

Optimizing Foreign Language Training for Kazakhstan Military Personnel to Improve Operational Efficiency

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Abstract

In an increasingly interconnected world, proficiency in foreign languages is vital for military personnel engaged in multinational operations. This study examines the foreign language training priorities for Kazakhstan's military, considering the nation's geopolitical alignments, international collaborations, and operational needs. With Russian already widely spoken, the research identifies English, Arabic, Mandarin, and French as critical languages for enhancing military effectiveness. A mixed-methods approach, incorporating surveys of 55 Kazakh military personnel, was used to evaluate linguistic requirements in key areas such as regional security dynamics, joint operations, equipment use, and peacekeeping deployments. The findings underscore the strategic importance of English as the primary language for global military communication, followed by Arabic for Middle Eastern operations and French for peacekeeping in Francophone regions. Mandarin is noted for its relevance in Chinese collaborations and equipment management. Recommendations include tailored training programs emphasizing English proficiency, targeted instruction in Arabic and French, and strategic resource allocation. While the study provides actionable insights, limitations such as sample size and subjective responses highlight the need for broader research. This work contributes to optimizing language training for Kazakhstan's military, enabling effective participation in international missions and collaborations.

Keywords: Foreign language, operational efficiency, Kazakhstan Military, Language training, linguistic requirements, effective military operations

1. Introduction

1.1. Action Research in ESL Contexts

1.1.1. Analysis of the Students' Waveforms

The ability to communicate in foreign languages has become a crucial skill for military personnel in the modern era. The increasing complexity of international operations, including peacekeeping missions, counterterrorism strategies, and defence collaborations, underscores the growing demand for language proficiency. Effective communication skills are essential for military forces operating in multinational environments, as language barriers can impede mission success. Kazakhstan's military operates within a diverse linguistic framework,

partnering with organizations like CSTO, SCO, NATO, as well as nations such as Turkey, China, and the UN, necessitating informed decisions regarding language training priorities.

As a significant player in Central Asia, Kazakhstan engages in NATO exercises, bilateral agreements, and peacekeeping efforts with global partners. While Russian remains a prevalent lingua franca in the region, proficiency in additional foreign languages is essential for effective collaboration with international allies and addressing linguistic challenges during foreign deployments. Since Russian is already widely spoken as a second language, this study explores other foreign languages that could enhance the operational efficiency of Kazakh military personnel. It evaluates strategic alliances, the linguistic needs of foreign military equipment, training programs, and peacekeeping deployments to identify the most beneficial language for vocational training.

The purpose of this study is to determine which foreign language, apart from Russian, would provide the greatest advantage to Kazakhstan's military personnel. By examining Kazakhstan's military partnerships, sources of equipment, and peacekeeping contributions, the research identifies the most strategically important languages for training. Using a combination of thorough literature reviews and data collected from military personnel, this study aims to address the linguistic requirements critical for effective military operations in a global context.

2. Literature Review

The increasing complexity of international operations, including peacekeeping initiatives, counterterrorism activities, and defence collaborations, highlights the importance of foreign language skills for military personnel to function effectively. This section reviews academic research, military doctrines, and case studies to emphasize the strategic and operational significance of language proficiency in contemporary military environments.

2.1. Benefits of Bilingualism

In military, bilingualism is essential for improving operational efficacy and adaptability. Studies highlight a number of important advantages that fall under three categories: cognitive, operational, and social.

2.1.1. Cognitive Benefits

According to studies, bilingual people frequently exhibit increased cognitive flexibility, better problem-solving abilities, and increased environmental adaptation. Bilingualism improves executive skills including working memory and decision-making, which are vital in stressful combat scenarios (Bak, 2016).

The benefits of bilingualism in the military include improved intellectual growth for military personnel's as it strengthens the focus, memory, and reasoning skills that are acquired. The

military leader benefits from this since they can analyse information faster and adjust to changing circumstances in a theatre of operations more skillfully (Boștină-Bratu, Negoescu, & Morar, 2022).

2.1.2. Efficiency in Operations

Communication in international operations can be facilitated by bilingual staff members who can overcome language difficulties. According to Müller (2023), multilingual peacekeepers are more capable to communicate with locals, obtain intelligence, and foster confidence. This talent is especially important in peacekeeping and stabilisation operations, when knowing the native language helps promote collaboration and avoid misunderstandings. Furthermore, linguistic competency improves interoperability in multinational military coalitions, simplifying operations and lowering hostility between allied forces, according to Van Dijk and Soeters (2008). It can boost interoperability, increase employment prospects, improve communication skills, support intelligence gathering, and develop cultural competency (Mukhametzhanova, 2023).

2.1.3. Sociocultural Impression

In order to build strong bonds with local people and partner forces, bilingual troops are better at managing cultural nuances. According to Mukhametzhanova (2023), military professionals who are bilingual are more equipped to interact with people from different cultural backgrounds, which improves the effectiveness of diplomatic and humanitarian missions. Soldiers may show respect for host countries by knowing the native languages, which lowers tensions and improves mission success.

Encouraging foreign language fluency among troops is not only advantageous but also crucial, since contemporary military operations increasingly entail transnational collaboration and interaction with other people.

2.2. The Impact of the Geopolitical Environment on Kazakhstani Military Personnel's Language Requirements

The geopolitical position of Kazakhstan and its involvement in regional and international issues greatly influence the foreign language training requirements of its military forces. A number of contextual elements demonstrate this influence:

2.2.1. Geographical Location at the Eurasia Crossroads

Kazakhstan, which shares borders with major countries like China and Russia as well as with its neighbours in the region, including Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, is situated at the meeting point of Europe and Asia. Kazakhstan is an important participant in regional security and economic cooperation because of its advantageous position. Consequently:

- For both bilateral military drills with Russia and communications inside the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Russian is essential (Kassenova, 2019).
- The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and other projects have increased military and economic links, making Chinese more and more relevant (Blank, 2020).

2.2.2. Participation in Local Associations

Kazakhstan participates actively in a number of international organisations that require multilingual communication, including:

- Russian is the primary communication language of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO), which is crucial for organising joint military operations (Stronski & Ng, 2018).
- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO): Due to their dominance, Chinese and Russian are essential for operational conversation (Cooley, 2019).
- Turkish competence is essential, since the Turkish Council (Organisation of Turkic States) emphasises the importance of revitalizing relations with other Turkic-speaking countries (Esenov & Niyazov, 2021).

2.2.3. UN Peacekeeping Operations

Kazakhstan has pledged to take part in UN peacekeeping missions, which necessitate that military troops operate in multilingual, multicultural settings.

- English is essential for working with foreign partners because it is the predominant language of international peacekeeping deployments (United Nations Peacekeeping, n.d.).
- Based on the deployment region, other languages like Arabic or French can be required.

2.2.4. Collaborations with NATO

Kazakhstan's involvement in the NATO Partnership for Peace (PfP) program highlights the significance of interoperability with NATO troops despite Kazakhstan's non-member status. Since English is the main working language used in NATO operations, it is crucial for strategic discussions, operational planning, and collaborative training (NATO, 2023).

2.2.5. Border Security and Counterterrorism

Cooperation between Kazakhstan and its neighbours as well as international partners is necessary in the fight against terrorism, extremism, and cross-border smuggling. This has consequences for:

- Improving proficiency in regional languages (such as Tajik, Kyrgyz, and Uzbek) to support intelligence operations and sharing throughout Central Asia (Schoeman, 2021).
- Improving communication skills in English to facilitate coordination with global institutions such as the OSCE or INTERPOL (Rousseau, 2022).

2.2.6. Economic Relationships Affecting Security

Kazakhstan needs a military that can protect assets and interact with a variety of actors because it is a significant energy exporter and is involved in transcontinental projects like oil pipelines and commerce corridors. According to Putz (2020), managing security partnerships with foreign investors and partners requires proficiency in both Chinese and English.

2.3. Enhancing Multinational Interoperability

2.3.1. Joint Operations and Coalition Building

Foreign language proficiency is a key component in joint military operations involving international cooperation. Effective communication is fundamental for maintaining command structures, planning operations, and ensuring coordination. Edwards et al. (2016) highlight that in NATO operations, language barriers significantly hinder decision-making and situational awareness, often leading to inefficiencies.

The significance of language proficiency in extensive combat operations is emphasised in the U.S. Army's Doctrine Smart Book (July 2024). It emphasises that language competency is essential to operational preparedness and that successful communication with allies and local communities is critical to mission success (CASCOM, 2024). While English is the primary language for interoperability within NATO, regional languages such as French and German also play important roles.

2.3.2. Training and Exercises

Multilingualism is crucial in joint military exercises like NATO's Trident Juncture or bilateral drills such as KazInd (Kazakhstan-India), which require seamless collaboration. Grojean (2018) notes that participants without proficiency in the working language often struggle with operational directives, reducing their effectiveness during simulated combat scenarios. Language difficulties can make it challenging for troops from various nations to coordinate,

communicate, and work together effectively. For example, it has been demonstrated that language competency greatly improves mission accomplishment by fostering collaboration and minimising miscommunications in large-scale exercises, in which soldiers from different countries take part (IISS, 2023).

2.3.3. Defence Alliances and Strategic Partnerships

Kazakhstan's partnerships with Turkey, India, and China underscore the necessity of language training tailored to specific allies. Aliyev and Rustamov (2020) emphasize that linguistic skills strengthen bilateral trust and enhance technical collaboration, especially during high-level engagements and joint training programs.

Language competency is crucial for interoperability and productive cooperation in defence alliances like NATO. In order to carry out operational and strategic duties for mission success, the US department of Defence emphasises the growing need for professionals with technical skills combined with language, regional knowledge, and culture (LREC) capabilities (U.S. Department of Defence, 2023).

2.4. Technical and Logistical Proficiency

2.4.1. Equipment and Technical Documentation

Modern militaries frequently rely on advanced weaponry and systems from foreign suppliers, necessitating fluency in the supplier's language to interpret technical manuals and perform maintenance. For example, Kazakhstan's use of Turkish Bayraktar drones and Chinese air defence systems require Turkish and Mandarin proficiency (Bayraktar, 2020; Zhang, 2021). Defence Acquisition University (2020) highlights that language barriers during technical training can delay readiness and increase costs.

2.4.2. Technological Integration and Cybersecurity

With the integration of advanced warfare systems, understanding the source language of software developers is vital. Hansen et al. (2019) identify foreign language skills as critical for interpreting technical documents, software patches, and troubleshooting imported systems.

2.5. Cultural Sensitivity and Diplomacy

2.5.1. Cultural Understanding

A crucial component of army operations is cultural sensitivity, particularly in peacekeeping and stabilisation efforts where knowledge about regional languages and culture can have a big impact on mission effectiveness. Kazakhstan armed forces must educate its soldiers to understand the cultural meaning of actions and words in addition to speaking the language.

Language competency is frequently a doorway to a more profound comprehension of culture, allowing soldiers to prevent miscommunication, reduce conflict, and win over locals, claims Mukhametzhanova (2023).

2.5.2. Peacekeeping and Stability Operations

In peacekeeping missions, cultural awareness and language skills are essential for building trust with local communities. Dupont and Lemoine (2019) found that UN peacekeepers in Mali who were fluent in French excelled in community engagement, conflict resolution, and intelligence gathering compared to their non-French-speaking counterparts. A 2024 study explores how UN peacekeeping and counterterrorism operations might be integrated, highlighting the need for military troops to be linguistically and culturally competent in order to interact with locals and foreign partners. According to the research, being able to communicate and comprehend in complicated operational contexts is made easier by language competency, which improves mission effectiveness (O'Neill, 2024).

2.5.3. Counterterrorism and Human Intelligence

Counterterrorism operations often require direct interaction with local populations for intelligence gathering. Eby and Onuoha (2017) reveal that personnel proficient in local or regional languages are more effective in building rapport with informants, interpreting propaganda, and combating misinformation.

2.5.4. Strengthening Diplomatic Communication

Diplomacy and successful military operations are frequently closely related, especially in humanitarian, conflict resolution, and peacekeeping assignments. As peacekeepers and members of international alliances, Kazakhstan's military forces need to be able to interact diplomatically with both locals and foreign allies. Knowing the language of the host country is essential for building rapport and confidence, which is critical for both the effectiveness of military operations and the development of enduring diplomatic ties, according to Müller (2023).

This entails Kazakhstan choosing languages that improve its diplomatic interaction in strategically significant areas. While dialects like Arabic, Persian, and Chinese can support more sophisticated diplomatic operations in Central Asia, the Middle East, and beyond, English are essential for interaction with multinational forces (Boştină-Bratu, Negoescu, & Morar, 2022).

2.6. Strategic Mobility and Deployments

2.6.1. Deployment Versatility

Language skills enhance the flexibility of military personnel, enabling them to deploy to diverse regions without delays for language training. Choi et al. (2015) note that bilingual personnel are 30% more likely to be selected for international missions, highlighting their strategic value.

2.6.2. Rapid Humanitarian Response

In humanitarian crises, effective communication is essential for coordination with NGOs and local authorities. Strong language proficiency minimizes miscommunication, as demonstrated during international disaster relief efforts in Haiti (Smith, 2010).

2.7. National Security and Intelligence Operations

2.7.1. Cyber and Information Warfare

The rise of cyber warfare and disinformation campaigns has created a need for linguistically skilled personnel to monitor foreign-language communications, analyze intelligence, and counter threats. Kaplan and Greene (2019) emphasize the importance of linguists in interpreting hostile communications and strategic documents.

2.7.2. Border Security and Anti-Smuggling Efforts

For a nation like Kazakhstan, which borders China and Russia, language skills are crucial for border patrol personnel to communicate with counterparts, analyze intercepted materials, and monitor illicit activities in multiple languages (Kazakhstan Border Service, 2021).

2.8. Economic and Political Dimensions

2.8.1. Military Diplomacy

Proficiency in foreign languages facilitates military diplomacy by improving communication during negotiations, treaties, and cultural exchanges. Holman and Peterson (2018) highlight that officers fluent in their counterparts' languages foster stronger relationships in bilateral and multilateral discussions. Additionally, inadequate language training frequently caused strategic military diplomacy to be delayed or convoluted, which decreased operational readiness during joint defence exercises (International Relations and Defence Research Institute, 2024).

2.8.2. Trade and Defence Procurement

Kazakhstan's defence procurement from countries such as Turkey, China, and NATO members showcase the economic importance of language proficiency. Aliyev and Rustamov (2020) note that linguistic skills enhance procurement negotiations, ensure accurate contract interpretation, and reduce communication errors.

2.9. Approaches of Different Nations in Integrating Language Training Within Their Military Frameworks

2.9.1. United States

The United States DoD operates the Defense Language Institute (DLI), comprising the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) in Monterey, California, and the Defense Language Institute English Language Center (DLIELC) in San Antonio, Texas. DLIFLC offers instruction in over two dozen languages, with course durations ranging from 36 to 64 weeks, depending on the language's complexity. The primary objective is to equip military personnel with the necessary linguistic skills to operate effectively in diverse global contexts. Additionally, DLIELC focuses on teaching English to international military and civilian personnel, thereby enhancing interoperability among allied forces (Defense Language Institute, 2024).

2.9.2. United Kingdom

In response to operational challenges encountered during conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the British Army recognized the critical need for language proficiency among its ranks. Consequently, a language policy was instituted, emphasizing language skills as a core competence. The Ministry of Defence's Defence Centre for Language and Culture offers training in languages such as Arabic, Dari, Farsi, French, Russian, and Spanish. Financial incentives are provided to personnel who attain proficiency, with compensation varying based on the language's strategic importance and proficiency level. This initiative underscores the UK's commitment to addressing language shortages that pose risks to national security (Ayres-Bennett, 2016).

2.9.3. Australia

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) collaborates with academic institutions to provide language training tailored to specific operational needs. For instance, soldiers from the 3rd Brigade participated in introductory courses in Tok Pisin and Bahasa, conducted by James Cook University's Academy of Modern Languages. These courses are designed to aid soldiers during deployments, fostering cultural connections and providing practical linguistic skills

pertinent to their missions (Cultural connections: Soldiers talk the talk with language courses, 2024).

2.9.4. Operational Implications of Language Barriers

The significance of language training is further highlighted by incidents where language barriers have led to operational challenges. For example, during joint operations, North Korean soldiers mistakenly attacked Russian forces due to miscommunications stemming from language differences. Such incidents underscore the necessity for comprehensive language training to prevent misunderstandings and ensure cohesive operations among allied forces (North Korean soldiers attacked Russian forces by mistake due to a language barrier, Ukraine says, 2024).

2.10. Foreign Language Training in Kazakhstan's Military

2.10.1. Historical Context

Historically, the linguistic framework of Kazakhstan's military was dominated by Russian, inherited from its Soviet legacy. Russian remains the primary language for internal operations and communication within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). However, as Kazakhstan expanded its global military engagements, the Ministry of Defence prioritized foreign language training beyond Russian to align with international demands (Kudaibergenova, 2020).

2.10.2. Policy Framework

The Kazakh Ministry of Defence has included foreign language training as a strategic objective in its military education programs. Documents such as the *Kazakhstan Defence Modernization Plan (2020–2025)* emphasize the importance of language acquisition to enhance interoperability and technical proficiency (Kazakhstan Ministry of Defence, 2021). The Trilingual Education Development Plan by the Ministry of Education and Science of Kazakhstan (2019) focuses on the promotion of three key languages in the education system, Kazak, Russian & English (Ministry of Education and Science of Kazakhstan, 2019).

2.10.3. Languages Taught to Kazakh Military Personnel

English Prevalence: English is the most widely taught foreign language in Kazakhstan's military institutions due to its status as the global lingua franca and its dominance in international military operations. It is a mandatory component of officer training programs at institutions such as the National Defence University of Kazakhstan (KNDU) (Toktarova, 2021). To show its dedication to foreign language instruction, Kazakhstan's Ministry of Defence organised a rigorous English language course for 77 military officers for six months at

the Centre for Peacekeeping Operations (KAZCENT) in 2024. Assuring that military personnel obtain the English language proficiency necessary for their involvement in international peacekeeping and joint exercises, KAZCENT has continuously played a significant role in such projects ("The English Language Course for Military," 2024).

Turkish. Turkish is increasingly emphasized in military training programs, reflecting Kazakhstan's deepening bilateral defence ties with Turkey. Language immersion opportunities are offered during exchange programs in Turkey.

French. French is taught to personnel assigned to UN peacekeeping missions in Francophone countries. Short-term French courses are provided to personnel preparing for specific deployments.

Arabic. Arabic is taught selectively, focusing on personnel deployed in Middle Eastern operations. Arabic language courses are included in the curriculum for specialized units.

Mandarin. Mandarin is taught on a limited basis, reflecting Kazakhstan's strategic partnership with China through the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Language immersion programs are facilitated through bilateral exchanges with China.

The literature emphasizes the following critical factors in determining the most beneficial foreign language for Kazakhstan's military personnel:

- Geopolitical and Strategic Alignments
- Joint Operations and Coalition Building
- Technical and Equipment Requirements
- Cultural Sensitivity and Diplomacy
- Strategic Mobility and Deployments
- Economic and Political Dimensions

The selection of foreign languages for military training requires a multidimensional approach, balancing operational requirements, geopolitical considerations, and strategic partnerships. The next section focuses on Kazakhstan and identifies and analyzes key parameters to guide such decisions.

3. Discussion

The selection specifically focuses on identifying and analyzes key factors that will have influence identification of foreign languages that are beneficial for Kazakh Military functioning.

3.1. Geopolitical and Strategic Alignments

3.1.1. Regional Security Dynamics

The geopolitical context of a nation dictates the foreign languages most relevant to its military personnel. For Kazakhstan, languages like Russian (due to historical ties) and Chinese (due to proximity and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization) align with its regional security environment. Research by Zhang (2021) on Central Asian geopolitics emphasizes that linguistic capabilities in neighbouring languages like Mandarin foster cross-border intelligence sharing and joint operations.

3.1.2. Defence Alliances and Multinational Engagements

Participation in international alliances, such as NATO or regional blocs like the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), shapes language priorities. The United States and Kazakhstan held the Enhanced Strategic Partnership Dialogue (ESPD) in Astana in November 2023. This discussion, focused on growing bilateral partnership, joint operations and counterterrorism (The Diplomat, 2023). English is often prioritized due to its status as the lingua franca of NATO, while French and Arabic may be necessary for UN peacekeeping missions.

3.2. Joint Operations and Coalition with Foreign Nations

NATO Collaboration: Kazakhstan's engagement with NATO through the Steppe Eagle exercise demonstrates the importance of English. These exercises focus on interoperability, crisis response, and peacekeeping, where English serves as the primary medium of communication (NATO, 2022).

Turkey is a key defence partner, offering joint training programs and supplying equipment such as Bayraktar drones. Kazakhstan and Turkey strengthened their military partnership in 2024 when Kazakh Defence Minister Colonel General Ruslan Zhaksylykov paid an official visit to Ankara and signed a cooperation plan. Reflecting the longstanding historical and cultural ties between the two countries, this agreement covers a number of topics, such as military science, education, and combat training (Astana Times, 2023). Shared cultural and linguistic roots provide a foundation for collaboration, but structured Turkish language training could enhance technical and doctrinal exchanges (Bayraktar, 2020). The *Anatolian Eagle* exercise, involving Kazakh and Turkish air forces, further underscores the importance of Turkish as a secondary operational language.

Under the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Kazakhstan collaborates with China on counter-terrorism and security initiatives. Cooperation under the Shanghai Cooperation

Organization (SCO) emphasizes Mandarin for high-level military diplomacy and security collaborations (SCO Secretariat, 2022).

Kazakhstan's defence partnership with India includes joint training programs such as *KazInd*, focusing on counter-terrorism and peacekeeping operations (Times of India, 2024). The eighth edition of the bilateral military exercise between Kazakhstan and India was held in Auli, India, in October 2024 (Aeromag, 2024). English is the primary language of instruction during these exchanges, highlighting its role in building bilateral military ties.

3.3. Technical and Equipment Requirement

3.3.1. Military Equipment

Kazakhstan's military relies on a mix of Russian-origin and Western equipment. Over the past decade, the nation has acquired unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) from Turkey, air defence systems from China, and NATO-standard gear from the U.S. and Europe:

- **Western Equipment:** NATO-standard communication systems and weaponry are predominantly documented in English (Defence Acquisition University, 2020). In 2024 Kazakhstan acquired Airbus A400M Atlas heavy transport aircraft (Wikipedia, 2024). The U.S. Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program provides advanced systems that require English proficiency for training and maintenance (U.S. Department of Defence, 2021).
- **Turkish Equipment:** The Bayraktar TB2 UAV, widely used by Kazakhstan, includes Turkish-language manuals and training programs (Turkish Aerospace, 2020). In 2024, Kazakhstan purchased COBRA II armoured vehicles, manufactured by Otokar & complex tactical unmanned systems, such as the SUNQAR & EVOMax. (Army Recognition, 2024).
- **Chinese Equipment:** Air defence systems and logistical tools from China require Mandarin for understanding operational instructions (Zhang, 2021).

3.3.2. Training & Foreign Military Concepts

The adoption of foreign military doctrines and operational concepts has become integral to Kazakhstan's defence strategy. Training programs offered by NATO and the United States require fluency in English to access materials and participate in courses. Kazakh officers attending military academies abroad, such as those in the U.S. or Europe, must achieve a high level of English proficiency.

Turkey also offers military training programs emphasizing operational tactics and leadership, with Turkish as the primary language of instruction. While Chinese military doctrine is less

commonly adopted, cooperation with China could necessitate Mandarin for strategic and technical interactions.

A study by Defence Acquisition University (2020) highlights that language barriers in technical training can reduce the effectiveness of imported systems by 30%.

3.4. Cultural Sensitivity and Diplomacy

3.4.1. Cultural Sensitivity in Peacekeeping

Language proficiency enhances cultural understanding and community engagement during peacekeeping missions. Personnel proficient in the local or regional language can foster trust and cooperation, which are critical for stability operations. Studies by Holman and Peterson (2018) show that culturally aware soldiers are 40% more effective in conflict resolution. Kazakhstan's involvement in UN peacekeeping missions highlights the linguistic challenges of multinational environments.

English and French: Both are official languages of the United Nations and widely used in peacekeeping missions. For example, deployments to Francophone Africa require French for interacting with local authorities, allied forces, and civilians (UNPKO, 2021).

Arabic: Missions in the Middle East, such as Lebanon, demand Arabic proficiency for engaging with local populations (French MoD, 2021).

Regional Multilingualism: Effective peacekeeping relies on personnel capable of bridging language gaps in culturally diverse regions (UN Peacekeeping Office, 2021).

3.4.2. Bilateral Defence Diplomacy

Language skills play a pivotal role in military diplomacy, enabling more effective negotiations, treaty discussions, and training collaborations. For Kazakhstan, proficiency in Turkish and Chinese facilitates stronger ties with key defence partners.

3.5. National Security and Intelligence Operations

3.5.1. Cyber and Information Warfare

The rise of cyber warfare and disinformation campaigns has amplified the demand for linguistically skilled personnel to monitor foreign-language communications, interpret intelligence, and counter cyber threats. Research by Kaplan and Greene (2019) emphasizes the role of linguists in analyzing hostile communications and interpreting strategic documents. In this regard, English would be more helpful as most of the operating system and applications are in English language.

3.5.2. Border Security and Anti-Smuggling Efforts

Kazakhstan, shares borders with China and Russia, foreign language skills are essential for border patrol units to interact with counterparts, analyze intercepted materials, and monitor illicit activities in multiple languages (Kazakhstan Border Service, 2021). In this regard Mandarin would be handy.

3.6. Strategic Mobility and Deployments

3.6.1. Peacekeeping Deployment

Kazakhstan's peacekeeping forces are deployed to various United Nations missions worldwide, operating in countries with diverse linguistic and cultural contexts. The Kazakh Parliament in Jan 2024, sanctioned the deployment of up to 430 peacekeepers to take part in several UN operations like UN Truce Supervision Organization (Palestine-Israel), the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA, Sudan) (Astana Times, 2024). Below are details of these deployments and the primary languages spoken in these regions:

Golan Heights (UNDOF)

- **Deployment:** Kazakhstan is sending its first independent contingent of 139 troops as part of the UN Disengagement Observer Force in the Golan Heights (Daryo News, 2024, The Astana Times, 2024).
- **Languages:** Arabic (in Syria) and Hebrew (in Israel) are the primary languages spoken in the surrounding regions.

South Sudan (UNMISS)

- **Deployment:** Approved as part of the expanded commitment of up to 430 personnel (Daryo, 2024).
- **Languages:** English (official), with regional languages such as Dinka, Nuer, and others widely spoken

Sudan (UNISFA)

- **Deployment:** Missions in the Abyei region are included in Kazakhstan's commitments (The Astana Times, 2024).
- **Languages:** Arabic (official), English, and various indigenous languages like Dinka and Nuba

Western Sahara (MINURSO)

- **Deployment:** Kazakh officers have served in observation roles.

- **Languages:** Arabic (official) and Hassaniya Arabic, along with Berber dialects.

Lebanon (UNIFIL)

- **Deployment:** Since 2018, Kazakhstan has contributed peacekeepers, initially under Indian command (The Astana Times, 2024).
- **Languages:** Arabic (official), along with French and English as secondary languages

Mali and Côte d'Ivoire

- **Deployment:** Peacekeepers have participated in missions in these West African countries.
- **Languages:** French (official in both countries) and various indigenous languages such as Bambara in Mali and Baoulé in Côte d'Ivoire

3.6.2. Humanitarian Response

Kazakhstan has actively contributed to international humanitarian aid efforts through its KazAID program and military deployments for emergency relief. Key initiatives include:

Disaster Relief in Türkiye: Following the 2023 earthquakes in Türkiye, Kazakhstan supported reconstruction efforts by funding and building a school in Nurdağı, Gaziantep Province, under the directive of President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. This contribution symbolized solidarity with the Turkic world (The Astana Times, 2023).

Support in Azerbaijan: Kazakhstan funded the construction of the Kurmangazy Center for Children's Creative Development in Fuzuli, Azerbaijan. The facility aims to foster creativity among children and strengthen bilateral cultural ties (The Astana Times, 2023).

Kazakh Military Humanitarian Contributions: Beyond civilian initiatives, Kazakhstan's military has provided logistical support in disaster zones. This includes deploying engineering units and other specialized personnel to assist in recovery efforts, emphasizing their dual capability in peacekeeping and humanitarian missions.

Based on the literature review, and the factors analyses specifically contributing to Kazakh military effectiveness, following matrix can be developed. Four languages emerge as contenders for Kazakhstan's military vocational training program:

Table 1. Priority of Foreign Language Factorise

Factors Analysed	Sub factor	Priority 1 Language	Priority 2 Language	Priority 3 Language	Priority 4 Language
Geopolitical and Strategic Alignments	Regional Security Dynamics	Mandarin	Arabic	English	French
	Defence Alliances and Multinational Engagements	English	French	Arabic	Mandarin
Joint Operations and Coalition with foreign nations		English	Arabic	Mandarin	French
Technical and equipment requirement	Military Equipment	English	Arabic	Mandarin	French
	Training & Foreign Military Concepts	English	Arabic	Mandarin	French
Cultural Sensitivity and Diplomacy	Cultural Sensitivity in Peacekeeping	English	French	Arabic	Mandarin
	Cyber and Information Warfare	English	Mandarin	Arabic	French
	Border Security and Anti-Smuggling Efforts	Mandarin	Arabic	English	French
	Bilateral Defence Diplomacy	Arabic	Mandarin	English	French
Strategic Mobility and Deployments	Peacekeeping Deployment	Arabic	English	French	Mandarin
	Humanitarian Response	Arabic	English	Mandarin	French

4. Methodology

4.1. Research Problem and Research Statement

While multilingualism in military operations has gained increasing attention, there is a lack of research focusing on the prioritization of foreign language training for non-Western militaries, such as Kazakhstan's. Most existing studies centre on NATO and Western frameworks, leaving a gap in understanding the linguistic needs of militaries with varied strategic alignments. This research aims to fill that gap by incorporating primary data and contextual analysis specific to Kazakhstan. It evaluates which foreign language—English, Turkish, French, Arabic, or

Mandarin—should take precedence in Kazakhstan's military training programs. Through a comprehensive review of literature and insights gathered from military personnel, the study identifies the language requirements arising from Kazakhstan's international military engagements, diplomatic efforts, and deployment contexts.

4.2. Contextual Assumptions

The research is based on a number of broad assumptions on Kazakhstan's distinct geopolitical and military environment:

Multilingualism as a Strategic Asset: Kazakhstan's capacity to participate successfully in defence alliances, technical cooperation, and peacekeeping missions is improved by its proficiency in crucial foreign languages.

Diverse Language Requirements for Military Engagement: Since no single language can address every strategic, technical, and operational need, setting priorities is crucial. Also, since Russian is widely spoken in Kazakhstan, Russian is excluded as foreign language.

Kazakhstan has Unique Geopolitical & Geographical Position: Kazakhstan, which is positioned between China, Russia, and heart of Central Asia, has to strike the right balance between its regional bonds, its international peacekeeping obligations, and its developing economic ventures.

4.3. Conceptual Framework

This study identifies foreign language for enhancing military efficiency of Kazakh Military based on identified factors. Figure 1 depicts the model and underlying framework on which this research is based. This study provides an insight into the various factors that impacts decision for selection of foreign language, specifically correlating it with the requirement of Kazakh military. It further prioritizes foreign languages that will enhance military efficiency and provokes discussion on areas of opportunity in terms of recommendations.

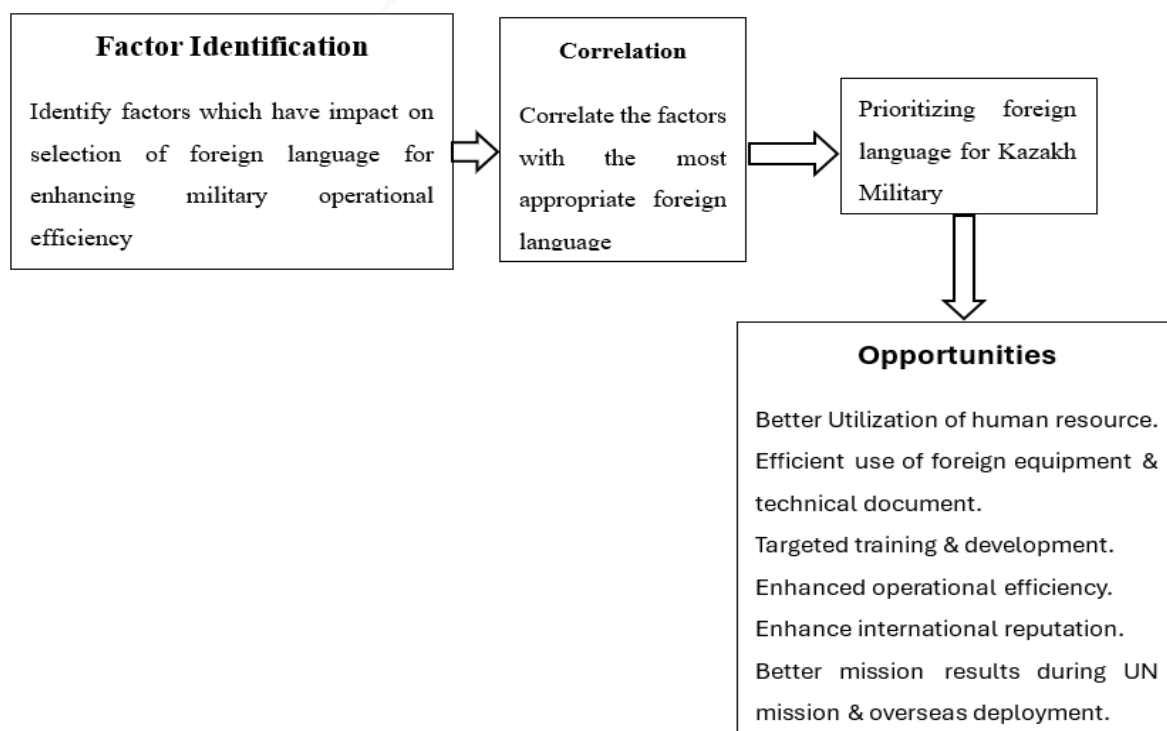


Figure 1. Conceptual Framework for Research

4.4. Research Design

A two-phase sequential mixed-methods design is used in the study. Figure 2 brings out the flow and diagrammatic research design.

4.4.1 Qualitative Phase

In this stage, the critical factors that influence decision for selection of foreign language in respect of military personnels are determined by means of qualitative examination and a review of the literature.

4.4.2 Quantitative Phase

A structured questionnaire was prepared based on the findings of the qualitative stage which was used during the survey.

Sample Size. The population identified for the research are the serving Kazakhstan military personnel and the sample size was taken as 55 serving military officers. The small sample size is made up for by the integration of qualitative and literary analysis. Triangulating the survey results with secondary data improves their dependability and depth. According to Johnson et al. (2007), mixed-methods research can counterbalance small quantitative samples by contextualising findings with qualitative data. According to Creswell & Plano Clark (2018), mixed-method research frequently employs smaller samples for the survey, especially when

accompanied with a thorough literature analysis. The results in the paper incorporates knowledge from secondary sources, literature, and qualitative data to support survey results.

Participants. The study survey from 55 Military personnel (students) undertaking various course at National Defence University, Kazakhstan.

Sampling Technique. Convenience sampling was used and 55 military students undergoing various course at National Defence University, Kazakhstan were identified from different educational backgrounds and services.

Data Collection Methods. Survey was conducted from 55 military officers who were undertaking various courses at NDU, Kazakhstan. The questionnaire was in native language i.e. Russian and included questions on rating 11 identified parameters on a scale of 1-11 based on importance to Kazakh military and direct question on rating four foreign language they think is important for enhancing their operational effectiveness besides one open ended question.

To make sure that the findings are valid and robust, the outcomes of the two stages are combined and triangulated.

4.4.3 Corelating Languages with Factors

Foreign languages that correspond with each identified factor's attributes were paired with it. Languages are assessed according to standards like operational relevance, ease of learning, cultural considerations, and geopolitical significance.

4.4.4 Case Specific Analysis: Kazakhstan Military

Having identified the factors, they are specifically examined in light of the Kazakhstani military's operational, strategic, and cultural needs. Contextual factors are taken into account, including historical ties, diplomatic partnerships, and regional security concerns.

4.4.5 Synthesis and Triangulation

Validity is ensured by triangulating the results of the case-specific evaluation, quantitative survey, and qualitative analysis.

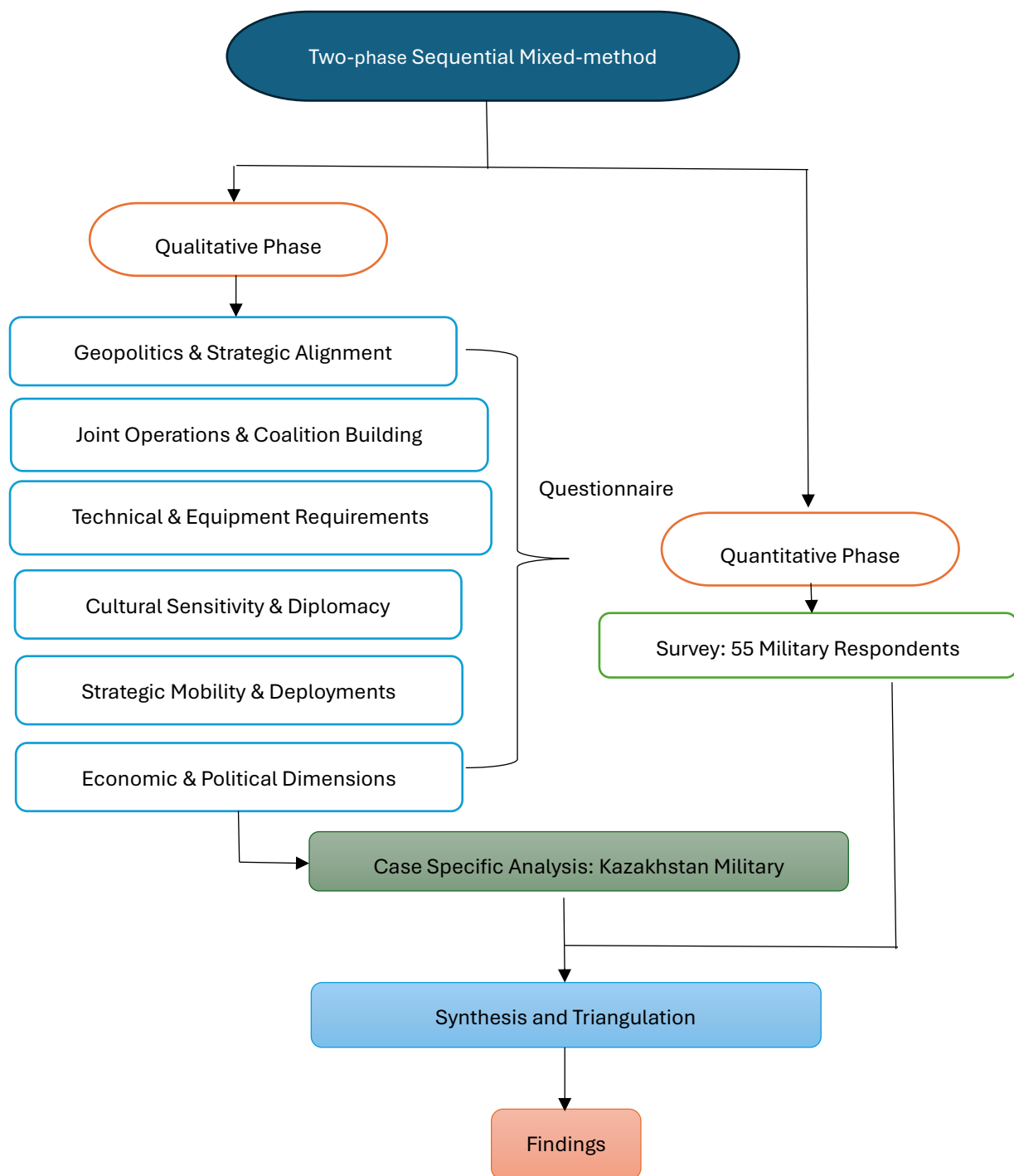


Figure 2. Diagrammatic Representation of the Research Design

4.5. Statistical Tools and Analysis

4.5.1. Descriptive Statistics

Table 2. Mean, median, and standard deviation of the 11 factors

	count	mean	std	min	25%	50%	75%	max
Regional Security Dynamics	55.0	4.490909090909090	2.754610460279060	1.0	1.5	4.0	7.0	11.0
Defence Alliance and Multinational Engagement	55.0	3.8181818181818200	2.2285264114050700	1.0	2.0	3.0	5.0	10.0
Joint Operations and Coalition with foreign nations	55.0	3.981818181818180	2.2235349657938200	1.0	2.5	4.0	5.0	11.0
Foreign Military Equipment Used	55.0	3.963636363636360	2.801875273902290	1.0	1.0	3.0	6.0	11.0
Training & Foreign Military Concepts	55.0	4.490909090909090	2.70029303809466	1.0	2.0	5.0	6.0	11.0
Cultural Sensitivity in Peacekeeping2	55.0	5.909090909090910	2.3980912724168300	1.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	11.0
Language requirements for Cyber and Information Warfare2	55.0	6.9818181818181800	2.8053580288500900	1.0	5.0	7.0	9.0	11.0
Border Security and Anti-Smuggling Efforts2	55.0	7.527272727272730	2.6306916810106700	1.0	6.5	8.0	9.0	11.0
Bilateral Defence Diplomacy2	55.0	8.018181818181820	2.068197543137760	3.0	8.0	8.0	9.0	11.0
Language used in country where Kazakh Militray Peacekeeping are Deployed2	55.0	7.0	2.9689753813083100	1.0	4.0	8.0	10.0	11.0
Humanitarian Response2	55.0	9.818181818181820	2.126472553757870	2.0	10.0	11.0	11.0	11.0

Key Observations. The mean, median, and standard deviation of the 11 factors reveal the average rankings and variability in responses. Factors with higher means are perceived as less critical, whereas those with lower means are prioritized by respondents. For example, "Defence Alliance & Multinational Engagement" and "Joint Operations & Coalition with foreign nations" had the lowest means, indicating their high perceived importance.

Interpretation. Factors vary significantly in perceived importance, reflecting diverse priorities for selecting languages in military training. Kazakhstan military involvement with multinational agencies, coalition with other state forces and the need for joint counterterrorist operations has an overriding influence over the language selection as majority of the Kazakh military is involved in these tasks.

Factor Analysis (PCA and EFA)

It shows how much of the total variance is captured by the principal components.

Principal Component Analysis (PCA).

Table 3. Variance of all 11 Factors

PCA_Variance_Explained	
Principal Component	Variance Explained
PC1	0.23749816193707700
PC2	0.18837180207023100
PC3	0.1315720605657890
PC4	0.1086844263389060
PC5	0.09880877121241240
PC6	0.08506711463063630
PC7	0.05420693345856070
PC8	0.045769061340913800
PC9	0.02736980578185200
PC10	0.022651862663622700
PC11	1.93654189702365E-33

Key Observations. PCA as shown in Table 3 identified that the first three components explain approximately 55% of the variance in the data. Component 1 emphasized operational factors (e.g., "Training"), Component 2 focused on strategic factors (e.g., "Regional Security"), and Component 3 highlighted diplomatic priorities (e.g., "Bilateral Defence Diplomacy").

Interpretation. These components suggest clustering of factors into operational, strategic, and diplomatic dimensions, simplifying decision-making for language training. The troops or units that are involved in operational aspects and train with other armies has to have English dominance, for forces involved in strategic dimension like regional security require Russian as working language (which troops are already proficient) and for diplomatic aspect English and Arabic hold significance.

4.5.2. Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA)

Table 4 loadings indicate the extent to which each factor contributes to the underlying components.

Table 4. EFA loading

	Factor1	Factor2	Factor3
Regional Security Dynamics	-0.011913424082808700	0.52807383136826	0.383801759829928
Defence Alliance and Multinational Engagement	0.012723403680187000	0.1730210547972430	0.6238781347377600
Joint Operations and Coalition with foreign nations	0.0591593718799284	-0.13836159641526700	0.16700949350499200
Foreign Military Equipment Used	0.5118694419682080	-0.4770900564377780	0.3867364627131880
Training & Foreign Military Concepts	0.9648531410282170	0.03449180509081780	-0.09645070406205130
Cultural Sensitivity in Peacekeeping2	-0.02510327940853870	0.08254072217421970	-0.21216565562340000
Language requirements for Cyber and Information Warfare2	-0.3075845032120860	0.5923561689718620	-0.4764657846961650
Border Security and Anti-Smuggling Efforts2	-0.6707427189724930	0.14281046485890100	-0.11771003067728200
Bilateral Defence Diplomacy2	-0.09419768330771580	0.16106684624774700	0.020966312516636100
Language used in country where Kazakh Militray Peacekeeping are Deployed2	-0.22463047938632500	-0.8181190756765060	-0.2353419334459980
Humanitarian Response2	-0.290301137268825	-0.2015089605765900	-0.3910590837670860

Key Observations. EFA grouped factors into three latent variables based on loadings:

- **Factor 1:** High loadings on "Training & Concepts" and "Foreign Military Equipment."
- **Factor 2:** High loadings on "Regional Security" and "Cultural Sensitivity."
- **Factor 3:** High loadings on "Cyber Warfare" and "Bilateral Diplomacy."

Interpretation. Language training requirements align with three broad categories: operational readiness, cultural understanding, and technical skills.

4.5.2 Cluster Analysis

Table 5. Silhouette Score

Silhouette_Score-f	
Silhouette Score	0.2875093040954610

Key Observation on Silhouette Score. Measures clustering quality, with a score of 0.287 indicating moderate separation between clusters.

Interpretation. Each cluster reflects distinct respondent profiles, which could guide customized language training strategies.

4.5.3. ANOVA and T-tests

Table 6. T-Statistic & ANOVA Result

T- Test		ANOVA	
T-Statistic	P-Value	F-Statistic	P-Value
1.408074736036641	0.16198099945313418	34.60253966442197	3.9031e-57

T-Test Analysis. The t-test comparing two factors (e.g., "Regional Security Dynamics" vs. "Defence Alliances") shows significant differences in importance. A low p-value suggests that these two factors are perceived differently by respondents.

Interpretation: Priorities differ significantly across factors, emphasizing the need for a tailored approach to language training. Language requirement varies with troop engagement and hence language selection has to be based on the type & location of engagement and deployment.

ANOVA Analysis. ANOVA identified significant differences among the means of all 11 factors (F-statistic = 34.6, p-value < 0.05). These differences suggest that not all factors are equally prioritized.

Interpretation: Statistical evidence confirms varying levels of importance across factors, reinforcing the need to focus on key areas.

4.5.4. Pareto Analysis

A small subset of factors (e.g., "Training & Foreign Military Concepts" and "Regional Security Dynamics") contribute disproportionately to the overall importance. Cumulative percentage shows that the top 3-4 factors account for most of the priorities.

Interpretation: Applying the 80/20 principle, focusing on a few critical factors could address the majority of language training needs. Hence for Training & Foreign Concept factor, Mandarin holds significance and for Regional Security Dynamics, English is the obvious choice.

5. Analysis and Discussion

5.1. Evaluating Candidate Languages

Respondents were asked to rate the 11 factors considered for the study on the scale from 1-11 based on their importance for enhancing the operational effectiveness of Kazakhstan military. Table 7 summarises the results.

Table 7. Factor Rating based on Survey

S/N	Factors Analysed	Sub factor	Rating %	Factor rating
1.	Geopolitical and Strategic Alignments	Regional Security Dynamics	11.38	.11
2.		Defence Alliances and Multinational Engagements	12.40	.12
3.	Joint Operations and Coalition with foreign nations		12.15	.12
4.	Technical and equipment requirement	Military Equipment	12.18	.12
5.		Training & Foreign Military Concepts	11.38	.11
6.	Cultural Sensitivity and Diplomacy	Cultural Sensitivity in Peacekeeping	9.23	.09
7.		Cyber and Information Warfare	7.60	.076
8.		Border Security and Anti-Smuggling Efforts	6.78	.067
9.		Bilateral Defence Diplomacy	6.03	.06
10.	Strategic Mobility and Deployments	Peacekeeping Deployment	7.78	.077
11.		Humanitarian Response	3.31	.033

Scoring the four identified foreign language with the respective factor rating, we get the total score as summarised in Table 8.

Table 8. Summarised Score of Four Identified Foreign Language based on Respective Factor Rating

Factor	Factor Rating	English	Arabic	Mandarin	French
Geopolitical and Strategic Alignments	.11	2	3	4	1
Regional Security Dynamics	.12	4	2	1	3
Joint Operations and Coalition with foreign nations	.12	4	3	2	1
Military Equipment	.12	4	3	2	1
Training & Foreign Military Concepts	.11	4	3	2	1
Cultural Sensitivity in Peacekeeping	.09	4	2	1	3
Cyber and Information Warfare	.076	4	2	3	1
Border Security and Anti-Smuggling Efforts	.067	2	3	4	1
Bilateral Defence Diplomacy	.06	2	4	3	1
Peacekeeping Deployment	.077	3	4	1	2
Humanitarian Response	.033	3	4	2	1
Total Score		3.348	2.833	2.169	1.48

As per the factor rating score, following language is the most suited in order of preference:

- English.
- Arabic.
- Mandarin.
- French

The respondents were also asked to rate in order of importance the four foreign languages i.e. English, Arabic, Mandarin & French, that they think should be taught to Kazakh Military personals in order to enhance operational effectiveness. Figure 3 is the frequency distribution data.

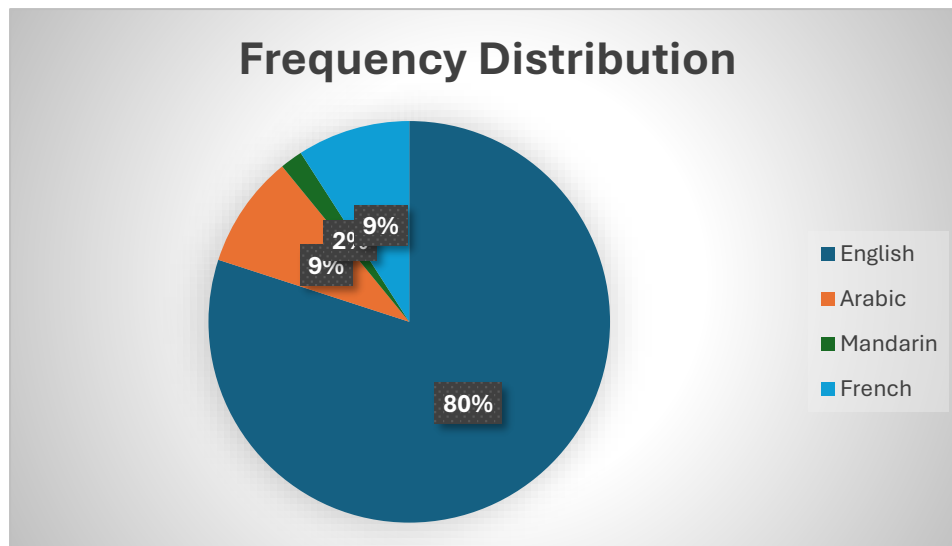


Figure 3. Percentage Distribution of Language Preference

Key summary statistics of the said data is as per Table 9.

Table 9. Summarised Statistical Parameters of Four Identified Foreign Language based on Respondent Priority

Parameters	English	Arabic	Mandarin	French
Mean Avg	1.5	2.4	2.9	3.2
Median	1	2	3	4
Mode	1	2	3	4

5.2. Inference

The value of the mean and the median of the languages is the same indicating no polarisation in ratings. Based on the mean, median and mode, the order of importance of language is as follows:

- English.
- Arabic.
- Mandarin.
- French.

6. Findings

6.1. Significant Foreign Language for Kazkh Military

The literature review and analysis of contributing factors reveal that English, Arabic, Mandarin, and French are highly significant foreign languages for Kazakhstan's military personnel.

Analysis of the literature and data concludes that English is the most advantageous foreign language for Kazakhstan's military personnel, particularly for enhancing operational effectiveness. Arabic is identified as the second most important language, especially for deployments in the Middle East and for diplomatic roles.

6.2. Training Requirements

Language training requirements can be categorized into three key areas: operational readiness, cultural understanding, and technical expertise, streamlining decisions related to language training programs.

The study highlights that priorities vary significantly across different factors, necessitating a customized approach to language training. The top priorities include Geopolitical and Strategic Alignments, Regional Security Dynamics, Joint Operations and Coalitions, Military Equipment, and Training in Foreign Military Concepts. Addressing these key areas would meet the majority of the language training needs.

6.3. Requirement of Foreign Language Based on Task

Different languages hold varying degrees of importance based on the tasks and contexts of military deployment. The following observations emerge:

English:

- Recognized as the global standard for military communication.
- Crucial for NATO collaboration, understanding equipment manuals, and participating in international training programs.
- Predominantly used in UN peacekeeping operations.

French:

- Essential for peacekeeping missions in Francophone Africa.
- Facilitates communication with European allies.

Arabic:

- Vital for deployments in the Middle East and for diplomatic engagements.
- Supports operations in conflict zones like Lebanon.

Chinese (Mandarin):

- Strategic for bilateral engagements with China and initiatives under the SCO.
- Critical for working with Chinese-origin equipment and technologies.

7. Recommendations**7.1. Priority-I: Primary Focus on English Language**

Integrating Curriculum in Military Universities: In addition to regular coursework, military universities ought to provide required English courses. Incorporate basic English proficiency as a mandatory requirement for Master's and Ph.D. students, as well as for troops engaged in regional security and joint operations. Incorporate language proficiency exams to evaluate development and pinpoint areas in need of enhancement.

Targeted Certified Programs: Troops and units that are involved in joint operations & exercises, UN deployment and handling of Western origin equipment needs to undergo at least basic English training before deployment. Specific courses can be designed or a three months english course leg can be scheduled during the basic military training.

Immersion Programs: Design programs for identified officers and troops with opportunities to upskill at institutes abroad with friendly nations. MoU with UN peacekeeping training institutions partners or NATO can be a good proposition.

Cultural Exchange: Collaborate with foreign embassies in Kazakhstan to offer programs of cultural interaction that emphasise language proficiency relevant to missions.

Customised Online Certified Courses: Introduce online courses through KNDU to encourage self-directed learning. KNDU can conduct online certified language training for troops and those who successfully complete the course should be given preference in UN mission deployments or and promotions.

7.2. Priority- II: Training in Arabic and French Language

Targeted Training Programs: For personnel detailed for UNIFIL missions, Francophone Africa, or the Middle East, military institutions should provide fundamental and mission-specific Arabic and French courses. Practical application, such as survival phrases, negotiating, and cultural protocol, should be emphasised in training.

Language-Specific Military Exercises: Include Arabic or French in military drills that mimic actual operations in pertinent areas so that soldiers can use their language proficiency in a context.

Immersion Opportunities: Organize short-term programs that allow personnel to undergo training in Middle Eastern or Francophone countries through structured and supervised exchange initiatives.

7.3. Priority III: Mandarin as a Strategic Language

Specialized Programs for Border Forces: Provide Mandarin language training specifically tailored for border security personnel and troops engaged in SCO-related operations.

Immersion Programs and Proficiency Assessments: Facilitate language exchange initiatives with Chinese counterparts to strengthen language skills and cultural familiarity. Implement proficiency evaluations to assess preparedness for SCO anti-terrorism activities and rapid-response missions.

Targeted Role-Based Training: Focus Mandarin language instruction on individuals in leadership positions or those actively participating in strategic partnerships with China.

7.4. Data-Driven Allocation

Use weighted scoring and Pareto analysis to optimize resource allocation for language training. Focus on English for roles related to Regional Security Dynamics, Defense Alliances, and Multinational Engagements, where it is essential.

7.5. Basic Intake Level

English as a foreign language should be promoted among students in schools, and those who already possess the fundamentals should receive additional training after enlisting in the military. This is also in line with Kazakhstan's Trinity of Languages Policy, which seeks to preserve the nation's linguistic and cultural variety while preparing its citizens for a globalised world.

7.6. Incentivization

Offer monetary incentives to encourage military personnel to achieve higher levels of English proficiency or Arabic which will assist the military efficiency. Prioritize officers proficient in English for deployment or international training courses.

7.7. Implementation Strategy

Centralized Role of KNDU: Establish KNDU as the primary centre for military language training, providing specialized courses, certifications, and language proficiency assessments in coordination with military language institute, Almaty.

Programs for Cultural Sensitivity: Develop cultural awareness initiatives integrated with language training to promote effective communication and teamwork in international operations.

Integration with National Policy: Utilize Kazakhstan's Trinity of Languages Policy to support the development of military personnel in English, Russian, and Kazakh, fostering cultural preservation while enhancing global engagement.

8. Limitations of the Study

8.1. Sample Size

A small sample of 55 respondents out of a population of 71,000 participated in the survey portion of this study; nonetheless, this sample was chosen using convenience sampling but encompassed military personnel's with a range of language demands and deployment experiences. As a result, the results show initial patterns that are further supported by qualitative information and a thorough literature analysis. According to Patton (2015) and Creswell & Plano Clark (2018), when properly contextualised, mixed-method research can yield insightful findings even with small quantitative samples. Yet the findings should be regarded as exploratory, and the constraints of the limited sample size, such as lower statistical power and generalisability, are acknowledged. It is suggested to build upon these findings, by conducting future studies using greater and more representative data sets.

8.2. Subjectivity in Responses

Personal experiences and biases may have influenced the participants' ratings of language priorities.

9. Conclusion

This research identifies English as the most critical foreign language for Kazakhstan's military personnel, followed by Arabic. While Mandarin has situational importance, it ranks as a lower priority. Aligning language training with operational needs can significantly enhance Kazakhstan's role on the global military arena.

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