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TO THE QUESTION OF THE SECONDARY LINGUISTIC PERSONALITY AND MULTILINGUALISM

К вопросу о вторичной языковой личности и многоязычии

Our modern epoch can be called the era of “homo loquens”, as knowledge in foreign languages and communication skills are essential for any person in all spheres of today’s reality.

Developing cross-cultural competence in a multilingual world is very actual today. This process is complex, as it is not only a process of learning new knowledge about another culture which is rather difficult and requires basic educational training. Developing cross-cultural competence implies the formation of a fully developed personality by improving both intellectual competence and practical skills.

It is known that any language is a means of collecting, keeping, processing, and conveying information which is gradually becoming the driving force for progress. Mastering any language, i.e. its vocabulary, grammar, stylistics, and pronunciation, helps to create each person’s inner view of the world. Special attention should be paid to trust in words, as this concept is not only a special social and psychological milestone in human relationships, but it is also a means of shaping personality.

The rapid development of linguistics, linguodidactics, and methods of teaching and learning foreign languages during the second half of the XX century has brought the second linguistic personality to the forefront. The term “the secondary linguistic personality” was first used by a scientist V. Vinogradov in his work “About Narrative Literature” that was published in 1930 [1, p. 136]. Further scientific research of problems that are related to secondary linguistic personality was performed by linguists Y. Karaulov, N. Galskova, N. Gez, and others [2, p. 34].

We keep to Y. Karaulov’s opinion that the linguistic personality is a key idea which permeates all aspects of learning a language and simultaneously transcends boundaries among disciplines which people study beyond their languages. The linguistic personality is a way of personality representation including a psychic, social, ethic, and other components in the reflection of a language and its discourse [3, p. 97].

The concept of secondary linguistic personality relates to multilingualism. To research the question of multilingualism in the Republic of Belarus we decided to conduct a survey among the citizens of one of the biggest cities in Belarus – Brest. In 2019 the survey among residents and guests of Brest was carried out. The survey

consisted of 12 questions. All in all, 140 people from Belarus and abroad took part in our research.

The analysis of the survey depicted that most interviewees are bilingual and speak at least two languages. The most frequent language combination is the Russian or Belarussian Language and the English language.

It can be concluded that people learn at least one foreign language due to understanding the importance of learning foreign languages in a global world. Multilingualism can not only attract more tourists to Brest and improve its economy as a result but also make a positive contribution to all spheres of human life.

We would like to note that the modern world is full of diverse cultures and languages. Being monolingual is being at a cultural risk, facing barriers of misunderstanding among representatives of various cultures. If we want to understand representatives of other cultures better, must plunge into their cultures and core values. That, in turns, will help us to reflect on our own culture.

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ADAPTING THE LANGUAGE TO COPE: INTERNET SLANG

Адаптирование языка к условиям жизни: сетевой сленг

The objective of the item is to analyze the slang units of the English language, consider examples of Internet slang, and identify the main reasons for the appearance of Internet slang.

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, slang is ‘language of a low or vulgar type’ and ‘the special vocabulary or phraseology of a particular calling or profession’ [1]. It clearly reflects the attitude towards the slang.

According to British lexicographer Eric Partridge, there are several reasons for that [2, p. 453]. Firstly, it may be used by anyone regardless of age just for the fun of