

THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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Abstract. Learning and teaching of English throughout the world during recent years has increased. The purpose of the article is to analyze the importance of learning English as a foreign language and identify typical problems and misconceptions associated with learning a foreign language, as well as to substantiate approaches to overcoming them.

Key words: teachers, English, speakers, educational institutions, a foreign language, learning problems.

Of the 4,000 to 5,000 living languages, English is by far the most widely used. As a mother language, it ranks second only to Chinese, which is effectively six mutually unintelligible dialects little used outside China. On the other hand, the 300 million native speakers of English are to be found in every continent, and an equally widely distributed body of second language speakers, who use English for their day-to-day needs, totals over 250 million. Finally, if we add those areas where decisions affecting life and welfare are made and announced in English, we cover one-sixth of the world's population.

Modern man has all the conditions for the comprehensive development of his personality. The acquisition of useful knowledge and skills greatly facilitates existence in the modern world. In order to fully realize the potential inherent in us by nature, to make a feasible contribution to the common cause of the formation of a highly efficient society, you need to constantly push the boundaries of your intellect, stimulate your thinking to clear and productive work.

So far, English has been considered as a foreign language in our country. That is, it is taught in schools, often widely, it plays an essential role in national or social life. In Spain, Brazil and Japan, for example, Spanish, Portuguese and Japanese are the normal medium of communication and instruction: the average citizen does not need English or any other foreign language to live his daily life or even for social or professional advancement. English, as a world language, is taught among others in schools, but there is no regional variety of English which embodies a Spanish, Brazilian or Japanese cultural identity. In foreign language situations of this kind, therefore, the hundreds of thousands of learners of English tend to have an instrumental motivation for learning the foreign language. The teaching of modern languages in schools has an educational function, and the older learner who deliberately sets out to learn English has a clear instrumental intention: he wants to visit England, to be able to communicate

with English-speaking tourists or friends, to be able to read English in books and newspapers.

It may be seen, then, that the role of English within a nation's daily life is influenced by geographical, historical, cultural and political factors, not all of which are immutable. But the role of English at a given point in time must affect both the way it is taught and the resultant impact on the daily life and growth of the individual.

Learning English is one of the necessary and important stages in the development of modern man. Knowledge of an additional language, especially such a common one as English, is mutual understanding and free communication with the widest possible range of people, reading popular science and fiction in the original language, free movement in any country without interfering and limiting the language barrier. Unlike the native language, the assimilation of which is carried out on a subconscious level and ends by the age of 5 with the creation of a self-developing system "native language" a foreign language is newly acquired and is based on the formation of another self-developing system "foreign language", which is characterized by the construction of new speech mechanisms by the brain, built on the material of a foreign language.

Studies have demonstrated the cognitive benefits of learning another language, no matter how old the person is. These studies have shown that bilingual people have a bigger brain, have better memory, are creative, problem-solving, etc. These advantages make it easier not only to learn more languages, but also to learn everything. The ability to quickly switch tasks is especially important in today's busy multitasking world. Bilingual tasks can be exchanged much faster than their one-language counterparts and perform many other tasks at the same time.

The optimum starting age. The learning of English by younger children is by no means as common as at later stages and the nature of the younger learner probably affects content and methods more than with other age groups.

English is the language of business. All large businessmen who want to enter the international market simply need to speak English at a high level, Knowledge of English gives the opportunity to study at prestigious foreign universities. Most of the scientific and specific literature is published in English. We have to wait for the translation, which, as is known, tends to distort information and does not convey the author's thought in full. Most of the pages on the Internet with the necessary information are distributed in English.

All international competitions and conferences are held in English, most of the computer programs and applications are compiled again in English. Speaking in English facilitates communication, erases barriers of misunderstanding, opens up new opportunities for career and leisure. The consequence of this was the increased demand of Russians to improve their English language proficiency. There are many options for

improving the quality of your English. The most optimal solution to this problem is English language courses.

As millions of children have witnessed in the bi-lingual areas of the world, a second and even a third language can be acquired from the very earliest ages, without any seeming effort or retardation of the mother tongue. What is more, this is shown to occur to all normal children, irrespective of levels of intelligence. In a situation, therefore, when two or more languages are in natural use, they are best acquired together from the cradle. Children of mixed parentage often grow up happily using one language with the mother and another with the father and perhaps friends.

Today, our country is becoming more and more open to international cooperation and tourism. It is impossible to live in isolation on our small planet. If we want to study the world experience, talk and negotiate with people of different nationalities, we simply cannot do without English. And the better we know it, the more we will learn new things about others and be able to tell about ourselves.

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