

MULTILINGUALISM AS THE KEY TO COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT IN STUDENTS OF NON-LINGUISTIC SPECIALTIES

БАГАТОМОВНІСТЬ ЯК КЛЮЧ ДО РОЗВИТКУ КОМПЕТЕНЦІЙ У СТУДЕНТІВ НЕМОВНИХ СПЕЦІАЛЬНОСТЕЙ

The article discusses the importance of multilingualism as a tool for the development of both professional and personal competencies in students of non-linguistic specialties. It emphasizes that learning several languages significantly improves cognitive abilities such as critical and creative thinking, and also contributes to the development of intercultural competence. Multilingualism opens up new opportunities for students on the international job market, helping them adapt to the globalized world and enhancing their competitiveness. In today's world, where globalization and cultural exchange are becoming an integral part of everyday life, the ability to interact effectively with people from different cultures is an important component of professional and personal competence. One of the main components of this competence is intercultural competence, which includes knowledge and understanding of different cultural contexts, as well as the ability to interact with representatives of other cultures without negative stereotypes and prejudices. Multilingualism is an important factor in the development of intercultural competence. Knowledge of several languages allows people to communicate not only through linguistic structures, but also to be aware of cultural differences in communication, norms of behavior, etiquette and values. Learning languages opens a window into culture, allows for a deeper understanding of cultural contexts, mental models, social norms, which makes it possible to avoid misunderstandings and ensure more productive interaction. The article also offers recommendations for integrating multilingual programs into the educational process, including expanding curricula, using interactive teaching methods, collaborating with international universities, and training qualified teachers. It highlights the need for further research in this area to improve multilingual teaching methods and their impact on graduates' professional careers.

Key words: multilingualism, competencies, cognitive abilities, intercultural competence, student specialties, globalization, intercultural communication, education, language education.

У статті розглядається важливість багатомовності як інструмента для розвитку професійних і особистісних компе-

тенцій студентів немовних спеціальностей. Зокрема, наголошується на тому, що вивчення декількох мов значно покращує когнітивні здібності студентів, такі як критичне та креативне мислення, а також сприяє розвитку міжкультурної компетентності. Багатомовність відкриває нові можливості для студентів на міжнародному ринку праці, сприяючи їхній адаптації до глобалізованого світу та підвищенню конкурентоспроможності. У сучасному світі, де глобалізація та культурний обмін стають невід'ємною частиною повсякденного життя, здатність ефективно взаємодіяти з людьми з різних культур є важливою складовою професійної та особистісної компетентності.

Однією з основних складових цієї компетентності є міжкультурна компетентність, що включає знання та розуміння різних культурних контекстів, а також здатність взаємодіяти з представниками інших культур без негативних стереотипів і упереджень. Багатомовність є важливим чинником у розвитку міжкультурної компетентності. Знання кількох мов дозволяє людям спілкуватися не тільки через мовні структури, але і усвідомлювати культурні відмінності в комунікації, нормах поведінки, етикеті та цінностях. Вивчення мов відкриває вікно в культуру, дозволяє глибше розуміти культурні контексти, ментальні моделі, соціальні норми, що дає можливість уникати непорозумінь та забезпечувати більш продуктивну взаємодію. У статті також запропоновані рекомендації щодо інтеграції багатомовних програм у навчальний процес, включаючи розширення навчальних планів, використання інтерактивних методів навчання, співпрацю з міжнародними університетами та підготовку кваліфікованих викладачів. Акцентується на необхідності подальших досліджень у цій галузі для вдосконалення методів багатомовного навчання та його впливу на професійну діяльність випускників.

Ключові слова: багатомовність, компетентність, когнітивні здібності, міжкультурна компетентність, студентські спеціальності, глобалізація, міжкультурне спілкування, навчання, мовна освіта.

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Statement of the problem. The importance of multilingualism in today's globalized world. The modern world is characterized by a high level of globalization, which means a constant increase in interaction between cultures, countries and economies. In this context, multilingualism becomes not only an important but also a necessary competence.

It allows people from different parts of the world to effectively interact, understand each other and overcome cultural and language barriers. Knowledge of several languages is an important success factor in international business, diplomacy, science, technology, and other fields of activity that require communication on a global level [11, pp. 30–45].

The growing interdependence between countries forces people not only to master the main languages, but also to develop intercultural communication skills. Multilingualism contributes not only to practical aspects, such as access to international resources and opportunities for career growth, but also to a deeper understanding of cultural contexts. It opens new horizons for education, scientific research and personal development [4, pp. 44–60].

Relevance of the topic for students of non-language majors. The issue of multilingualism is especially relevant for students of non-linguistic majors, as their professional activities often take place in conditions of global competition. Multilingualism in teaching

non-language specialties becomes not only a superstructure, but an integral part of professional competences.

Knowledge of foreign languages allows future specialists to expand their opportunities on the labor market, in particular through participation in international projects, work in international companies or gaining practical experience abroad [1, pp. 98-105]. For students studying in non-linguistic specialties, multilingualism provides additional value as it helps them to immerse themselves in foreign scientific sources, develop professional skills and interact more effectively with international colleagues. Language skills also facilitate access to new technologies and innovative practices, which is important in professions such as medicine, engineering, business, technical sciences and others [8, pp. 75–92].

The purpose and objectives of the article. The purpose of this article is to study the role of multilingualism in the development of competences of students of non-language specialties. Since professional success in the context of globalisation increasingly depends on the ability to communicate effectively in several languages, it is important to understand how multilingualism can influence the learning process and professional development.

Multilingualism has a significant impact on the development of cognitive skills, in particular on the ability to process information, memory and flexibility of thinking. Learning several languages activates different parts of the brain, which contributes to the development of the nervous system. The cognitive benefits of multilingual people include improved memory, ability to think logically, and the ability to make quick decisions under stress or multitasking.

By constantly switching between languages, multilingual people become more adept at processing a large amount of information and develop the ability to effectively analyze situations [3, pp. 45]. One of the main mechanisms through which multilingualism affects cognitive processes is the activity of the frontal lobes of the brain, which are responsible for planning, control and decision-making.

When a person learns a new language, he must actively choose between different lexical and grammatical structures, which requires a high level of cognitive control [8, p. 78]. One of the most studied cognitive benefits of multilingualism is the ability to shift attention. Multilingual people regularly practice switching between different languages, which is similar to switching between tasks or cognitive operations.

This helps them to better control their attention and be more adaptive to changing conditions [16, p. 55]. Research shows that multilinguals have a higher capacity for cognitive flexibility – the ability to quickly adapt to new situations and solve problems effectively. They are better at multitasking because they constantly train their ability to switch between

different language systems. This process contributes to the development of overall cognitive flexibility, which is a useful skill in education and professional life [10, p. 68]. Multilinguals also demonstrate higher levels of creative thinking, as the ability to perceive and express ideas through different language filters stimulates creativity. The cognitive process of constantly searching for equivalents for new concepts or ideas in different languages activates creative areas of the brain, which contributes to the development of innovative thinking. In addition, multilingualism significantly improves critical thinking. Learning and using multiple languages requires a person to analyse more deeply, compare cultural contexts and evaluate different points of view. This increases the ability to objectively evaluate information, analyse arguments and make informed decisions. Multilingual students usually perform better in analysis and evaluation tasks because they have a broader context in which to consider issues [21, p. 34].

A study on cognitive flexibility and attention span conducted on groups of multilingual and monolingual participants showed that multilinguals performed better on attention span and multitasking tasks [3, p. 55]. In this study, participants performed tasks that required rapid strategy changes, and the multilingual participants significantly outperformed the monolingual participants in terms of performance time.

A study on creativity published in the journal *Psychology of Language and Communication* [21, p. 89] showed that multilingual people are much more creative in their approach to problem solving because their experience has a built-in ability to think through different linguistic and cultural filters. In tests of creativity, multilingual participants offered more solutions and were more innovative in their problem-solving.

A study on critical thinking conducted by Lee and colleagues [19, p. 34] examined the critical thinking skills of language learners compared to non-language learners. The results showed that multilingual students are more effective at evaluating information, recognising bias, and can draw more informed conclusions in academic discussions.

Thus, research shows that multilingualism has a powerful impact on the development of cognitive functions, in particular on improving the ability to switch attention, developing creative and critical thinking. This is important not only for personal development, but also for preparing students for the challenges of the modern professional world.

In today's world, where globalisation and cultural exchange are becoming an integral part of everyday life, the ability to interact effectively with people from different cultures is an important component of professional and personal competence. One of the main components of this competence is intercultural competence, which includes knowledge and understanding of different cultural contexts, as well as the ability

to interact with representatives of other cultures without negative stereotypes and prejudices.

Multilingualism is an important factor in the development of intercultural competence. Knowledge of several languages allows people to communicate not only through language structures, but also to be aware of cultural differences in communication, behavioural norms, etiquette and values. Learning languages opens a window into a culture, allows for a deeper understanding of cultural contexts, mental models, and social norms, which makes it possible to avoid misunderstandings and ensure more productive interaction.

Multilingual people are usually better able to appreciate cultural differences and adapt their communication strategies to different cultural situations. In particular, they can better interpret non-verbal cues, social roles and emotional expressions, which is important for effective intercultural communication.

Foreign language skills and cultural awareness are closely interrelated. Learning a language is not limited to grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation, but also includes the study of social, historical and cultural aspects. Language is the carrier of culture, its foundation, and it transmits unique views of the world, traditions, values and beliefs. Thus, knowledge of languages directly affects the level of cultural awareness.

Knowledge of languages also allows students studying in non-linguistic fields to better adapt to different cultural environments during international internships, research projects, or professional activities. Intercultural competence enables a better understanding of the economic, political and social realities of different countries and regions.

A study conducted at European universities showed that students who learn multiple languages are much more tolerant of cultural differences and less prone to stereotyping [6, 2017, p. 59]. In particular, students who are proficient in English and another European language show a greater capacity for understanding and empathy when interacting with people from other cultures than those without language training. These students are able to recognise cultural differences in behaviour and communication, and adapt their actions and reactions, which reduces the possibility of intercultural conflicts.

Research conducted in international corporations has shown that employees who are bilingual are able to provide more effective communication between cultures, which contributes to improved business relationships [15, p. 112]. For example, learning Chinese for Western businessmen helps them not only to express themselves correctly, but also to better understand the cultural aspects of Chinese business etiquette, which contributes to successful negotiations and cooperation.

One study conducted at US universities examined how multilingualism affects students' intercultural

interaction during exchange studies [16, p. 67]. Students who spoke several languages were more likely to participate in intercultural exchanges, had more contact with international students, and demonstrated greater openness to different cultures. This contributed to a deeper understanding of cultural differences and the development of intercultural communication skills.

Thus, multilingualism not only helps people communicate in different languages, but also becomes an important tool for developing intercultural competence. Thanks to multilingualism, students and professionals become more open to new ideas, better communicators, and able to work effectively in international and intercultural environments. This allows for a more harmonious interaction between cultures and contributes to the development of international relations, science, business and society as a whole.

In today's globalised world, knowledge of foreign languages is a powerful competitive advantage for professionals in the labour market. Learning languages is becoming not only a personal advantage, but also a strategic necessity for career growth. Multilingualism opens up new employment opportunities for professionals as companies increasingly focus on international markets and cooperation with foreign partners. In this regard, employees who speak several languages are more attractive to employers because they can communicate effectively with foreign clients, partners and colleagues.

In addition, language skills help professionals expand their professional horizons, for example, by participating in international projects, working in foreign markets, or conducting research at the international level. In many professions, language competence is critical to performing tasks that require interaction with international teams, organisations, or clients. Thus, multilingual professionals have significantly more opportunities for professional growth and career development.

In business, especially in international companies, multilingualism is an important skill for effectively managing relationships with partners, customers and suppliers from different countries. Communication without language barriers helps to optimise processes, improve relationships and reduce the risk of misunderstandings. For positions such as sales managers, marketers, financiers, and business development managers, multilingualism is becoming an important part of their daily work. Language competence allows you to lead intercultural teams, negotiate effectively and conclude deals internationally [14, p. 112].

In medicine, multilingualism is crucial for providing quality healthcare to patients from different countries. Doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals who speak foreign languages can effectively communicate with patients from different cultures, which is critical for proper diagnosis, consultation, and treatment planning. In addition, language skills

allow healthcare professionals to participate in international research projects, exchange of experience and professional knowledge, which contributes to professional development and career advancement. In the medical field, the ability to work with international organisations such as WHO, UNICEF, and others involved in global health programmes is also important [13, p. 67].

Information technology is one of the most globalised industries where multilingualism has a direct impact on career development. Language competence allows programmers, developers, testers, and other IT professionals to work with international teams, exchange ideas and strategies, and participate in global technology conferences and hackathons. Multilingual IT professionals can work with foreign clients, develop products for different markets, and interact with suppliers from around the world. Also, having knowledge of technical terminology in several languages is an important factor for successful work in international projects and maintaining technical documentation [12, pp. 112]. With the development of globalisation and market integration, more and more companies are focusing on international business, which requires their employees to be proficient in several languages. Global corporations such as Google, Microsoft, BMW, and others are looking for multilingual professionals to work in different countries, international markets, or with multinational teams. This creates a high demand for professionals who are able to not only possess technical skills but also communicate effectively in multiple languages.

The growing demand for multilingual employees can be explained by several factors. Firstly, multilingualism allows companies to reduce translation costs, improve interaction with customers and partners, and respond more quickly to market needs. Secondly, multilingual employees can ensure better integration into new markets, understand local customer needs and adapt company strategies to cultural differences. As many companies have global strategies, the ability of employees to work in a multicultural environment is becoming an important component of their success.

Thus, multilingualism is an important factor in professional development, opening up new career opportunities in many industries. It allows professionals to be competitive in the international labour market, adapt to changing conditions and build a career on a global scale.

The integration of a multilingual approach into the educational process is an important step in preparing students for the demands of the globalised world. Given that professional life increasingly requires employees to be able to communicate effectively in different language environments, it is important that curricula not only provide theoretical knowledge but also actively incorporate the practice of using foreign languages in a professional context [10, pp. 45].

One of the most effective methods of integrating multilingualism is cross-teaching, which involves students interacting with different languages in the context of different subject areas. For example, students can study professional disciplines (economics, law, management, IT, etc.) in foreign languages. This not only improves language skills, but also allows for a better understanding of the specifics of the profession through the lens of another culture [8, p. 88].

Another method is blended learning, which involves combining traditional classroom learning with online resources and platforms for learning foreign languages. This approach allows students to access global resources, including video lectures, discussion forums, and courses developed by international universities, which may be available in multiple languages [9, p. 123].

An important element of integrating multilingualism is the project-based learning approach, where students work on tasks or research that require the use of multiple languages. This allows not only to improve language skills, but also develops the ability to work in international teams [7, p. 67].

One effective way to integrate multilingualism is to use foreign languages in professional courses and project assignments. For example, many universities include in their curricula such disciplines as International Business, Global Economic Strategies, and Intercultural Communication, which are taught in foreign languages so that students can not only master professional terminology but also gain practical experience in a multilingual environment [6, p. 112].

Project tasks performed in foreign languages may include writing research papers, preparing presentations, discussing cases, conducting research, or developing projects related to international aspects of professional activities. For example, medical students can develop research projects on global health issues using scientific literature in different languages. For law students, this could be an analysis of international legislation, and for engineering students, it could be software development for international clients [5, p. 67].

The internationalisation of curricula, which involves the inclusion of foreign languages in professional courses, allows students not only to gain deeper knowledge in their speciality, but also to gain experience in practical communication in an international context, which is an important aspect of their professional training. For example:

The University of Cambridge (UK) is actively implementing multilingualism in its programmes, offering courses in several languages for students of all specialities. For example, courses in international business and finance are taught in English and French, which allows students to gain additional language practice and at the same time learn the specifics of business strategies in different cultural contexts. These

courses provide students with the opportunity to work on international projects that require a multilingual approach. According to research, students who take such courses demonstrate a high level of intercultural competence and have significantly better results in employment in international companies [4, p. 45].

The Nanyang Technological University in Singapore has implemented international programmes that include not only learning foreign languages, but also applying them in professional courses. As part of the Global Engineering programme, students can study in English and participate in projects that involve joint work with universities in Europe, North America, and Asia. Students develop engineering solutions to real international problems by working with foreign partners. The results of such programmes have shown a high level of preparation of students for work in global companies [18, p. 123].

The European University (France) in Paris implements programmes that combine professional courses and language training. For example, in the International Management programme, students not only study management strategies but also work on projects that use two or more foreign languages. Students learn not only English but also languages that are important for global markets, such as Spanish, Chinese, or Arabic. The results of such programmes indicate that university graduates successfully integrate into international teams and achieve high results in international corporations [20, p. 67].

Thus, the integration of a multilingual approach into the educational process is an important step in preparing students for the challenges of the globalised world. The inclusion of foreign languages in professional courses and project assignments allows students not only to develop language skills, but also to acquire important professional competencies that open up new opportunities.

Conclusion. Multilingualism is a powerful tool for the development of professional and personal competences of students of non-linguistic specialities. It opens up new opportunities for intercultural communication, promotes the development of cognitive skills, such as critical and creative thinking, and improves the ability to adapt in a globalised world. Knowledge of foreign languages not only expands the boundaries of professional activity, but also makes students more competitive in the international labour market, allowing them to work effectively in multicultural and multilingual environments. Multilingualism is also an important element of intercultural competence, allowing students to better understand cultural differences and, as a result, improve communication efficiency in global teams and international projects. Given that most modern professions require intercultural interaction, language skills are becoming an integral part of career success. In order to effectively integrate multilingualism into the education of students of

non-linguistic specialities, it is important to implement a number of measures aimed at developing and supporting multilingual programmes in educational institutions:

1. Expanding the curriculum. It is important to include foreign languages in the curricula for students of non-linguistic specialities not only as a separate course, but also as part of professional disciplines. For example, students can study economics, law, engineering or management in foreign languages, which will allow them not only to gain theoretical knowledge but also to improve their skills in the practical application of the language in a professional context.

2. Use of interactive learning methods. Interactive teaching methods, such as project activities, role-playing games, research papers and presentations in foreign languages, contribute to better language acquisition and the development of intercultural skills. Students have the opportunity to practically apply languages in real professional situations, which makes learning more effective and motivating.

3. Cooperation with international universities. It is important to establish cooperation with international educational institutions to exchange experience, conduct joint courses and seminars, and organise internships abroad. This will allow students to deepen their language and professional knowledge by gaining experience in international teams and multicultural environments.

Teacher training. One of the most important elements for the successful implementation of multilingual programmes is the training of teachers who have the appropriate language and pedagogical skills to teach in foreign languages. Establishing a professional development programme for teachers specialising in teaching non-language subjects will be an important step in ensuring the quality of teaching. Multilingualism is an important factor for student development, but further research in this area is needed to achieve maximum results. This includes studying the most effective methods of teaching many languages simultaneously, developing adapted programmes for different specialities, and researching the impact of multilingual education on the professional performance of graduates in various fields. It is necessary to continue studying the connection between multilingualism and the development of critical thinking and creativity, as well as the impact of multilingual programmes on intercultural tolerance and social adaptation of students. In-depth research can also help determine how best to integrate multilingual strategies into curricula and courses that will be most effective in preparing students for the challenges of today's globalised world.

Through innovative approaches to language teaching, universities can significantly improve the quality of education and contribute to the training of competitive professionals who are able to work effectively in international teams and develop businesses globally.

Therefore, investments in the development of multilingual programmes are strategically important for raising the level of education and ensuring the success of young professionals in the global labour market.

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