a reaction to previous influences and a strategic move for future economic and international relations.

**Language shift:** There is a clear shift away from Russian towards English as the dominant foreign language, driven by the government's recognition of English as a global language essential for economic competitiveness.

#### **Educational and professional effects**

**Professional advancement:** English proficiency is viewed as crucial for personal and professional growth, leading to increased demand for learning the language.

**Educational reform:** Government initiatives are promoting English education, including bringing in American teachers to improve instruction from the school level to university. This is a strategic effort to make the country more competitive on a global scale.

**Varied access:** While educational reforms are widespread, the quality of English instruction and student outcomes can vary significantly based on factors like access to private tutors, internet, and socioeconomic background.

#### **Potential challenges**

**Pronunciation:** Young learners may struggle with accurate pronunciation, particularly if not exposed to effective teaching methods.

**Inclusivity:** There is a need for teaching methods that value different varieties of English and focus on real communication skills rather than just prescribed "correct" forms, to avoid making students feel less confident.

**Integration:** Integrating new English loanwords into Uzbek requires careful consideration, as direct translation can sometimes be inaccurate or lead to confusion.

English plays an important role in the lives of the young generation in Uzbekistan today. It expands opportunities in education, career, culture and social networking. At the same time, it is essential not to forget the importance of preserving the native language culture. Learning English increases opportunities, but it should be with maintaining national values

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