## MULTILINGUALISM IN THE GLOBAL ERA: SUPERDIVERSITY, IDENTITY, AND SOCIOLINGUISTIC PERSPECTIVES

**Malika Kazakova**

*Navoiy Davlat Universiteti o'qituvchi*

**Annotatsiya**: *Maqolada ko'p tillilik globalizatsiya va migratsiya sharoitida shakllangan dinamik ijtimoiy hodisa sifatida yoritiladi. Superdiversitet, tilning tijoratlashuvi va identifikatsiya jarayonlari hamda urbilinvgizm va metrolingvizm kabi yangi tushunchalar tahlil qilinadi.*

**Kalitso'zlar**: *Ko'p tillilik, superdiversitet, sotsiolingvistika, identifikatsiya, globallashuv, urbilinvgizm, metrolingvizm.*


**Аннотация**: *Статья рассматривает многоязычие как динамичное социальное явление в условиях глобализации и миграции. Подчеркиваются супердиверситет, коммерциализация языка и формирование идентичности, предлагаются новые понятия урбилингвизма и метролингвизма.*

**Ключевые слова**: *Многоязычие, супердиверситет, социолингвистика, идентичность, глобализация, урбилингвизм, метролингвизм.*


**Annotation**: *This article explores multilingualism as a dynamic social phenomenon shaped by globalization and migration. It highlights superdiversity, language commodification, and identity construction, proposing new concepts such as urbilingualism and metrolingualism to reflect modern communication practices.*

**Keywords:** *Multilingualism, superdiversity, sociolinguistics, identity, globalization, urbilingualism, metrolingualism.*

### Introduction

Historically, multilingualism has been understood as the coexistence of distinct languages within individuals or communities. This perspective, grounded in structuralist linguistics, often linked language purity and standardization to the formation of national identity (Heller, 1999). However, in the context of rapid globalization, transnational migration, and cultural mobility, this static conceptualization has proven increasingly inadequate. Current scholarship positions multilingualism as a fluid and socially situated practice, where speakers strategically draw on diverse linguistic resources to navigate complex social, economic, and cultural realities (Martin-Jones, Blackledge, & Creese, 2012). This chapter reviews contemporary approaches to multilingualism, with attention to superdiversity, the economic valuation of language, identity formation, and the emergence of innovative sociolinguistic frameworks.

Literature Review

Research on multilingualism has shifted from viewing languages as fixed, separate systems to understanding them as fluid repertoires that individuals draw upon in diverse contexts (Blommaert, 2010). Traditional views, rooted in nation-building ideologies that equated monolingualism with unity (Heller, 1999), are increasingly challenged by globalization and migration. These forces have created superdiversity (Vertovec, 2007), marked by hybrid communicative practices that cannot be captured by older concepts like "bilingualism" or "speech communities."

Scholars also highlight the commodification of language, where multilingual skills function as economic capital in global markets (Heller, 2011). While this can create opportunities, it often reinforces hierarchies favoring dominant languages, especially English, and marginalizes others (Pavlenko & Blackledge, 2004). Critical sociolinguistic approaches emphasize how multilingual practices—through codeswitching, hybridity, and voice—enable speakers to negotiate identity, belonging, and power (Pratt, 1987). Emerging frameworks such as urbilingualism and metrolingualism (Makoni & Pennycook, 2007) reflect the adaptive nature of language in urban and transnational spaces, underscoring the need for inclusive policies and pedagogies that see multilingualism as both a resource and a challenge.

Multilingualism as a Fluid Practice

Recent research foregrounds the notion of linguistic repertoires, which conceptualizes language not as isolated systems but as flexible resources that individuals use contextually (Blommaert, 2010). This shift marks a departure from 19th- and 20th-century ideologies that promoted monolingualism as a cornerstone of national unity (Heller, 1999). While such ideologies persist in public and political discourse, they are increasingly challenged by the realities of migration and transnationalism, where speakers routinely move across linguistic and cultural boundaries (Blackledge, 2005).

Globalization and the Rise of Superdiversity

Globalization has intensified migration and cultural exchange, resulting in what Vertovec (2007) defines as superdiversity. This concept captures not only ethnic and linguistic differences but also intersections of socioeconomic status, legal frameworks, and transnational networks. These conditions produce hybrid and adaptive forms of communication that defy traditional linguistic categories such as "bilingualism" or "speech communities" (Blommaert, 2010). The study of such complexity demands ethnographic and qualitative methodologies, which allow researchers to capture how individuals use language in relation to shifting social and spatial trajectories (Martin-Jones et al., 2012).

Languages as Commodities in the Global Economy

The global economy has transformed language into a form of symbolic and economic capital (Bourdieu, 1991). Proficiency in dominant global languages, particularly English, is often marketed as a commodity that enhances employability and mobility (Heller, 2011). While multilingual skills benefit institutions and markets, they frequently perpetuate

linguistic hierarchies and exploit workers' linguistic capital, marginalizing speakers of less prestigious languages. These dynamics illustrate how language operates at the intersection of profit and inequality, making critical perspectives essential in sociolinguistic research.

Identity, Power, and Critical Sociolinguistics

Theorists have moved from a "linguistics of community" toward a sociolinguistics of contact, emphasizing interactions across social and linguistic differences (Pratt, 1987). This approach focuses on how speakers construct identities, negotiate power, and resist inequality through practices such as codeswitching, hybridity, and voice (Pavlenko & Blackledge, 2004). Critical and ethnographic traditions link local interactional practices with broader social and historical structures, employing tools such as discourse analysis and interactional sociolinguistics to uncover how multilingualism functions within systems of power (Heller, 1999; Martin-Jones et al., 2012).

Emerging Frameworks for Multilingual Practices

Contemporary linguistic realities have prompted the development of new frameworks, including urbilingualism, metrolingualism, and multilingua franca (Makoni & Pennycook, 2007). These concepts reflect the fluid and adaptive nature of communication in urban, transnational, and digitally networked spaces, where speakers combine linguistic, cultural, and multimodal resources to achieve social and economic objectives. Such perspectives reinforce the necessity of inclusive policies and educational practices that embrace multilingualism as both an asset and a site of potential inequality.

**Conclusion**

Multilingualism in the 21st century must be understood as a dynamic and socially embedded phenomenon, shaped by globalization, migration, and economic transformation. Moving beyond static, monolingual models, contemporary research emphasizes the need for critical, ethnographic, and flexible approaches to capture the complexity of linguistic practices. Recognizing multilingualism as both a resource and a challenge is crucial for developing policies and pedagogies that promote equity, identity development, and social cohesion in a globalized world.

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