

## **ABSTRACT**

Thesis work for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) on the specialty  
"6D020900 - Oriental Studies"

International language policy of China and the spreading of Chinese  
language in Kazakhstan

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Since the end of the twentieth century, huge changes have taken place on the world stage. Factors such as the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, the collapse of the Soviet Union, the independence of its constituent republics, the rapid growth of China and the strengthening of its international role on the world stage, and increased competition for world leadership have changed the international situation. World powers, in addition to strengthening the state by traditional methods, have spent huge resources on increasing the potential of "soft power".

Cultural, humanitarian and spiritual values that form the basis of soft power are not only important for creating a positive image of the state, but also have an impact on its political role in the world, on interstate agreements, on increasing confidence in it, on increasing its investment attractiveness, on the benevolent perception of this country by foreign peoples and on its linguistic security.

Among those countries that actively use language policy in their international activities, the people's Republic of China occupies a prominent place. From a scientific and practical point of view, the study of China's experience and prospects in the field of the spread of the Chinese language as a factor of soft power in its foreign policy is extremely important. A thorough study of this topic will make a significant theoretical contribution to the knowledge of the linguistic dimension of world politics and international relations, in changing the configuration of which in the XXI century the role of the PRC is great.

As a result, the rivalry between the Western and Chinese political systems became apparent. One of the concrete manifestations of this rivalry is the implementation of China's foreign language policy.

China's foreign language policy is not a concept of the usual sociolinguistic category, it is a topic that needs to be studied as an important content of China's foreign policy and diplomatic relations. Therefore, China's "foreign language policy" must be studied from the point of view of foreign policy or international relations.

It is important to determine the political motive for spreading the national language and culture of China in foreign countries. It is no secret that it attracts the attention of the world community as an effective trend of globalization. Therefore, each country pays special attention to this issue in order to protect its national interests.

China pursues foreign language policy as an important component of its overall foreign policy. In particular, they pursue this policy in conjunction with trade, economic, investment, and technological relations with the rest of the world. As a result, developing countries in need of investment and technology are often

forced to adopt the Chinese language and culture.

Language, as a carrier of culture, translates the language and culture of a particular state or people to the world and is one of the main tools of the "soft power" policy. All the world's cultures have spread through language. The languages of peoples who belonged to powerful scientific and technological civilizations were naturally spread throughout the world. Because the peoples of the world studied these languages in order to master new technologies, science and culture, and accepted the principles of the political and cultural system formed by them. As a result, structures were created whose task was to spread the language of native speakers of these cultures. The most famous of these are the British Council, the Alliance Francaise, the Cervantes Institute, and the Goethe Institute. Currently, English is used as the international official language.

In recent years, China, with a dynamically developing social economy, has been striving for world leadership. One way to achieve this goal is to spread the Chinese language and culture around the world. So, the "Confucius Institute" was created, named in honor of the world-recognized great humanist Kong Zi. Through the "Confucius Institutes", China is engaged in spreading the Chinese language and culture to the whole world, and with them its modern political principles.

Over the past twenty or thirty years, China, as one of the world's actors, has actively promoted the direction of globalization. The goal is clear-to become a world leader, to implement globalization with the Chinese concept, to instill Chinese values in the peoples of the world, to create a human community that will rely on China. Therefore, it is aimed at increasing the influence of "soft power" along with changing the process of global social development, building up military potential, and strengthening economic and financial potential.

Since the beginning of the XXI century, China has defined its foreign language policy as one of the priority areas of the state. In 2009, it was included in the concept of "soft power" and the state development strategy. The twelfth five-year plan (2009 - 2015) also provided for increasing the competitiveness of China's national culture and increasing the influence of the "soft power" of the state. And so the Chinese government resolutely began opening Confucius institutes in many countries around the world.

Confucius institutes were established one after another in Kazakhstan, the range of Chinese language education expanded, and Chinese was taught even in colleges and secondary schools. After in 2013, Chinese President XI Jinping announced that in Kazakhstan, within the framework of the "one belt, one road" project, 30 thousand quotas will be issued for Chinese language students to study abroad in China, the interest of Kazakh youth in learning Chinese has increased significantly.

This fact indicates that China's foreign language policy is being successfully implemented in the world, in particular in Kazakhstan.

Therefore, the relevance of this topic, which is devoted to a systematic and comprehensive review of China's foreign language policy as an integral part of its foreign policy, as well as the spread of the Chinese language in

Kazakhstan, is not in doubt.

The rapid development and growth of China's power has raised concerns about "yellow expansion" in the world. Although China interpreted their policies as "peaceful ascent," their overbearing actions and "sinking into debt" diplomacy exacerbated the "Chinese threat." In particular, the struggle for world leadership has led to an open confrontation between the US and China.

The consequences of China's economic influence in the countries of Central Asia and Kazakhstan have become very acute today. The particularly rapid spread of the Chinese language and culture in society has caused concern to many. It is no secret that in this regard, "anti-Chinese" sentiments are growing in society. Thus, all the above circumstances together confirm the relevance of scientific study of the linguistic dimension of China's foreign policy in the context of the use of "soft power".

**Object of the research** is the foreign language policy of China and the process of spreading the Chinese language in Kazakhstan.

**The subject of the research** is the mechanisms and process of implementing Chinese language policy through Confucius Institutes and systematic consideration of its results or consequences.

**Purpose of the thesis work** is to Systematically study China's foreign language policy and the spread of the Chinese language in Kazakhstan, identify and formulate the implementation of China's foreign language policy in the context of "soft power", the global influence of Chinese national culture, especially on Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

**Based on the determined purpose, the following goals were set:**

- determining the historical state and international political situation of China's adoption of foreign language policy;
- analyze the goals and features of China's "soft power" policy»;
- analyze the goals of spreading the national language and culture of China abroad and how to implement it;
- identify regional features of China's foreign language policy in the world and differences in the perception of Chinese culture by countries in each region;
- analyze the process of China's creation of Confucius Institutes abroad and their functions;
- analyze the spread and influence of the Chinese language and culture on the Central Asian States;
- to study the process of spreading the Chinese language in Kazakhstan and the influence of Chinese culture on Kazakhstan.

**Theoretical and Methodological Basics:** the Theoretical basis of the research work is made up of scientific works of domestic and foreign scientists who study such new theories and concepts as "soft power". When writing the dissertation, Chinese sources were used as the main material, in addition to them, methods of ranking, translating, classifying and systematizing materials in Russian and English from the standpoint of source science were used. Significant events and cultural ideological trends in China and the world in the

XXI century, the principles of political science, the theory of international relations and cultural studies were analyzed. Objective, historical-comparative, empirical, and induction methods were also used. In order to make the research conclusions as scientific as possible, we used interdisciplinary scientific methodologies that formed the basis of the methodology of the theory of "soft power" of China's cultural policy.

The study was based on the principles of historical, logical, and concrete analysis, the correlation of the subjective factor and objective conditions, and a systematic analysis of the object of study, which involves both objective, semantic and critical processing of factual material.

**Scientific novelty of thesis research:** Despite the fact that the study of the problem of China's foreign language policy and the spread of the Chinese language in Kazakhstan is the object of foreign and domestic researchers, no comprehensive research papers have been written on this topic.

In this dissertation work, research was conducted using Chinese documents and foreign materials related to international relations research in various fields of the Humanities:

- the historical, international position, purpose and mechanism of the foreign language policy of the PRC are defined;
- analyzed the influence and use of China's national language and culture as a tool of "soft power" diplomacy»;
- analysis of the creation and expansion of China's Confucius institutes abroad;
- regional features of the Chinese language policy and their differences in the perception of the Chinese language and culture are revealed;
- a comprehensive study of the activities of Confucius Institutes in the dissemination of the Chinese language and culture in the States of Central Asia, as well as the influence of Chinese culture in this region;
- analyzed the spread and influence of the Chinese language and culture in Kazakhstan, analyzed public views on China in the country;
- it is proved that China uses foreign language policy and "soft power" resources to resist the Western process of globalization and become a world leader.

**Practical relevance of the study:** the Scientific results obtained during the research of concepts, paradigms and positions are important not only in theoretical terms, but also for the internal and foreign policy experience of our independent state.

The practical significance of the research work is that the conclusions and ideas contained in it can be widely used in teaching such disciplines as international relations, foreign policy, Chinese studies, relations between Kazakhstan and China, relations between China and Central Asia, regional studies policy, theory of international relations, theory of diplomacy. Materials and documents, theoretical and methodological approaches of this work can be used in writing fundamental works on Chinese studies, foreign policy and international relations of China, as

well as in compiling textbooks. The research work can be used in organizing special lecture courses for students, undergraduates, doctoral students and teachers of higher educational institutions, students of institutions of advanced training of civil servants.

#### **Key points for defending.**

1. States that in history were "late" to rise to the level of a world power have always threatened the existing world order. Over the past forty years, a highly developed China has also sought to reshape the world order in its own way.
2. For leadership in the international arena, it is necessary to have the power of a complex state, to prevail over others in the economy and technology, and to form a positive state image. With concepts and strategies such as "a harmonious world", "a powerful cultural state", and "peaceful elevation", China is trying to create its own attractive image.
3. In the modern world, there are common to mankind values. Despite the fact that they are universal, China is doing everything possible to present and shape its national values for global globalization. As a result, the ideological struggle between the West and the East, including with China, swept the whole world and led to the struggle of "soft forces".
4. The Conquest of the world always involves the conquest of the spiritual world of people. Language is a tool that influences spirituality. After all, language determines people's thinking system. Therefore, China, as its long-term strategy, is developing the Chinese system of thinking and values through the dissemination of its national language in the world.
5. Since socially and economically backward developing countries need financial and technological support from developed countries, they tend to accept investment unscrupulously. Therefore, it is natural that developing countries open up many Confucian Institutions and easily succumb to the policy of "soft power" of China.
6. Currently, the world is dominated by economic interests. China, relying on its economic and financial potential, successfully conducts foreign language policy, influencing the world in General and Kazakhstan in particular.
7. China's Intensive development and significant influence on the world have created a "Chinese threat". The interpretation of its policy as "peaceful elevation" and the difference in the actual implementation of this policy led to the fear of Western countries and the subsequent closure of Confucius Institutions in some countries.

**Testing the results of thesis research.** The main provisions and conclusions of the dissertation are published in domestic and foreign scientific publications.

Published 6 articles in the collection of international scientific and practical conferences:

1. "Some problems of teaching Chinese in Kazakhstan" // Methodological problems of Chinese studies. Materials of the Republican scientific and practical conference. China research series No. 5. - Almaty, November 25, 2016. Pp. 89-95.
2. "History of Chinese language teaching in Kazakhstan" // Forum of the New silk

road (Almaty-2017) Materials of the International forum "Cooperation and innovation in education of States along the "one belt-one road". - Almaty, June 28-30, 2017. Pp. 4-7.

3. "The Role of language in China's foreign policy" // Collection of articles of the Republican scientific and practical conference "Decisions of the XIX Congress of the CPC and relations between Kazakhstan and China". - Almaty, March 2, 2018, Pp. 112-123.

4. "The Role and place of Confucius Institutes in China's soft power policy" // V international Farabi readings, collection of articles Of the international scientific conference of students and young scientists "World of Farabi". - Almaty, April 9-12, 2018, Pp. 18-20.

5. "Features of China's soft power policy" // collection of articles of the I International scientific and practical conference "Chinese Studies in Kazakhstan and abroad". - Almaty, April 27, 2018, Pp. 242-249.

6. "Confucius institutes and cultural integration", Proceedings of the international scientific and practical conference " Concept and practice of the "One belt - One road" and "Nurly Zhol" projects, "China Research" series No. 7, Almaty, may 3-4, 2019, Pp. 163-174.

One article in English was published at the international scientific and practical conference abroad: "The spread of Chinese language in Kazakhstan", collection of articles "14th International Postgraduate Forum of Beijing Normal University on World History and Historiography", November 24-25, 2018, p. 447-453.

Published 4 articles in journals recommended by Committee for control in education sphere and science MES RK:

1. "The Policy of cultural integration of China into the world community" // electronic journal of the Institute of history and Ethnography - edu.e-history.kz 2017 # 1, March.

2. " The Role of language in China's foreign policy»//Bulletin of KazNU, series of Oriental studies 2018, no. 1 (84), p. 54-60.

3. " Public diplomacy of China»//Bulletin of KazNU, series of Oriental studies 2019, may, No. 1 (88), p. 179-186.

4. "Creation and activity of Confucius Institutes" // electronic journal of the Institute of history and Ethnography - edu.e-history.kz 2019, October-December, No. 4 (20)

Published one article in an international scientific journal included in the Scopus database: «MAIN FACTORS OF CHINA'S SOFT POWER IN CENTRAL ASIA», CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS, English Edition, Journal of Social and Political Studies, Volume 21, Issue 1, 2020.

**The structure of the thesis work** is based on the logic of achieving the goals and objectives of the study and consists of an introduction, four sections, conclusion and list of reference literature used.