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LANGUAGE AS A KEY TO INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

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Language plays a fundamental role in the process of intercultural understanding, as it is through language that people convey their thoughts, feelings, and cultural values. It is not only a means of communication but also a powerful tool that facilitates the establishment of relationships between representatives of different nations and ethnic groups. “All languages have developed to meet the social and psychological needs of their users, they can provide us with valuable information about human nature and society” [2, p. 6]. Transformation and modernisation of international and social relations, globalisation of our life, the priority of foreign policy in promoting state interests, and the updating of international communication tools demonstrate the relevance of the role of linguistic knowledge, skills and abilities of foreign language foreign policy communication of specialists in areas aimed at implementing international communications and creating lasting ties between state institutions, state leaders, and various international organizations in order to implement various international initiatives, as well as improve the image of countries.

One of the main aspects of intercultural understanding is the ability to communicate in a common language. Learning foreign languages helps not only to overcome language barriers but also to gain a deeper understanding of the culture, traditions, and mentality of other nations. This fosters tolerance, mutual respect, and harmonious coexistence in a multicultural society. One of the main aspects of intercultural understanding is the ability to communicate in a common language. Language is a powerful bridge that connects people from different backgrounds. It allows people to communicate, share ideas and gain knowledge about different perspectives. By embracing multilingualism, societies can remove barriers and promote inclusion. Language facilitates cultural exchange, allowing people to

participate in different traditions, customs and beliefs. Through language, people can gain a deeper understanding of cultural nuances, promoting empathy and respect for diversity. Language plays a crucial role in overcoming communication problems and misunderstandings. By facilitating effective communication, language helps to bridge gaps and resolve conflicts that may arise due to cultural differences.

Learning foreign languages helps not only to overcome the language barrier, but also to learn more deeply about the culture, traditions and mentality of other peoples. This contributes to the formation of tolerance, mutual respect and harmonious coexistence in a multicultural society. In addition, language is an important factor in preserving cultural identity. It reflects the historical experience of the people, their worldview and system of values. That is why knowledge of the native language and respect for the languages of other peoples are an integral part of cultural dialogue and mutual understanding.

The modern world requires openness to different languages and cultures. Globalization processes, the development of international relations and technologies make knowledge of languages even more relevant. The multicultural nature of society requires effective tools for communication, and language is one of the most important of them. Foreign language learning is a major paradigm and a key to the effective, high-quality formation of skills in intercultural dialogue [1].

One of the obstacles to carrying out professional activities in a multicultural space is insufficient language and professional training of specialists, which leads at least to misunderstandings, the emergence of conflict situations, and in extreme cases – to a decrease in the pace of cooperation, an increase in the term of contract execution, the breakdown of agreements, etc. An important area of professional training for specialists in the field of international relations is their preparation for a professional career. It is not only about the "classical" characteristics of an internationalist as a high-class specialist who perfectly understands all the peculiarities of the foreign policy of his state and other countries, possesses his native, English, the language of the host country, oratory, diplomatic eloquence, the art of eristics, dialogic language; has well-developed rhetorical skills, knows how to analyze information; always acts in the legal field; deeply understands the goals, objectives and features of the foreign policy of his country, knows how to foresee the consequences of actions, predict the trend of the situation, and use them in everyday work.

Many international organisations including the UNO use six official languages in their work. English does not give up its rightful first place

among the most popular languages in the world. It is spoken by people from many different countries, including those for whom it is not native. Everyone strives to know this language, about 1/3 of the world's population understands it. Noted linguist David Crystal has a more insightful view on the matter. He shares that, “a language becomes a global language because of the power of the people that speak it”. Depending on the situation, the definition of power can change. It is not only confined to military might. There certainly is more to it than that. The English language for example has been exported around the world and has influenced various historical events. Its enduring global impact has been no doubt significant. This calls for its basic understanding not only in international relations but in common everyday interactions as well. [2]

Thus, language is the key to intercultural understanding, as it unites people, helps to overcome stereotypes, and creates conditions for peaceful coexistence. By learning languages and expanding cultural awareness, humanity can achieve harmony and mutual respect on a global scale. Moreover, language is a crucial factor in preserving cultural identity. It reflects a nation's historical experience, worldview, and value system. Therefore, knowledge of one's native language and respect for the languages of other peoples are essential components of cultural dialogue and mutual understanding. Knowledge of foreign languages provides access to global educational resources and exchange programs. It expands opportunities for academic mobility, contributing to mutual enrichment.

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