In contrast to “state language” or “official language”, a “national language” need not be declared as such by law. However, the more emphasis that is put on the nation-state in modern politics, the stronger the tendency to view a national language as representing in some sense the inhabitants of a well delimited territory stipulated to be a unique state. The two Turkic languages Turkish and Uzbek have played a prominent role in the formation of Turkey and Uzbekistan, respectively, and have undergone profound changes as parts of these state-building processes. In the present-day world, on the other hand, these and other languages develop in a globalizing context where geographic delimitations of language usage are no longer as decisive as they once were. One interesting question in this connection is what impact globalization may have on language planning and, consequently, the languages themselves.

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Refreshments will be served after the lecture

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