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THE RELEVANCE OF LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN MODERN WORLD

Abstract: *this article discusses the main issues on the very current topic of learning foreign languages. The authors analyzed the concepts of «bilingualism» and «monolingualism». The main advantages that are obvious when knowing a foreign language are described. The authors of the article come to the conclusion that learning a foreign language helps you understand your own language and culture better.*

Keywords: *learning a foreign language, bilingualism, monolingualism, advantages of learning a foreign language, understanding, learning English.*

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DOI 10.21661/r-562355

АКТУАЛЬНОСТЬ ИЗУЧЕНИЯ ИНОСТРАННЫХ ЯЗЫКОВ В СОВРЕМЕННОМ МИРЕ

Аннотация: в статье рассматриваются основные вопросы по актуальной теме изучения иностранных языков. Авторами проведён анализ понятий «двухязычие» и «монолингвизм». Описаны основные преимущества, которые очевидны при знании иностранного языка. Авторы статьи приходят к выводу, что изучение иностранного языка помогает лучше понять родной язык и культуру.

Ключевые слова: понимание, двуязычие, изучение иностранного языка, изучение английского языка, монолингвизм, преимущества изучения иностранного языка.

Learning a foreign language is very important for everyone today. The world is becoming more and more globalized, and bilingualism is not a passing fad but a need of the time. Learning a foreign language is a life skill for learning how to truly communicate and connect with others. Why should we learn foreign languages? Today we will discuss about this topic.

Bilingualism: meaning.

Bilingualism is an easy word to understand if you break it down into its constituent parts:

- bi – refers to two;
- lingualism – refers to languages.

Put them together and you end up with:

- bilingualism – the ability to use or speak two languages.

Bilingualism refers to the coexistence of two language systems in a person or community's communication.

Monolingualism: meaning.

Monolingualism refers to the ability to speak only one language.

Is it that simple? Essentially yes, although there are a couple more things worth noting.

Bilingualism falls under the wider label of '*Multilingualism*', which is the use of *more than one language*. For that reason, someone who is bilingual could also be referred to as being multilingual.

Bilingualism is a term that can also be used to refer to the use of more than two languages (for example 3, 4, or more languages), however, it primarily refers *to two* languages (as the name implies).

Advantages of learning a foreign language.

Let's talk about advantages of learning a foreign language.

1. Learning a foreign language makes your brain grow. Research shows cognitive benefits of learning another language, regardless of age. These studies show that bilingual people have bigger brains, better memories, greater creativity, better problem-solving skills, and more. These advantages make it easier not only to learn more languages, but to learn them all. The ability to quickly switch between tasks is especially important in today's busy multitasking world. Bilinguals can switch between tasks much more quickly than their monolingual counterparts while completing many other tasks.

2. Learning a foreign language makes traveling cheaper and easier. Of course, many people travel consciously. Knowing the language is very useful when traveling to a foreign country. I can easily describe what I want to eat when I go out to eat, ask the locals for directions. You can request it without any problem. It will be higher if you add a guide.

3. If you learn a foreign language, the world of job hunting will expand. It's no secret that learning a foreign language improves your job prospects. With more companies than ever before operating in multiple countries, sometimes dozens, around the world, he must employ employees who can understand at least one foreign language. you can't do that. Even for a small local business, the ability to speak a second language can set you apart from other potential employers

4. Make new friends while learning a foreign language. Meeting new interesting people and developing lifelong friendships is certainly a goal worth pursuing, and learning another language is a sure way to speed up the process. It helps you express your feelings and desires, connect with people around you, and build meaningful relationships.

5. Learning a foreign language broadens your mind. Learning a foreign language and immersing yourself in a whole new culture and worldview is the surest way to become an open-minded, understanding, tolerant and absolutely valuable person. And understanding where you and others come from is an eye-opening experience.

6. Learning a foreign language helps you understand your own language and culture better. Learning a foreign language puts you in a paradoxical state and allows you to better understand your native language and culture. This is one of the most unexpected benefits of learning a foreign language. You will gain a better understanding of not only cultural conventions, but also the grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation patterns of your native language.

This probably explains the improvement in listening, reading, and writing skills that a foreign language gives formerly monolinguals.

The benefits of learning a foreign language.

1. Improve your ability to multitask.

Among the benefits of learning a second language, is improved multitasking ability: the ability to perform multiple tasks at the same time. Multitasking is a great way to save time, but it can also result in errors and poorly performed tasks when you can't concentrate well enough on any of the tasks or don't switch fast enough between tasks.

Studies have shown that bilinguals have a better working memory. This is because they are also used to «juggling» two or more languages at the same time which involves switching from one language to another, prioritising, editing out irrelevant information. This allows bilingual people to be more effective at performing several tasks at the same time.

The research conducted in the Edinburgh University has shown that bilingual people tend to score better on a number of standardised tests involving reading, maths, vocabulary, and other aspects. This helps bilingual people, among other things, to study other subjects more effectively.

2. Improve your first language (mother-tongue).

Another one of the less obvious benefits of learning a second language is that it develops your mother-tongue skills. The explanation is quite simple: when learning a foreign language, you spend a lot of time concentrating on grammar, sentence structure, and other aspects of the language.

We usually don't pay much attention to grammar and language structure in our native language, but learning a foreign language provides more focus on grammar in

general. We also regularly draw parallels between our mother-tongue and the foreign language. As a result, you will gain a better understanding of how your native language works, and become a better communicator.

3. Perform better in mathematics.

This is probably one of the more unexpected benefits of learning a second language. Language and mathematics seem to be rather different subjects, yet, bilinguals perform better in various mathematical tests than monolinguals.

This is likely due to some of the other benefits of language learning mentioned above: improved memory, increased focus and concentration, better perception and observation, improved general cognitive ability.

Learning a foreign language helps break down language barriers and bring people together on a deeper level of mutual understanding.

Learning English, for example, is a great opportunity for people to broaden their knowledge. The secret is that most scientific papers are written in English. So People can free to read the original. Another important aspect is that knowledge of English will make it easier for you to use today's latest technology and social networks.

English is also called the language of technology. Almost all social networks are easily covered in English. In summary, knowledge of English is the key to new opportunities for industry representatives.

Conclusion.

The benefits of learning a foreign language make you successful in nearly every aspect of your life. It's great for your mind, body and soul. To quickly recap, some of the benefits of learning a second language are fairly obvious: if you learn a foreign language you can work or study abroad – or read your favourite authors and watch your favourite movies in original. Knowing your field opens one door. Knowing one language can open doors to the whole world.

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