

## FACTORS THAT MAKE ENGLISH AN INTEGRAL PART OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE

The abstract *touches upon the problem* of factors that make the English language such an important part of modern professional competence. *The chief aim* is to show the historical and social conditions that provided for the outstanding role and position of the language in the modern global world. *The topicality* of this study is based on the interest to the modern process of globalization and its deep connections with the world languages, such as English.

The historical circumstances of English have given the whole world an easy access to mastering English language, and innumerable opportunities for advancement in the field of science and technology. Over the years, English language has become one of our principal assets in getting a global leadership.

Every day distances between different countries seem shorter. For this reason, it's becoming more and more important to know foreign languages, especially English.

One billion people speak English today. That's about 20% of the world's population. 400 million people speak English as their first language. For the other 600 million people it's either a second language or a foreign language.

English is the first language in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Australia as well as New Zealand. It's also one of the official languages in Canada, the Irish Republic and the Republic of South Africa.

English is spoken in more than 60 countries as a second language. It is used by the government, businessmen and universities. English is the global weapon of communication.

According to the world's information, English is widely used in the most developed spheres, which are given in the table «The spheres of using English as an international language»:

The spheres of using English as an international language							
Politics, diplomacy	Science	Techno- logy	Business and trade	Sport culture	Social culture	Commu- nication	Educa- tion

80% of all information in the world is written and spoken in English.

English is the fourth most widely spoken native language in the world, and in terms of sheer number of speakers, it is the most spoken official language in the world. It is the primary language used in international affairs. The English language has official status even in the countries where it is not the primary spoken language. English is indisputably the primary language of global trade and commerce. In many countries, most tourism authorities and other officials, in order to contact the public, speak English to interact and engage with tourists and immigrants.

Historically, the influence of the United States and Great Britain on political affairs and international relations for the past 100 years has ensured the proliferation and acceptance of English as the primary spoken language in many countries. The widespread acceptance of American pop culture also has contributed to the primacy of the English language. A working knowledge of English is important for diplomats and high-ranking officials in such major countries as Germany, Japan, France, South Korea, Brazil, Italy, and Russia, so they can better understand the nuance and craft of global affairs and international diplomacy.

In universities and colleges of Great Britain, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore, which attract the majority of international students, the primary language of instruction is English. Most of the top business schools, medical centers and advanced-study institutes are located in North America and Great Britain, and English is the language used in every activity at these institutions of higher learning. Most peer-to-peer journals and technical periodicals that give international acclaim to scientists, engineers, technologists, and technocrats are printed in English.

The most powerful advantage of knowing English is job and employment opportunities in many countries and markets. Multilateral institutions and agencies in the four United Nations cities of New York, Vienna, The Hague and Geneva recruit professionals with multilingual skills but also expect the candidates to have good English-speaking skills. The Commonwealth of Nations, made up of 50-plus countries that were former British colonies or dependencies, also offers numerous employment opportunities to those who understand and communicate in English.

English exists in the world today as a means of international communication, as well as the way for people from different social groups to communicate with each other, and to fulfill this function it would seem that variation in the language needs to be curtailed to a certain extent, because if the language becomes too diverse it will not remain mutually comprehensible across different social groups. So we have two impulses at work that are seemingly incompatible, or perhaps even in conflict, and the question we are faced with is how to render them as consistent, as both being part of the existence of a single entity we call 'English'. This is one of the central issues in English language studies today – and it's a very modern issue because it has come about as a direct result of the unprecedented position that English now occupies in the world: as a language with global scope which is implicated in the history and present-day existence of societies all around the world.

Based on the European values, nowadays English is a powerful key to success in professional development and career promotion. Therefore thorough English language training is becoming an integral part of highly-qualified specialists' education. And with a good command of English socio-cultural and socio-linguistic competences the graduates can comfortably work in any multicultural and poly-linguistic community.