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## **ON THE IDEA OF LANGUAGE FUNCTIONING**

Language is the source of communication. It is how we share ideas with others. Some even say that language is what distinguishes people from animals and makes us human beings. There are more than three thousand languages in the world. Countries have their own traditional languages. However, for every nation its mother tongue is the one that is unique and the most important. It is the language of the state that children are taught to read, write, speak, and cherish. The process of learning the state language is part of the process of acquiring one's national identity, a process in which the whole school curriculum plays an important role.

Language is tied to cultural identity as language and culture are closely united. It is associated with the idea of home, motherland, national culture. Mother tongue unites generations and is considered as the greatest testament of the ancestors.

Languages are also the key to knowing other people. Proficiency in languages helps to build up the feeling of being cosmopolitan what is crucial in modern society where linguistic wealth and diversity have become the norm. The case when citizens learn their own and two other languages has become a plus. People acquire new identities and new languages throughout life. It is a dynamic process. They deliberately shift from one language to another, thereby signaling a change from one identity to another. People who have been learning English face the acquisition of a new, additional identity, a European identity.

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