

THE FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT STAGES OF PARLIAMENTARY JOURNALISM IN UZBEKISTAN

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*This article examines the formation and development stages of parliamentary journalism in Uzbekistan and analyzes the importance of media coverage of parliamentary activities. The study also explores the role of parliamentary journalism in ensuring transparency and openness in governance as well as in shaping public opinion. Particular attention is paid to the interaction between parliament and society through mass media within the framework of political communication. The research concludes that parliamentary journalism serves as an essential mechanism for strengthening democratic institutions and enhancing public oversight in Uzbekistan.*

Introduction

In modern society, mass media function as one of the most influential communication tools in covering political, economic, and social processes. With the expansion of democratic governance, journalism has gradually developed specialized fields aimed at providing professional coverage of specific areas of public life. One of such specialized areas is parliamentary journalism. Parliamentary journalism refers to a branch of journalism focused on covering the activities of parliaments, legislative processes, and the work of deputies and senators. It aims to inform the public about the adoption of laws, parliamentary debates, and decisions that influence social and political development. Through

parliamentary journalism, citizens gain access to information about the functioning of legislative institutions and the political decisions shaping public policy. In democratic systems, transparency and openness in parliamentary activities are considered fundamental principles of governance. In this regard, mass media play a crucial role as an intermediary between parliament and society, ensuring the dissemination of information and facilitating public engagement in political processes. Parliamentary journalism can also be viewed as an important component of political journalism. It focuses on delivering information about legislative processes and parliamentary decisions through mass media, thereby enabling citizens to remain informed about political developments and participate in democratic governance. As a result, parliamentary journalism contributes to the development of public oversight and political accountability. Within the framework of political communication theory, parliamentary journalism performs the function of an informational bridge between political institutions and the public. Political communication involves the exchange of information among state authorities, political actors, media institutions, and citizens. Consequently, parliamentary journalism serves as a key mechanism for facilitating communication between legislative bodies and society.

#### Literature Review and Methodology

Scholars emphasize that mass media play a significant role in shaping public attitudes toward political processes within the political communication system. According to B. Mirzaev, in the context of political communication, mass media serve as the primary mechanism for information exchange between government institutions and society<sup>16</sup>. Therefore, the emergence of a specialized journalistic field dedicated to covering parliamentary activities can be considered a natural development in modern media systems. Researchers in political communication theory have also highlighted the growing importance of media in political life. J. Blumler and D. Kavanagh argue that mass media influence citizens' political awareness by providing information about political events and processes<sup>17</sup>. In their view, media have become an integral part of modern political systems and play a vital role in ensuring the transparency of political institutions. The theoretical foundations of parliamentary journalism are also closely linked to broader journalism studies. A. Abduazizov notes that mass media contribute to the formation of public opinion by covering political processes and informing citizens about governmental activities<sup>18</sup>. This

<sup>16</sup> Mirzaev, B. (2017). *Theory of Political Communication*. Tashkent: Fan Publishing House. p. 82.

<sup>17</sup> Blumler, J. G., & Kavanagh, D. (1999). *The Third Age of Political Communication*. Political Communication.

<sup>18</sup> Abduazizov, A. (2019). *Political Processes and Mass Media*. Tashkent: Akademiya Publishing House. p. 45.

function enhances citizens' political awareness and encourages active participation in democratic processes. Another important function of parliamentary journalism is ensuring transparency and accountability in government activities. M. Abdullayev emphasizes that openness is one of the key principles of information policy in public administration. According to the scholar, the accessibility of information about governmental institutions strengthens public trust in state authorities and promotes civic engagement in political affairs<sup>19</sup>. International media research also highlights the role of mass media in maintaining democratic accountability. D. McQuail characterizes mass media as a "mechanism of public control,<sup>20</sup>" arguing that media coverage of government institutions contributes to transparency, accountability, and democratic governance. In the contemporary media environment, parliamentary journalism is also evolving through new technological opportunities. The development of digital media, online news platforms, and social networks has significantly expanded the possibilities for covering parliamentary activities. Live broadcasts of parliamentary sessions, online publications of legislative debates, and the active presence of deputies on social media platforms demonstrate the transformation of parliamentary journalism in the digital era. Overall, parliamentary journalism functions as an essential communication mechanism in democratic societies. It informs citizens about legislative processes, enhances political awareness, and strengthens public oversight over government institutions.

In Uzbekistan, parliamentary journalism began to develop gradually following the country's independence. Initially, information about parliamentary activities was mainly disseminated through official press services of the parliament. However, with the development of the national media system, new forms of parliamentary coverage emerged. Television, radio, and online media platforms began to provide broader coverage of parliamentary sessions, discussions of draft legislation, and the activities of deputies. In recent years, reforms aimed at improving transparency and openness in public administration have further contributed to the development of parliamentary journalism. For example, the live broadcasting of parliamentary sessions and the regular publication of parliamentary news through digital platforms have significantly increased public access to information about legislative processes. Parliamentary journalism also contributes to the formation of political culture in society. Media coverage of parliamentary activities

<sup>19</sup> Abdullayev, M. (2020). *Information Policy in Public Administration*. Tashkent: Akademiya Publishing House. p. 63.

<sup>20</sup> McQuail, D. (2010). *McQuail's Mass Communication Theory*. London: Sage Publications.

enhances citizens' interest in political affairs and encourages public participation in democratic governance. Furthermore, parliamentary journalism strengthens public oversight mechanisms and promotes transparency in government institutions.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, parliamentary journalism represents an important component of democratic political communication. It plays a vital role in ensuring transparency in parliamentary activities, informing citizens about political processes, and shaping public opinion. The development of parliamentary journalism in Uzbekistan demonstrates the country's ongoing efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and improve transparency in governance. The expansion of media platforms and digital technologies has further enhanced the capacity of parliamentary journalism to inform the public and facilitate interaction between parliament and society. Thus, parliamentary journalism not only serves as a source of information but also acts as a key instrument for promoting accountability, public participation, and democratic development.

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