

CultureTalk Turkmenistan Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
The Russian and Turkmen Languages in Education

Russian transcript:

- Русские школы сейчас открыли опять. Их закрыли обычно, но сейчас опять открыли.
- Вы сами пошли в русскую школу, да?
- Да.
- А вообще при советской власти все школы были русские или там туркменские школы тоже были?
- Не, туркменские школы тоже были.
- А в университете образование на русском было или...
- В университете да, на...но были группы отдельно на русском обучении и на туркменском обучении были, такие группы. Ну в основном на русском считалось, уже к концу, по окончанию института, университета ты уже должен был экзамен сдавать на этом, дипломную работу на русском сдавать на до было. Первые два три года как...не профилирующие предметы идут, то можно было там, а дальше уже к концу надо было уже на русском сдавать, зачёты, дипломную работу, курсовые всё на русском языке надо было сдавать. А дальше уже если продолжаешь учиться, то только чисто на русском. Ну кандидатскую, докторскую, то это в центральные...Москва, Ленинград, Киев...эти...крупные города, там только можно защититься, защита диссертации называлось раньше. А сейчас, сейчас только на туркменском всё.
- Сейчас туркменский государственный язык?
- Туркменский государственный язык, университеты, институты все на туркменском.
- А как молодёжь, знает русский язык всё ещё или?
- Ну...среднее поколение знает русский язык, а новое поколение которое училось в школе, вот только закончила школу или учиться, то уже только туркменский...
- А как они, они всё ещё русский изучают как иностранный язык или...
- Нет,
- Сейчас вообще...
- уже сейчас не изучают.

- Русский вообще не изучают?

- Вот в прошлом году по-моему новый президент ввёл обязательную программу изучения иностранных языков. А при первом президенте только Рухнама был. Рухнама это книга президента, там всё на туркменском.

English translation:

- They opened Russian schools again. They had been closed, but now they have been reopened.

- You went to a Russian school, right?

- Yes.

- In fact, during Soviet times, were all the schools Russian, or were there Turkmen ones as well?

- No, there were Turkmen schools.

- And at the university, was the education in Russian or....

- At the university, yes...but there were separate groups for Russian instruction and Turkmen instruction, these kinds of groups. But mostly it was considered to be in Russian. By the end, by the time of graduation from college, university, you have to take the exams in this...the thesis defense in Russian, you had to. First two, three years...the subjects were not in your major, so you could [take them in Turkmen], but later you had to take the exams, pass/fail exams, thesis defense, course projects in Russian -- you had to take everything in Russian. And if you go further in your studies, then it was only in Russian. Well, PhD, ABD, they have to go to central...Moscow, Leningrad [now Saint Petersburg], Kiev...this...major cities, you can defend only there ... it used to be called the defense of the dissertation. But now, now everything is only [in] Turkmen.

- Is Turkmen the official language?

- Turkmen is the official language; universities, colleges are [teaching] in Turkmen.

- How about the youth: do they still know Russian, or?

- Well...the middle-aged generation knows Russian, but the younger generation, who went to school and just graduated, or is still going, those [know] only Turkmen

- And how is it ... do they still study Russian as a foreign language or

- No.

- At all, now
- They already don't study it.¹
- Do they not study Russian at all?
- Last year the new president, I think, introduced mandatory education in foreign languages. But during the first president there was only *Ruhnama*.² *Ruhnama* is the president's book [written by him]; everything is in Turkmen there.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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¹ The speaker is saying that they have already stopped studying Russian in schools.

² *Ruhnama* – The book written by the former president of Turkmenistan.