Conception of introduction and development of the KAZTEST system

1. General characteristics of evaluation of the level of language knowledge

The Kazakh language as the official language of the Republic of Kazakhstan is used in public administration, legislation, legal proceedings, education, office documentation and operates in all the spheres of social relations on the territory of the state.

Along with this, the Kazakh language possessing the status of the state language has the cultural value for the people of Kazakhstan. Accordingly, it is assumed that citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan and foreign nationals working in the legal, economic, scientific, social and other areas on the territory of the state know the Kazakh language at the proper level and in accordance with the requirements for the use of language.

The aim of the Conception:

The introduction and development of the KAZTEST system designed to assess the level of knowledge of the Kazakh language.

Objectives of the Conception:

1) development of the normative bases of introduction of the KAZTEST system;

2) definition of strategic and tactical activities to assess the level of knowledge of the Kazakh language by testing on the KAZTEST system of citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan and foreign nationals engaged in legal, economic, social and other activities;

3) grounding of the mechanism for organization and conduct of the testing on assessment of the level of knowledge of the Kazakh language on the basis of the generally accepted international practices;

4) development of the state standards of testing and methodological base of the KAZTEST system;

5) definition of validity terms and types of certificates indicating the level of knowledge of the Kazakh language;

6) ensure of a systematical conduct of the testing on assessment of the level of knowledge of the Kazakh language and definition of the testing structure;

7) grounding of the testing rules regulating the process of conduct of examinations;

8) grounding of organization of the state certification system evaluating knowledge of the Kazakh language in the Republic of Kazakhstan on the basis of the KAZTEST system.

Contents of the introduction and development of the KAZTEST system

Introduction of the KAZTEST system as the realization of objectives for the development of the Kazakh language must be one of the activities carried out by the state and affecting the use of the state language in society.

While designing the KAZTEST system, the world experience of testing on assessment of the level of knowledge of the language (forms and types of testing tasks, the procedure of examination, the measurement of estimated results), well-known international test structures are taken into account.

The introduction of the KAZTEST system assumes the following requirements:

1) application of standard procedures for conduct of the testing;

2) use of unified methods to evaluate testing results;

3) application of authentic communicative principle at the selection of the contents and materials for the testing assignments.

Standard testing tasks of the KAZTEST system are an example of examination materials proposed for people being tested. These testing tasks were approbated, examined and are suitable for use. In order to ensure availability of standard testing materials, the tested person is given the opportunity to get acquainted with their contents. The structure of the standard test consists of

several subtests directed to the definite type or aspect of the standard spoken language (listening, the lexical-grammatical unit, reading, and writing)

Strategic directions of the Conception

The strategy of development of the KAZTEST system assumes the following directions:

1) Introduction and development of the KAZTEST system as a unified state system of evaluation the level of knowledge of the Kazakh language in the Republic of Kazakhstan;

2) Improvement of the quality of conduct of the testing on the KAZTEST system up to the international level, achieving the status of civil and officially recognized structure of evaluation of knowledge of the Kazakh language;

3) Extension of the scope of the KAZTEST system, giving information and propaganda of the system, programmes of its introduction, the development strategy;

4) Formation of the KAZTEST system as one of the factors contributing to the functioning and development of the Kazakh language as the state language that unites the peoples of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Mechanisms of the Conception realization

In order to develop the KAZTEST system, the following mechanisms of the Conception realization are assumed:

1) formation and development of a strategy of the integral state direction in creation of a unified system of evaluation of language knowledge;

2) formation of a normative base for introduction of the system of evaluation of citizens' knowledge of the Kazakh language in the Republic of Kazakhstan;

3) creation of the system of preparation and conduct of the testing on the KAZTEST system;

4) Improvement of the methodology of the testing on the Kazakh language, improvement of the quality of testing tasks;

5) Confirmation of certificates and samples of certificates, determination of validity terms.

The financing of the KAZTEST system

Creation of premises for changes in legislative acts in connection with the introduction of the KAZTEST system

Stages of the Conception realization

Realization of the complex events on introduction of the KAZTEST system comprises the following stages:

The first phase (2008 - 2009 years) - development of the KAZTEST system:

1) development and approbation of the testing tasks on the three blocks of the testing: listening comprehension, lexical-grammatical unit, reading;

2) conduct of examination of testing tasks;

3) improvement of the technique of conduct of the testing and instructional materials on the approbation results.

The second phase (2010 - 2011 years) - introduction and development of the KAZTEST system:

1) improvement of the quality of testing tasks.

Expecting results

As the result of introduction and development of the KAZTEST system, achievement of the following results is expected:

1) giving the KAZTEST system the status of the system that will enhance the value and essence of the Kazakh language as the state language;

2) definition of the role of the KAZTEST system formed on the basis of the international testing systems and meeting the state needs in the public sphere;
3) formation of the resource necessary for methodology of acquisition of modern language knowledge;
4) creation of a mechanism on identification of citizens' language and communicative skills;
5) formation of the procedure of diagnostic studies and control in accordance with the requirements of knowledge of the language;
6) formation of a permanent trend, motivation and ways to improve knowledge of the Kazakh language;
7) formation of the evaluation standard of knowledge of the Kazakh language based on the advanced methods and testing system experience.