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THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION

Sabrina Rustam qizi Ruzimurodova
Student, Philology and Language Teaching (English)
SHARQ University, Navoi, Uzbekistan
Barno Bakhtiyor qizi Rakhmatullayeva
Scientific Adviser, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities,
SHARQ University, Navoi, Uzbekistan
sruzimurodova5@gmail.com

Abstract: This article examines the importance of learning foreign languages in the context of globalization, including its pedagogical, scientific, economic, and cultural aspects, as well as its impact on personal and professional development. In addition, the article analyzes the advantages of learning foreign languages, the impact of modern information and communication technologies on the educational process, and the significance of foreign language proficiency in promoting international cooperation in the era of globalization, based on theoretical sources.

Keywords: globalization, foreign languages, language learning, international cooperation, education, communication, innovative technologies, professional development.

Introduction At present, globalization is characterized by the continuous expansion of economic, political, scientific, cultural, and other forms of interaction among countries around the world. This process has significantly enhanced international communication, which, in turn, has increased the demand for foreign language learning. In particular, English has become the dominant language of international business, science, communication, and information technology.

In the context of globalization, learning foreign languages is essential not only for improving the quality of education but also for enhancing employment opportunities, working in international companies, conducting scientific research using foreign-language sources, and promoting international cooperation. Consequently, foreign language education has become a priority in many countries, where educational institutions are expanding the role of foreign languages in their curricula.

The purpose of this article is to examine the importance of learning foreign languages in the era of globalization and to analyze their role in education, professional development, and personal growth. Furthermore, the article highlights the significance of foreign language learning for the overall development of society.

The Importance of Learning Foreign Languages in the Era of Globalization Globalization refers to the process of worldwide economic, political, and cultural integration [1]. As globalization continues to reshape the modern world, the importance and benefits of learning foreign languages have increased significantly. Today, being bilingual is no longer merely an impressive personal skill; rather, it has become one of the most valuable competencies for success in modern life [2].

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The Role of Foreign Languages in Professional Development and the Labor Market It is widely recognized that learning a foreign language is an important factor in improving competitiveness in the labor market and expanding employment opportunities. Nowadays, an increasing number of companies operate in multiple countries, and in some cases, across dozens of international markets. Under such circumstances, the demand for professionals who possess proficiency in at least one foreign language continues to grow, as foreign language competence is essential for conducting international business effectively. Furthermore, even in local companies, proficiency in a second foreign language is regarded as a significant competitive advantage that distinguishes applicants from other candidates [2].

Foreign language proficiency is closely associated with career advancement and expanded economic opportunities. In Uzbekistan, industries such as tourism, international trade, aviation, information technology, and education increasingly require professionals who can communicate in at least one foreign language. Multilingual employees are better equipped to interact with international clients, participate in negotiations, and contribute to global projects. According to a report by the European Commission, multilingual employees earn, on average, 10–15% more than those who speak only one language. For example, in the hospitality industry, proficiency in English and Russian is often considered a mandatory requirement, while knowledge of Chinese, Arabic, or German provides an additional competitive advantage [4].

The Role of Foreign Languages in Academic Development Learning foreign languages is an essential component of a comprehensive education. The primary objective of education is to broaden individuals' perspectives, encourage them to think beyond narrow boundaries, and deepen their understanding of the surrounding world. Acquiring a foreign language and becoming familiar with different cultures and worldviews contribute to the development of open-minded, tolerant, and respectful individuals. Once people recognize that their own beliefs and behaviors are shaped by their cultural background, they become more capable of appreciating the values and lifestyles of other societies objectively and positively. Viewing the world from different perspectives and understanding the cultural backgrounds of others enriches intellectual development and broadens one's worldview [2].

The Role of Modern Information and Communication Technologies in Foreign Language Learning In recent years, the integration of modern information and communication technologies (ICT) into the educational process has become increasingly important. Today's younger generation clearly recognizes that learning foreign languages is an essential requirement of the modern world. Until recently, foreign language instruction was primarily based on traditional teaching methods, in which teachers focused mainly on delivering theoretical knowledge and developing students' language skills. However, within a classroom environment, teachers are not always able to provide sufficient individual attention to every learner. As a result, some students gradually lose motivation, leading to a decline in their knowledge, language proficiency, and practical skills [3].

Therefore, one of the teacher's primary responsibilities is to actively engage every student in the learning process and create favorable conditions for developing their creativity and independent learning abilities. This has led to the adoption of innovative teaching methods, learner-centered approaches, and modern pedagogical technologies in foreign language education. With the rapid development of Internet technologies, the improvement of foreign language teaching methods and educational technologies has accelerated considerably. Enhancing educational technologies has

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become one of the major priorities in the modernization of contemporary education. At present, the primary objective of language education is the development of communicative competence. In its modern interpretation, the communicative approach emphasizes not only the development of effective communication skills but also the formation of intercultural communicative competence [3].

From this perspective, the use of computers and multimedia technologies facilitates the implementation of a learner-centered approach by enabling individualized and differentiated instruction according to students' abilities and levels of proficiency. Furthermore, integrating modern educational technologies into foreign language teaching enhances students' learning engagement, increases their interest in the subject, and contributes to more objective assessment practices. The use of computers and digital educational resources in English language instruction also helps learners overcome psychological barriers that may prevent them from using a foreign language confidently as a means of communication [3].

Expanding International Educational and Research Opportunities Foreign languages play a crucial role in the educational process. Students who study English, German, Russian, and other foreign languages gain access to international research, scientific publications, and world literature. This broadens their academic horizons and enables them to exchange knowledge and ideas with scholars from different countries. For instance, many Uzbek students with a strong command of English have successfully enrolled in prestigious foreign universities and pursued successful careers in their chosen fields. In addition, foreign language proficiency contributes to the development of cognitive abilities such as memory, problem-solving, and critical thinking. The renowned scientist Albert Einstein also emphasized that learning different languages allows individuals to approach problems from new perspectives [4].

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