



## THE SPECIFICITY OF BROADCASTING NEWS PROGRAMS ON UZBEK TELEVISION

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### Abstract:

Television remains one of the most influential media outlets in Uzbekistan. Among the many channels, Uzbekistan 24 and UzReport, which specialize in news and informational programs, stand out. This article is dedicated to analyzing the specifics of presenting informational materials on these two channels.

**Keywords:** news, informational program, Uzbek television, Uzbekistan 24, UzReport.

### Introduction

In recent years, the media industry in Uzbekistan has become the fastest-growing sector. According to statistics from the Nationwide Movement "Yuksalish," the number of media outlets in the country has increased by 41% compared to 2016, and the number of registered TV channels has risen from 65 to 84. Additionally, research indicates that 37.9% of respondents watch TV daily, particularly between 18:00 and 21:00, which coincides with the broadcast of evening (summary) news. Furthermore, a little over 12% of respondents specifically watch informational channels and prefer such news programs as "Markaziy studiya" (My5), "Zamon" (Sevimli), "Axborot 24" (Uzbekistan 24), "UzReport News" (Uzreport TV), and "Davr" (Yoshlar) [1].

Television serves various functions, with the primary one being informational. When discussing the informational function of television, it is crucial to narrowly and specifically explain the concept of "mass information." Often, the term "journalism" is synonymous with "mass media." In a narrow sense, mass information refers to "event information, i.e., a group of brief, uncommented reports about the most relevant events in the world" [2,5]. In a broader sense, "information represents a set of meaningful data contained in a message" [3,32], encompassing "all data and texts that





journalism disseminates to the masses, any works published in the media that influence the audience" [4,14].

The modern informational space consists of numerous sources of news and programs, including online platforms, TV channels, and other media resources. In the context of modern Uzbekistan, UzReport TV and Uzbekistan 24 hold significant positions as the most popular information sources for most people.

In 2017, Uzbekistan launched its first 24-hour TV channel, "Uzbekistan 24." The broadcast of "Uzbekistan 24" began with a greeting from the staff, promising to serve the people, work promptly, and transparently. The new round-the-clock national informational and analytical TV and radio channel "O'zbekiston 24" ("Uzbekistan 24") began broadcasting at 10:00 on July 24. The channel employs 251 experts, many of whom are familiar to viewers from their work on other channels of the National Television and Radio Corporation (NTRC). The channel plans to establish communication points abroad. The new channel broadcasts informational and analytical programs "Ahborot" and "Tahlilnoma."

The program "Ahborot" was the first informational TV program in Uzbekistan, initially broadcast in the early 1950s to mid-1960s as the country's sole news program. Today, the program underwent rebranding in 2018 and is considered the "calling card of Uzbekistan's main TV channel." The news layout of "Uzbekistan 24" is always quite uniform. The most covered topics are politics, government activities, presidential statements and decrees, government meetings, and delegations. The content of the program is always carefully selected based on presidential, government, or parliamentary sources.

UzReport TV began operations in April 2014, focusing on informational and analytical programs centered on politics, economics, and finance. In 2015, the evening broadcast introduced the news program "UzReport News," which became the cornerstone of the channel's content, covering economic, political, and financial news, as well as cultural and international topics.

A crucial requirement for any news program is its relevance and timeliness, a criterion that both broadcasts meet fully. The news broadcast schedules for "Uzbekistan 24" and "UzReport TV" are as follows (see Table №1):





Table 1. Comparison of Broadcast Schedules for the Two Channels

Broadcast Time	Uzbekistan 24	«UzReport TV»
05:00	-	«UzReport News»
11:00	«Новости 24»	-
15:00	«Новости 24»	-
19:00	-	«UzReport News»
19:30	«Новости 24»	-
23:00	-	«UzReport News»

The frequent repetition of news programs in the channels' schedules indicates that the information presented is always current and timely. Each news edition provides a comprehensive summary of events from the past hour and the day. Thus, every news program gives viewers a daily overview of events both domestically and internationally.

News programs generally follow a well-established structure, with a typical duration ranging from 15 to 30 minutes. However, this is not a strict rule. For instance, the "News 24" broadcast on February 22, 2021, lasted more than one hour, specifically 1 hour and 3 minutes.

It is also important to note the stylistic and directional differences between the two programs, which may be related to the channel's ownership. The content of "News 24" mainly focuses on state-related information, particularly highlighting the country's politics and the activities of the state's leader and government. News broadcasts often start with a report on the president's activities or a commentary on a presidential decree. An example is the "News 24" broadcast on June 30, 2020, which began with a report on the president's video conference addressing judicial and legal issues.

One of the most important criteria for a news program is its structure. "News 24" and "UzReport News" adhere to a traditional news program structure, consisting of two parts: the anchor on screen and a series of journalist reports. The components and their sequence in "News 24" are as follows:

1. Introduction;
2. Brief introduction by the anchor, who presents themselves and starts the broadcast with a lead-in to the story;
3. Alternating journalist reports, separated by the anchor's transitions, sometimes including a brief repeat of the introduction;
4. Conclusion by the anchor, summarizing and signing off.

This structure is evident in each edition of the program, such as the "News 24" broadcasts on December 17, 2020, and April 6, 2021. While the structure of "News 24" is quite traditional, "UzReport News" strives to avoid the classic format, focusing more on new approaches to news presentation, such as **infotainment and edutainment**. The





creators of the program adhere to the principle that news should be not only informative but also light and entertaining, aiming to engage rather than burden the viewer. The structure of "UzReport News" can be outlined as follows, consisting of two blocks:

1. News Block: A collection of journalist reports covering all the day's events in the country.

1. Analytical Block: This block focuses on analyzing key events that shape the day's agenda, including their significance and consequences. As a private TV channel, the style of "UzReport News" is distinct. The program prioritizes audience needs, constructing its informational agenda based on topics that concern the public.

This structure for both news programs has been consistent for several years, indicating that the audience better absorbs information presented in this format.

Journalistic materials play a crucial role in news programs. Information can be presented in various formats and genres, each influencing the specific nature of the news program. Let's examine the materials from the "News 24" and "UzReport News" programs. Notably, the duration of materials can vary significantly. Typically, a segment lasts about 2-3 minutes in both programs. However, exceptions exist, such as a 31-minute segment in the "News 24" broadcast on February 22, 2021. This duration is quite long, and the topic must justify it. In this case, the segment was overly prolonged and occasionally dull. Serious errors were noted: the journalist's voice-over was unclear and lacked the official tone appropriate for such segments. Additionally, the Geneva consul's speech was not translated into Russian, and the on-screen text introducing her was delayed by 5 seconds—an error repeated throughout the segment. During an interview with the director of the Central Asia International Institute, the speech began before the interviewee appeared on screen, and the focus often shifted to irrelevant details.

In contrast, "UzReport News" segments were not as lengthy, with the longest being a 7-minute segment on September 16, 2022. This segment, covering the expanded meeting of SCO heads of state, justified its duration. Although the segment was entirely official, the correspondent's tone in the voice-over lacked the necessary formality, with some words not fully articulated.

It was noted that segments rarely began with a correspondent's stand-up, in both "News 24" and "UzReport News". Typically, at most, one segment per news edition starts with a stand-up.

Both channels pay special attention to the visual aspects of their news programs. Due to modernization and technological progress, the content in informational programs





has become visually richer. Anchors' and journalists' speeches are often accompanied by illustrations, and new formats are used to present news: online interviews (e.g., "News 24" broadcast on July 30, 2020), infographics ("News 24" broadcasts on July 1, 2020, and April 12, 2023; "UzReport News" broadcasts on April 18, 2022, and May 14, 2022), and split screens ("News 24" broadcast on May 6, 2021).

Our comparative analysis of these two national news programs allows us to conclude that both "News 24" and "UzReport News" are in demand by audiences and are characterized by genre diversity, logical material structure, and adherence to channel formats and ethical standards.

While individual errors can occur during broadcasts and must be promptly identified and corrected, the overall informational activity of both channels deserves high praise, reflecting the professionalism of their staff.

Each news program has a unique set of characteristics implemented in accordance with the objectives of the TV channel and even state policy. The criteria by which news programs are evaluated directly influence their appearance and audience perception.

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