

THE ROLE OF CULTURE IN LEARNING ENGLISH

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Abstract. *The article explores the role of culture in learning the English language, emphasizing its importance in developing learners' linguistic, communicative, and cultural competence. It demonstrates how understanding cultural contexts enhances accurate language interpretation, strengthens pragmatic skills, and supports effective intercultural communication. The article also highlights the benefits of integrating cultural materials into the learning process as well as potential challenges that may arise.*

Keywords: *culture, English language, intercultural communication, linguistic competence, learning, pragmatics.*

INTRODUCTION.

The role of culture in learning English is one of the most important areas of modern linguistics, because mastering a language means not only memorizing grammatical rules and vocabulary, but also understanding the worldview, values, norms of communication and lifestyle of the people who speak that language. Culture is the natural environment of the language, so learning English outside the cultural context does not allow you to fully develop language competence. Since English is the language of international communication, in the process of mastering it, attention to cultural aspects develops not only language skills, but also intercultural understanding, tolerance, the ability to social adaptation. The inextricable connection between language and culture can be traced in the system of concepts underlying linguistic symbols: each nation, based on its own experience, assigns a special meaning to certain words, and in order to correctly understand these meanings, it is necessary to know the historical, social and ethnic characteristics of that people. For example, idioms, proverbs, jokes, forms of language etiquette in English are all full of cultural elements, and their literal translation often does not fully convey the meaning. Therefore, cultural education helps the student not to make mistakes in sincere communication in English, to correctly understand the thought expressed and to respond appropriately to the language situation. One of the most important roles of culture in learning English is the formation of pragmatic competence. Pragmatics requires knowing in which context and with what style to use a particular word or phrase. For example, from the point of view of the English language, direct criticism, statements, apologies, expressions of gratitude or expression are used differently depending on the culture. In the Kazakh or Russian-speaking environment, the norms of politeness may differ from the English-speaking society, so ignorance of intercultural differences leads to misunderstandings. Cultural education fills this gap and helps students to conduct language communication naturally and correctly. At the same time, the role of culture in learning English is also directly related to increasing motivation. Learning about the history, literature, cinema, music, everyday life, holidays and traditions of English-speaking countries makes the language for students not just an academic subject, but the key to an interesting world. For example, information about the education system, social norms, work culture or youth subcultures in the UK and the United States contributes to a deeper and more purposeful learning of English by students. Many studies prove that the introduction of culture in the classroom strengthens the interest of the language learner and increases his motivation to search on his own. Culture also makes it easier to remember language material, because when a student associates a certain word or phrase with a cultural event, tradition, or specific example, that information is stored in memory for a long time. In addition, since English is used by millions of people in different parts of the world, culture is considered not only within one country, but on a global scale. English has now become the language of international business,

science, tourism, technology, media, so the concept of intercultural communication is of particular importance when learning English. For example, through the English language, the student learns not only British or American culture, but also the peculiarities of other English-speaking countries. This opens the way to mutual understanding, effective communication with representatives of different cultures and free action in global society. The use of cultural materials during classes is one of the most effective ways to teach culture. Original films, videos, news, songs, podcasts, literary works, blogs and social media posts allow students to experience the English-speaking environment indirectly. Such materials accurately emphasize the intonation of the language, emotional tone, differences in informal and formal style. For example, watching comedy shows in English will not only improve a student's listening skills, but also help to understand the peculiarities of humor perception. Textbooks often do not fully convey the true cultural context, so original materials should be an integral part of Language Teaching. The role of culture in learning English also enriches communication within the classroom. Discussing cultural topics develops students' critical thinking, as they compare cultural similarities and differences, exchange ideas, and get used to the ability to argue their point of view. This, in addition to the formation of language competence, also has a positive impact on the process of personal development. At the same time, such topics increase the cross-cultural sensitivity of students, help to overcome stereotypes, form the skill of respect for different cultures. However, there may also be certain difficulties in introducing culture into language lessons. For example, cultural information may not be appropriate for a student's age, level, or life experience; additional historical or social data will be required to explain some concepts. Therefore, the teacher must correctly select cultural materials and adapt the tasks to the level of the student. In teaching culture, it is important that the teacher himself has intercultural competence, because he not only gives students knowledge, but also plays the role of a correct interpreter of culture. In conclusion, the role of culture in learning English is very important, since language and culture are closely related and complement each other. Training taking into account cultural aspects contributes to the natural development of language skills of the student, the formation of pragmatic competence, increasing motivation, improving the ability to intercultural communication. Culture revives language and makes it possible to perceive it as a whole spiritual and social phenomenon, and not just a set of words and rules. Thus, mastering English in a cultural context will better prepare the student for communication in real life, expand his worldview and pave the way for the formation of a versatile person who can act freely in the global world.

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