



The Significance of literary works in linguoculturological studies of a language and its translation problems in preserving linguistic and cultural heritage to strengthen community cohesion and resilience

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the crucial role of language and literature in community service, described in a small part of Ibn Khaldun's "Muqaddimah". It also discusses language as a technical habit and literature as a cultural reservoir and its impact on social development. Modern linguistic theories and contemporary examples emphasize the need for adaptive practices and digital tools to preserve linguistic and cultural heritage. The integration of traditional and modern approaches is proposed to strengthen community cohesion and resilience, emphasizing the importance of inclusive and effective communication for community development.

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Tilning lingvokulturologik tadqiqotlarida adabiy asarlarning ahamiyati va uning tarjima muammolari lingvistik va madaniy merosni saqlashda jamiyatning hamjihatligi va barqarorligini mustahkamlash

ANNOTATSIYA

Kalit so'zlar:

til,
adabiyot,
raqamli vositalar,
madaniy meros,
jamoat xizmati.

Ushbu maqolada Ibn Xalidun kichik bir qismida tasvirlangan til va adabiyotning jamoat xizmatidagi hal qiluvchi roli ko'rib chiqilgan "Muqaddimah". Shuningdek, unda til texnik odat sifatida va adabiyot madaniy suv ombori sifatida va uning ijtimoiy rivojlanishga ta'siri muhokama qilinadi. Zamonaviy

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lingvistik nazariyalar va zamonaviy misollar lingvistik va madaniy merosni saqlash uchun moslashuvchan amaliyot va raqamli vositalar zarurligini ta'kidlaydi. An'anaviy va zamonaviy yondashuvlarni birlashtirish jamiyatni rivojlantirish uchun inklyuziv va samarali muloqotning muhimligini ta'kidlab, jamiyatning hamjihatligi va barqarorligini mustahkamlash uchun taklif etiladi.

Значение литературных произведений в лингвокультурологических исследованиях языка и проблемы их перевода в сохранении лингвистического и культурного наследия для укрепления сплоченности и жизнестойкости сообщества

АННОТАЦИЯ

Ключевые слова:

язык,
литература,
цифровые инструменты,
культурное наследие,
общественная
деятельность.

В данной статье акцентируется важнейшая роль языка и литературы в общественной работе, что иллюстрируется на примере фрагмента книги Ибн Халдуна «Мукаддима». Авторы рассматривают язык как инструмент технической привычки, а литературу – как культурный резервуар, оказывающие значительное влияние на социальное развитие. Современные лингвистические теории и практические примеры подчёркивают необходимость использования адаптивных методов и цифровых инструментов для сохранения языкового и культурного наследия. В статье предлагается интеграция традиционных и современных подходов для укрепления сплоченности и жизнестойкости сообщества, при этом акцентируется внимание на значимости инклюзивной и эффективной коммуникации для его развития.

INTRODUCTION

Language and literature have played an important role in shaping and maintaining communities. Drawing on Abdul Rahman Ibn Khaldun's seminal work *Muqaddimah* (1332–1406), this discussion examines the central role that language habits and literary practices play in community service and development. Ibn Khaldun's depiction of language as a technical habit provides a timeless foundation for understanding communication. Modern philology and linguistics, however, deepen this view, revealing the complex cognitive and social dimensions of language acquisition and its crucial role in fostering cohesion and strengthening communities.

This article argues that viewing language as a craft emphasizes the need for consistent practice and exposure to it to develop effective communication skills that are essential for educators, leaders, and community shaping. Beyond language, literature becomes a dynamic repository of cultural heritage – preserving history, fostering intellectual growth, and inspiring action on pressing social issues. Contemporary examples such as community journalism underscore literature's ability to reflect social realities and inspire change.

However, the erosion of language habits in multicultural and urban environments poses a major challenge. To counter this, the article argues for embracing linguistic diversity and using modern technologies to preserve and revitalize linguistic and cultural practices to keep them alive and relevant in an increasingly interconnected world.

ROLE OF LITERATURE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

Throughout history, language and literature have played a central role in the development and maintenance of communities. As Ibn Khaldun explains in his seminal work “Muqaddimah” (pp. 635-639), the science of literature is intertwined with the mastery of prose and poetry and serves as a repository of cultural and historical knowledge. From a philological perspective, the profound impact of literature on service to the community can be seen in its ability to shape social norms, preserve heritage, and promote intellectual growth (Gonçalves Matos, 2005). Ibn Khaldun argues that literature encompasses not only the esthetic aspects of language but also a comprehensive understanding of history, culture, and various scientific terminologies.

Ibn Khaldun states:

“Philologists consider its purpose identical with its fruit, which is (the acquisition of) a good ability to handle prose and poetry according to the methods and ways of the Arabs” (Ibn Khaldun, 2015 translation, p. 636).

This [quotation] illustrates the dual function of literature: the transmission of language skills and the preservation of cultural knowledge. Philologists see literature as a means of acquiring language skills, which in turn contribute to the effective communication and transmission of knowledge. The ability to articulate ideas eloquently and persuasively is critical for leaders and educators who want to inspire and mobilize their communities around common goals. The “Kitab al-Aghoni” by Qadhi Abul-Faraj al-Isfahoni mentioned by Ibn Khaldun, for example, is a comprehensive compilation that serves as an archival treasure trove of Arabic poetry, history, and genealogy. Such works are not just an academic exercise but help to preserve a community's collective memory and provide a sense of identity and continuity (Mannopov, 2020).

In modern contexts, literature that taps into the socio-political zeitgeist can similarly energize the community and encourage civic engagement and social responsibility (Naji et al., 2019). One of the central tenets of community service is the dissemination of knowledge that can lead to the betterment of society. Literature serves this purpose by documenting experiences, challenges, and solutions that can be emulated or avoided by others. Effective articles that focus on community development often use literary techniques to tell success stories, highlight best practices, and advocate for policy change.

Current examples include initiatives such as community journalism, where local writers document and address issues in their neighborhoods. These articles, often published in local newspapers or on online platforms, draw attention to social issues such as housing, education, and public health. By using language that speaks to their audience, they can inspire collective action and drive solutions for the community (Charity, 2008).

Despite its potential, linking literature and community service faces some challenges. One major problem is accessibility: literary works that could benefit communities are often locked behind academic barriers or published in languages that are not widely understood. Ibn Khaldun acknowledges this when he notes,

“Therefore, litterateurs need to know scientific terminologies, to be able to understand such allusions.” (Ibn Khaldun, 2015 translation, p. 637).

This suggests that the most important works need to be more widely distributed and translated to reach a larger audience. To mitigate this, there should be a concerted effort to translate key works into local languages and disseminate them through various media. Another problem is the digital divide, which limits access to literary resources for underserved communities. Solutions include the establishment of community libraries and digital education programs that provide both physical and online access to literary materials. In addition, social media and other digital platforms can help reach a wider audience and make literature more accessible and engaging (Christoph, 2015). Ibn Khaldun thus emphasizes the potential of literature to serve the community.

ROLE OF LANGUAGE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

As Ibn Khaldun describes in his “Muqaddimah” (pp. 639–642), language is not just a means of communication, but a technical habit that resembles a craft. This perspective offers deep insights into how language and literature serve the community and emphasizes the importance of linguistic habits for the effective transmission of ideas and cultural continuity. From a philological perspective, understanding language as a habit has significant implications for community development, particularly about issues of language mastery and cultural preservation. Ibn Khaldun argues that all languages are habits, much like trades that are formed through repeated action.

He explains:

“Habits result only from repeated action. An action is done once. With repetition, it becomes a condition, which is an attribute that is not firmly established. After more repetition it becomes a habit, that is, a firmly established attribute.” (Ibn Khaldun, 2015 translation, p. 638).

This principle refers to word combinations rather than individual words and emphasizes the importance of context and proper usage for eloquence.

For communities, this means that linguistic habits are crucial for effective communication and cultural expression. A speaker who has mastered these habits can convey ideas clearly and persuasively, which is essential for community leaders and activists. This skill is especially important in community service, where clear communication can inspire collective action and promote social cohesion (Mannopov, 2021).

The concept of language as a habit emphasizes the importance of language skills for community development. Effective community service often depends on the ability to articulate needs, propose solutions, and mobilize resources. Effective articles and speeches for community work depend on the writer or speaker mastering the linguistic habits of their audience.

In modern contexts, for example, community leaders who can use local dialects and cultural references effectively are more likely to engage their communities. This can be seen in successful grassroots movements where leaders use familiar language patterns to resonate with their audiences, fostering a sense of unity and common purpose. However, the preservation of linguistic habits faces major challenges, especially in urban areas where contact with other languages is widespread (e.g. Kramsch & Kramsch, 2000). Ibn Khaldun notes:

“The urban population is in general deficient in obtaining the linguistic habit that results from instruction. ... The reason for this is that the student has previously obtained a habit incompatible with the desired [...certain language] linguistic habit, since he has grown

up speaking the sedentary language, which was influenced by non – [...certain language] (speech) to such a degree that eventually the original habit of the [...certain] language was replaced by another. This other habit is the language of the present-day sedentary population.” (Ibn Khaldun, 2015 translation, p. 640).

This deficiency arises because the urban population often adopts language habits influenced by a mix of languages, which leads to a deviation from the original language habits.

This problem is evident in many multicultural urban centers today, where the original languages and dialects are at risk of being overshadowed by the dominant global languages (VanLeeuwen, Guo-Brennan & Weeks, 2020). The erosion of linguistic habits can lead to the loss of cultural identity and heritage, which are crucial for community cohesion and continuity. To address these challenges, it is important to strengthen linguistic habits through education and direct contact with the language. Ibn Khaldun suggests:

“Teachers (attempt to) teach children the (...) language first. The grammarians think that this is done through grammar. But this is not so. It is done through teaching them the linguistic habit through direct contact with the (...) language and (...) speech.” (Ibn Khaldun, 2015 translation, p. 641).

Modern solutions could be immersive language programs that prioritize conversational practice and cultural context over memorization of grammar. Community initiatives such as language clubs, cultural festivals and local media in the native language can also help to maintain and promote linguistic habits.

In addition, using digital platforms to create accessible language learning resources can bridge the gap for urban populations and diaspora communities. Language as a technological habit plays a crucial role in serving the community by enabling effective communication and preserving cultural heritage (Krsteva & Kukubajska, 2014). The insights from Ibn Khaldun's “Muqaddimah” illustrate the importance of preserving and nurturing linguistic habits to ensure the effectiveness of community service.

CRITICAL PHILOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

Ibn Khaldun thus offers profound insights into the role of literature and language in social development. By examining the nature of literature and the concept of language as a technical habit, we can better understand its importance in serving the community. As philologists, it is crucial to critically evaluate these concepts, incorporating modern linguistic theories and contemporary examples to determine how language and literature can be utilized for community development. Ibn Khaldun views literature as a combination of esthetic use of language and cultural preservation, with the aim of acquiring the ability to use prose and poetry (according to Arabic methods). This perspective emphasizes the dual function of literature in language mastery and cultural documentation, but also takes into account its dynamic and interactive nature in modern contexts (Juraev & Ahn, 2023).

Modern philology views literature as a living, evolving entity that both reflects and shapes social norms. Effective community service articles, for example, use narrative techniques to document social issues, propose solutions, and inspire collective action. This active role of literature in community work can be seen in initiatives such as community journalism, where local writers highlight pressing social issues and mobilize the community to solve them.

Ibn Khaldun's statement that all languages are habits that resemble a craft emphasizes the importance of habitual language use for effective communication. He explains that linguistic habits are formed through repeated contact and practice, leading to eloquence and effective transmission of ideas. While this view is fundamentally correct, it oversimplifies the complexity of language acquisition and its socio-cultural influences.

From a modern linguistic perspective, language is not just a habit, but also a dynamic process influenced by cognitive, social and cultural factors. Effective community service requires adaptability and cultural sensitivity that go beyond habitual language use. Leaders must be able to switch between different language registers to address different community members, demonstrating that language flexibility is just as important as habitual language proficiency (Juraev & Rajavaliev, 2023).

Ibn Khaldun expresses concern about the erosion of language habits due to non-native speakers, especially in cities, and notes that the urban population is generally unable to acquire language habits through instruction. While this highlights the challenges in maintaining linguistic purity, it also reflects a static view of language that does not fully recognize its adaptability (Mannopov, 2020).

Linguistic change and language mixing are natural and useful in modern societies and reflect multicultural interactions. Those who see the erosion of language habits as a cultural loss overlook the potential for enrichment and innovation. Acceptance of linguistic diversity can strengthen community cohesion and promote inclusive practices. Ibn Khaldun emphasizes direct language contact and modern approaches that use technology and multimedia resources to preserve linguistic habits.

Digital platforms, for example, provide immersive language learning experiences through interactive content and virtual exchanges. Community-driven initiatives such as cultural festivals, language clubs, and local media in the native language can also strengthen language habits. These modern approaches complement traditional methods and make language preservation more accessible and interesting (Mannopov, 2021).

Ibn Khaldun's insights on literature and language as a technical habit thus provide valuable foundations for understanding their role in community service. However, a critical philological perspective shows that these concepts need to be expanded to incorporate modern linguistic theories and practices.

CONCLUSION

As Ibn Khaldun's "Muqaddimah" shows, language and literature are still essential for shaping and maintaining communities".

Language is comparable to a craft and requires habitual use and experience to master – a concept that modern linguistics expands to include its cognitive and social dimensions.

Similarly, literature serves as a cultural repository that preserves cultural heritage fosters intellectual growth, and mobilizes around social issues, as practices such as community journalism demonstrate. However, the erosion of language habits in multicultural and urban contexts and the dominance of global languages pose a major challenge.

To address these issues, we need to embrace linguistic diversity and use digital technology to protect and revitalize linguistic and cultural traditions. Research needs to focus on the impact of linguistic erosion on cultural identity, the complexity of

multilingualism in promoting inclusion, and the role of digital tools in bridging or deepening cultural divides. These efforts can serve as a foundation for policies and practices that preserve language and literature while advancing community development.

To summarize, Ibn Khaldun's insights provide a timeless framework for understanding the interplay of language, literature and community. Integrating traditional wisdom with modern approaches allows societies to preserve their cultural heritage while innovating for the future. This underlines that the resilience of a community lies in its ability to balance continuity and progress.

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