

**СЕКЦІЯ 2. Вивчення іноземних мов як чинник зростання професійно-освітніх можливостей громадян інших країн, котрі здобувають вищу освіту в Україні та інших країнах**

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**FOREIGNERS AND LANGUAGES**

The situation of bilingualism in our country is old, or rather old, because for many years it either has not been allowed to solve or nobody wanted to.

Although bilingualism in itself, the fluency of the country's population in two languages, is generally positive, as it enriches the speaker, makes it possible to comprehend the heritage of two cultures, if the person is really bilingual, thinks and communicates fluently in two languages.

In Ukraine, the problem of bilingualism, in particular Russian-Ukrainian, is painful, associated with the imposition of Russian as a second state language and has nothing to do with the equal functioning of the two languages.

The emergence of bilingualism in Ukraine is due to the colonization policy of the states in which it was a long time (Russian-Ukrainian in the east and center, Ukrainian-Polish and Ukrainian-Hungarian — in the west). As a result, ethnic Ukrainians became donors to replenish the dominant language, and after a while they changed their ethnicity.

In some countries of the world the population really uses two languages, and for them it is a normal phenomenon as it is caused either historically (the territory of the country was inhabited by ethnically different peoples), or the state language has long taken strong positions and there are no doubts on its compulsoriness with certain spheres of society life.

And how not to be surprised, and not even to admire foreigners who want to learn the Ukrainian language. And if against the background of deputies and

civil servants a foreigner communicates much better in his native language than the above, then the passion grows into a real philological ecstasy.

If a foreigner tells you “Please speak Ukrainian, because I do not understand Russian”, do not take offense and do not consider it a provocation. Because your interlocutor was brought up abroad studied Ukrainian, but has never dealt with Russian in his life and really does not understand it. The situation can be vice versa! A foreigner can tell you “Please speak Russian, because I do not understand Ukrainian”, you also should not take offense and do not consider it a provocation. Because your interlocutor was brought up abroad studied Russian, but has never dealt with Ukrainian in his life and really does not understand it.

A lot of student choose Ukrainian but at the same time there are a great number of foreigners who come to Ukraine to study with some reasons but find Ukrainian a very difficult language to study. In this case we are obliged to give them a chance to learn the language they strive to – Russian, English, German.

And no wonder: although Ukraine is still one of the largest countries in Europe, its the purchasing power of Ukrainians is very low now, so we are to invite foreigners with their investments in all spheres and provide them with adequate service.

For many people it is clear: if you are interested in Germany – you study German, if you are interested in Slovakia — you study Slovak, if you are interested in Georgia— you study Georgian, and in this case if you like Ukraine or want to work in the future as a Ukrainian market specialist – no doubts – you study Ukrainian.

Currently, the process of learning Ukrainian as a foreign language is noticeable in some foreign countries and a similar phenomenon is slowly appearing in other countries. Many countries have already understood that the monopoly of the Russian language as “the only possible language of international communication in the post-Soviet space” is finally coming to an end but it has not finished yet.

Foreigners are very specific people. And on behalf of some foreign friends of Ukraine we have such a small request: do not look for subtexts when a person asks you to switch to Ukrainian or, on the contrary, to Russian, because he does not understand Russian or Ukrainian or understands it poorly. We are tired of clarifying that we do not want to offend Russian-speaking people and Ukrainian-speaking people, among whom are patriots of Ukraine, and that this is not the point at all. In general, it is not at all strange that a foreigner asks Ukrainians to speak Ukrainian or Russian because he knows that we all are bilingual! We were born bilingual!