



SYMBOLIC AND LANGUAGE ASPECTS OF POLITICAL IDENTITY OF SAUDI ARABIA

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ABSTRACT

This research focuses on the issue of conserving the Arabic language as an essential cultural heritage and a symbol of national and political identity. The significance of language policy in establishing a state's international standing is discussed, as well as strategies and techniques for maintaining and growing the Arabic language in the modern world, where globalization processes threaten its distinctiveness and worth. History, religious features, and cultural values all shape national identity and preserve the Arab people's cultural heritage.

KEYWORDS

Saudi Arabia, symbols of identity, cultural heritage, language policy, globalization, identity, history, religion, cultural values, development strategies, Arabic language.

INTRODUCTION

Symbolic and linguistic politics methods, which are aimed at forming and reinforcing national identity, play a major role in Saudi scientific discourse. The production of new symbols and values, as well as the restoration of old ones, are becoming increasingly significant instruments in the contemporary period for implementing Saudi Arabia's internal policy.

Due to the impact of certain non-alternative aspects of global politics, symbolism, and language have also evolved into foreign policy tools. These comprise national sovereignty, state interdependence internal development processes, and international standing. Achieving strong regional or global positions, preserving ties with state and non-state actors in an environment of fierce competition, and safeguarding



the Kingdom's territorial integrity are all goals of Saudi Arabia's foreign policy. Generally speaking, carrying out these responsibilities ought to contribute to maintaining Saudi Arabia's security, fostering external circumstances that will support its growth, and thwarting or containing any dangers.

National linguistic identity is one of the key elements in the formation of nation-states, according to the idea of political realism in the modern world. Language has a long-term influence on national culture and, when combined with other elements, shapes the country. Thus, the critical role that language plays in the creation of national identity has been a recurring issue in a study on national identity over the past forty years, according to J. Joseph's book "Language and National Identity." The existence of a national language is considered by many eminent political scientists to be the primary tenet of nationalist ideology. E. Kechin's analyses indicate that a native speaker's value orientations in their linguistic consciousness are determined by the traditions of national culture, the specificity of the image of the world as its structural component, and the religious context of worldview.

In Saudi Arabia, the Arabic language factor plays a large role in the formation of national identity and its ideological significance extends far beyond its linguistic boundaries, turning it into a carrier and exponent of cultural, religious, historical, and national aspects. In this context, the Arabic language takes on the role of a symbol, a connecting element, and a tool in the formation of Saudi national identity.

In Saudi Arabia, which has a long history and rich heritage, the Arab language is an integral part of its cultural code. In the context of Arab culture, it serves as a linguistic instrument for expressing national values, traditions, and views about the world. In particular, it is because of the language's exceptional capacity to be able to take into account the characteristics and main features of a national

character as well as its role in stirring up feelings and emotions amongst citizens. Language identity has an important role to play when it comes to the creation and development of a kingdom's identity. The Arabic language is a sign of the Kingdom's own identity. The preservation of the Arabic language is an attempt to preserve Saudi Arabia's ethnic identity. In this respect, it is considered that the loss of the Arab identity of the Kingdom is threatened by the inability of a large number of the younger generation to speak standard Arabic.

The characteristic feature of Saudi Arabia is a religious conditioning of language awareness. The existence and development of a language in the Arab world is facilitated by links with the Islamic religion. Arabic is divided into two types: literary Arabic and spoken Arabic. Literary Arabic is a major ideological factor in shaping the national identity and also contains an Islamic essence, while Saudi's dialect is considered to be purely a language of communication. In all Arab countries, literary Arabic has survived for centuries and remains homogeneous and understandable, while the dialects differ. The importance of the Arabic language to Saudi Arabia and its use as a tool for dealing with today's cultural and policy challenges related to identity under globalization can be pointed out. The Arab identity is based on linguistic, religious, historical, and common national consciousness. At the same time, linguistic consciousness and national consciousness are closely interconnected. Also, Arab national consciousness has a geopolitical meaning.

According to Muhammad al-Jabri, changes in the Arab culture of Saudi Arabia are caused by deformational changes. The idea of Saudi Arabia's Arab identity centers on the idea of Arab consolidation. National identity is defined as one of the constituent characteristics of a person's identity. It manifests itself in a feeling of belonging to a certain nation, country, or



cultural space. The Arabic language plays an important role in the formation of national identity.

According to Y.Safiullin, the language in written form was part of an attempt by one or another country to establish a new nation and literature has been its organic element. They are not just a reflection of something in a nation, they are in this nation itself. When we try to grasp and comprehend the spiritual world of a nation, we construct this world in our minds, relying mainly on the literature and language of this nation, which, thus, become not a reflection of something, but a primary source for our ideas.”

The concept of “Arabism” included knowledge of the Arabic language as one of the most important components, when, according to the Bedouin interpretation, “whoever speaks Arabic is called an Arab,” i.e. The Arab/non-Arab opposition, along with the opposition of cultural and religious characteristics, was also based on linguistic grounds. According to the theorist of the idea of pan-Arabism Abdulaziz ad-Duriy, having retained much of its ancient state, thanks to the comparative isolation on the Arabian Peninsula before the emergence of Islam and having undergone evolutionary development as the language of such a world religion as Islam, the Arabic language acts simultaneously as a representative of the most ancient and modern formations of Semitic speech.

The formation and manifestation of ethnic self-awareness is an important historical stage in the development of a people whose roots go back to the tribes that roamed the deserts of what is now Saudi Arabia. Going beyond the boundaries of the habitat, the invasion of zones of highly developed agricultural culture was accompanied by the spread of Islam, the consolidation of nomadic tribes, united in solidarity in the name of military conquests, and the triumph of the recently adopted religion. By this time, “by their way of life, they were perfectly prepared for war, and for trade exchange, and monetary transactions.”

According to Muhammad al-Sayyid, the idea of the existence of an Arab ethnolinguistic community has been reinforced not only by the Arabs themselves, but also by the consciousness of the people around them. In terms of identification, the language factor played a key role. The relative unity of the literary language and dialect is also supporting the existence of an Arab ethnolinguistic community.

According to Abdulaziz Al-Duriy, the Arabic language plays an important role in the formation of collective identity. The Arabic language was historically the first common denominator that led to Arab identity even before the advent of Islam. In the Arab world, the official language has always been Arabic. At the end of the 19th century, the Ottoman Empire began a policy of glorifying and imposing the Turkish language in some of its Arab territories. Arabs perceived this policy as an attack on the Arabic language and an attack on Arab national identity. Arab thinkers began to write about the concept of national identity, which was also called pan-Arabism and was an extension of it. In their view, only through Arab unity could a return to the natural development of Arab civilization, interrupted by four centuries of Ottoman rule as well as European colonial rule. The formation of the ideology of pan-Arabism occurred in the process of the Arab countries themselves searching for national identity. These Arab elite movements were tied to cultural national identity rather than political identity. The Arabic language played a significant role in this, both ideological and symbolic as the face of culture.

Saudi Arabia's leaders, who support an ideology of national identity based on Islam and the Arabic language, began to express their statements as “Islam is our religion, Arabic is our language.” The policy of linguistic integration is also closely related to the ideological role of the Arabic language. There is currently an alarming language situation in Saudi Arabia. As a result of the presence in the country of a



huge number of migrants of non-Arab origin, which sometimes reaches 65% of the local population, has led to the emergence of a negative linguistic phenomenon in the Arabic language, which is pidgin Arabic

In that respect, a number of leading scholars in the Kingdom have called for legislation and systems to protect Arab languages and nationals' identities. In Saudi Arabia, scholars and religious leaders abound in writings and lectures on attempts to defend the Arabic language as a national identity. The use of pidgin Arabic in government offices has also been banned by the government.

Religious conditioning of linguistic consciousness is a characteristic feature of the inhabitants of Saudi Arabia. In general, religion was one of the most powerful forces influencing language change and its spread. For Arabs, religion is the basis, the core of the people's, national spirit. Having penetrated deeply into their social psychology and way of life, it still plays a dominant and determining role, occupying a central place in the thoughts, beliefs, values and feelings of most people in the modern Arab world. Despite the strong influence of modern Western civilization on Saudi Arabia, the "Islamic paradigm" cannot be ousted from mass consciousness, and Arab culture still retains its own identity, its own worldview, thinking and identity.

Religious consciousness exists and functions in connection with religious vocabulary, with the help of which religious meanings and meanings are expressed. Through language this consciousness becomes social, practical and real. Each phenomenon in culture can acquire the character of a symbol of ethnicity, but most often national ideology and feelings are focused in language. Thus, for representatives of Arab culture, the "Arabic language" is, first of all, the language of origin and the language of the Koran, Islam, and the language of Muslims. According to professor Mujahid Bahjit, "the strong ties between Islam and the Arabic

language gave the latter a religious character." When it comes to the importance of the Arabic language in the modern world, it is emphasized that it is "the language of Islam and contributes to the preservation of the unity of Muslims." National disadvantage naturally gave rise to a craving for historical and cultural roots, a desire to find in one's own culture, primarily in language, the basis for the unity of the Saudi national community. The basis of identity for Saudi Arabia is formed by common roots, origins, tradition and history, family ties and family ties.

The following conclusions can be arrived at in the light of these facts: Arabic is one of the languages with an ideological bent, owing to its functional role. The designation of the ethnonym Arab, the relationship between the Arabic language and the national identity, and the inextricable link between the Arabic language and Islam, as well as the relationship between Arab Muslims and non-Arab Muslims, confirm this.

The Arabic language has a lengthy history, closely linked to the culture, religion, and cultural identity of its native peoples. Language is not only a means of transmitting information but also the repository of cultural values, literary masterworks, and religious texts. An important part of belonging to the Saudi culture and nation is commitment to the Arabic language.

Signs of national identity and consolidating factors for Saudi Arabia are language and religious beliefs based on the traditions of Islam. In light of globalization, the Arabic language remains a means to preserve the cultural uniqueness and identity of Saudi Arabia. Interaction with other cultures and languages should not lead to the loss of one's own identity. The Arabic language continues to serve as a tool to express Arab identity, to resist cultural homogenization, and to protect the cultural values of Saudi Arabia. The Arabic language helps to preserve the cultural identity of Saudi society, strengthen spiritual values, and maintain



social harmony and national unity. This ideological role of the Arabic language is a key component in enriching and strengthening the Saudi identity.

The concept of identity is not only a domestic phenomenon but also cultural, societal, ethnic, and individual aspects. The interaction of many factors such as historical heritage, language, religion, social environment, education, and so on is a factor that contributes to its creation. In the process of establishing national identity, the Arabic language has a major role to play. The ideological essence of the Arabic language is manifested in its ability not only to be a means of communication but also to serve as a symbol of national unity, cultural wealth, and historical continuity.

In Saudi Arabia, language politics and symbolism play a crucial role in shaping the national identity. Language is more than just an instrument for domestic policy, it also represents a major part of the country's foreign policy. In both its domestic and international context, Saudi Arabia relies on language and symbols to identify itself. The language has a decisive role to play in the development of National Culture, which is based on nationalistic ideas. The Arabic language remains a key element of national identity and a symbol that links the cultural, religious, historical and national aspects of Saudi Arabia. Preserving the Arabic language is becoming key to preserving the country's Arab identity, and its loss could pose a threat to the Kingdom's national identity.

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