

THE KEY FEATURES OF THE UKRAINIANS' INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

The modern process of globalization leads to the expansion of interrelation and interdependence of different countries, nations and cultures. Today it is impossible to find a culture that has not experienced the impact of other cultures.

Interaction of different nations and ethnicities is becoming more and more tangible. Under current conditions rapid development of intercultural communication takes place in different spheres of the human life.

Ukraine is currently more actively involved in the processes of globalization in various fields. Therefore, the issues of intercultural communication are relevant for the country.

There have been certain studies on the cultural characteristics of many European, Asian countries, and the United States. But there are few studies of this kind, which would demonstrate typical cultural features of the Ukrainians, thus, this fact definitely strengthened our interest to the chosen topic.

The term "communication" appeared in the scientific literature decades ago, but quite recently it has become one of the key terms for social and humanitarian knowledge. The most common meaning of the term is interrelation of any objects. In sociology such objects are the components of society and its structures. Cross-cultural communication is exchange between two or more cultures of the products of their activities, carried out in various forms, as well as those influences, reciprocal changes that occur in the course of this exchange. In scientific discourse the term "cross-cultural communication" is related to the concept "intercultural communication" that allows us to use them as synonyms. Intercultural communication is traditionally interpreted as communication between individuals belonging to different cultures, carriers of different national mentality.

We have conducted a research to find out the specific features of the intercultural communication in modern Ukrainian society. The empirical base of the work is the original study of the phenomenon of the Ukrainians' intercultural communication (December 2015; n = 150, n1 = 115). The respondents, who participated in the study, identify themselves as belonging to the Ukrainian ethnic community, they range widely in age and social position and at the time of the research had a job or at least some previous working experience in a particular area. Social and demographic profile of our respondents gives us an opportunity to consider the selected empirical indicators on the indicative level of reliability. Questionnaire design was chosen as a method of collecting information.

Based on our theoretical developments, we highlighted nine key markers that determine the efficiency and quality of intercultural communication. Among them are factors of language, stereotypes, ethno-cultural problems, psychological ones, locus of control, context, perception of space, perception of time, religious beliefs.

We have been the first to identify, on the basis of the selected markers of Intercultural Communication, the key features of the Ukrainians' intercultural communication. Among them: Ukrainian culture is closer to the low-contextual, but has some features of the high-contextual culture; has relatively low levels of contact; perception of time is moderately monochronical; the Ukrainians face the potential language barrier. As the advancement in our field of research we can point out that cross-cultural communication barriers for the Ukrainians have been identified. We have found that typical for them, first of all, are the language barriers, the context, physical and visual contact and the perception of time.

Today in Ukraine one of the significant tasks is to create the theoretical and practical basis for training students for intercultural communication and cooperation. To sum up, there is a need of forming and developing intercultural

competence, willingness to understand and accept the difference in “their own” and “foreign” culture for the Ukrainians.