

ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN THE SPHERE OF SOCIAL WORK

Mamedova G. S.¹, Rybalko S. A., Sedyh O.G.¹

¹Baikal State University, Russia, Irkutsk, e-mail: g.mamedova_01@mail.ru

In today's world, thanks to the knowledge of English, you can develop yourself to the maximum level of professionalism. Also speaking a foreign language, you can make a lot of new friends, whose connections can be useful to you, because nowadays they are very important (P. 1). You may wonder if social workers need knowledge of English? Let me answer this question. I decided to conduct a survey among future social workers. The results of the survey showed that most students think they do not need the language (P. 2). They do not know where and how to use it. However, there are couple of reasons, why actually we need it .The main reason is that social work has become a truly global phenomenon.

Keywords: English language, social work, social work as a global phenomenon, the role of English in the modern day world, survey, the Global Organization of Social Work.

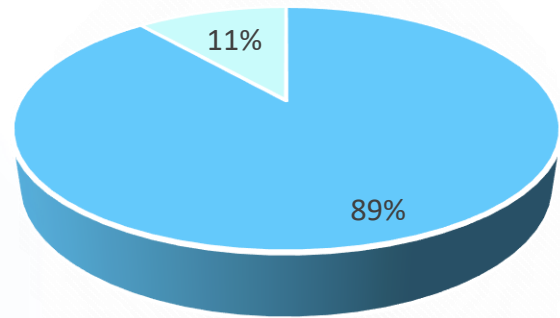
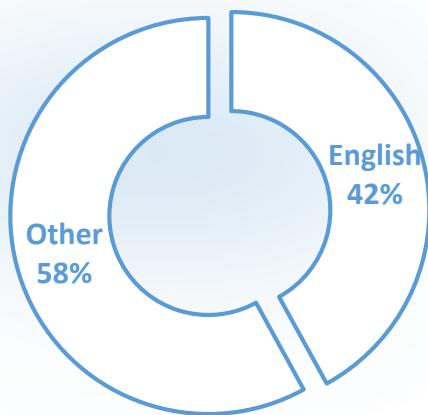
АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК В СФЕРЕ СОЦИАЛЬНОЙ РАБОТЫ

Мамедова Г. С.¹, Рыбалко С. А.¹, Седых О.Г.¹

¹ФГБОУ ВО «Байкальский государственный университет», Россия, Иркутск,
e-mail: g.mamedova_01@mail.ru

В современном мире, благодаря знанию английского языка, вы можете развить себя до максимального уровня профессионализма. Также, говоря на иностранном языке, вы можете завести много новых друзей, чьи связи могут быть вам полезны, потому что в наше время они очень важны. Вы можете поинтересоваться, нужны ли социальным работникам знания английского языка? Позвольте нам ответить на этот вопрос. Мы решили провести опрос среди будущих социальных работников. Результаты опроса показали, что большинство студентов считают, что им не нужен иностранный язык. Они не знают, где и как его можно применить. Однако есть ряд причин, почему социальным работникам он действительно нужен. Основная причина заключается в том, что социальная работа стала действительно глобальным феноменом.

Ключевые слова: английский язык, социальная работа, социальная работа как глобальное явление, роль английского языка в современном мире, опрос, Глобальная организация социальной работы.



P2. The results of the survey

P. 1. A chart that shows the ratio of people who speak English

The role of English in the modern day world

Modern Russian society is characterized by transparency to the outside world. It continues to expand the scope of communication with representatives of the world in the field of professional activity. Consistent implementation of the Bologna Process in Russian higher education offers significant advantages in terms of creating new opportunities for international cooperation in science and education. Russia can fully participate in the international educational space, which requires a high level of foreign language proficiency.

One of the trends of educational paradigm now is competency building approach, which involves the development of a person's ability to apply existing knowledge and skills to solve specific practical problems. An important condition for the implementation of this approach is the development of professional foreign language communicative competency. Therefore, Russian education system goes through a transition from the concepts of "preparedness" and "knowledge" to the concepts of "competence". Foreign language communication involves the development of the ability to understand similarities and differences between native culture and other cultures in order to develop intercultural-oriented personality, with a polyphonic vision of the world and tolerance mentality. Having great educational potential, the subject of "Foreign Language for Specific Purposes" in higher educational institutions solves the problem of personality development and ensures systematic replenishment of professional knowledge, formation and development of communicative skills. In general, the possibilities that open up to you thanks to the knowledge of a foreign language are endless.

English in the sphere of social work

You may ask me: Why do social workers need to speak English?

There are couple of reasons .The main reason is that social work has become a truly global phenomenon. Social workers have to deal with global issues on a daily basis. Things that cross borders and do not belong to one country.

Social work as a global phenomenon:

Recent Trends in Social Work of Relevance to International Social Work:

- Social work is considered as arm of the state.
- Social workers are committed to social functioning or well-being of individuals and families by working with clients.
- They aspire to create healthy, cohesive, and enabling communities and societies.

The Global Organization of Social Work

There is a number of different international organizations that operate in social work and all of them require knowledge of English [4].

- International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) was founded in 1929 and led by Katherine Kendall as first secretary-general in 1971. The office was maintained until 1990s when the financial situation necessitated a voluntary secretariat. Newsletters, publications, and conferences represent links between schools of social work in developed and developing countries.

- International Federation of Social Workers IFSW was originally founded in 1928 as International Permanent Secretariat of Social Workers and dissolved during WWII and emerged in 1950s and eventually IFSW in 1956. It promotes social work as a profession with professional standards and it is own ethics. The International Code of Ethics was adopted in 1976.

- International Council on Social Welfare ICSW was founded in 1928 as International Conference on Social Work and became ICSW in 1966. It's an international council composed of national social welfare councils with some international associations and promotes social development. All three organizations are active in UN and publish the journal International Social Work

- Let us examine some of the most urgent and everyday social problems professionals have to address. All of them in more or less degree require English language skills [3].

- How to use international legislation in the system of social protection of the population (taking into account the ratified documents). If you are working on a legal case related to some problem, you should be able to examine and understand the international legislation system well enough to build a strong case for your clients.

- Experience in working with migrants and unemployed citizens, taking into account international legislation. In modern world, many countries who have to deal with legal and illegal migration. And it is social workers (for ex. from Red Cross) who have to work with them daily, helping them with filling in applications, getting ready for interviews, applying for asylum, etc.

- Social assistance in increasing the potential of positive social mobility of citizens in difficult life situations. People migrate to another country in search of a better life. When they first arrive, only a social worker can help them. After all, it is his task to listen to the immigrant and introduce him to a completely new society by providing necessary information.

- Creating a barrier-free environment for the elderly and persons with disabilities. Minimization of all forms of social exclusion of various population groups (marginal strata, persons with deviant behavior, persons released from prison, citizens from economically depressed regions, etc.). It is an international problem and to solve these problems all countries should unite. All international discussions are held in a foreign language and in order to represent the interests of Russia and understand the essence of the case social workers have to speak a foreign language.

- Creation of international professional standards in the system of social work. All international standards are adopted at conferences where different countries participate. The official language of the conferences is usually English. It is spoken by the absolute majority of the participants)

- Development of academic mobility of teachers and students (bachelors, masters) majoring in social work for the maximum development of general cultural and professional competences of specialists. It is becoming more and more important to continuously develop yourself as a professional, to stay up-to-date with recent trends. To achieve it social workers should have good knowledge of English to be able to participate in different academic programs, courses, seminars, etc.

- The use terminology of social work (for example, the transliteration of the term or exact translation).

- Conducting theoretical and practical research of social problems in different countries.

There are other ways in which English can be used [2]:

- English is an international language spoken by the majority of the world's population

- Most of the information in the world is in English.

- It is easier to find a job.

- It also opens up the opportunity to travel the world. It is beneficial for your career development if you have good English language skills. You may use it for communication with foreign colleagues.

- The enrichment of person's intellectual potential and knowledge [1]. Languages improve your memory. Language experts are known for their ability to multitask. Foreign languages save from Alzheimer's syndrome. Learning languages makes the brain grow in volume.

- If you already speak one language, it is easier to learn another one.

– Foreign language helps you understand another culture. To adopt foreign experience, it is necessary to study it «from the inside».

– All programs that we use for work are in a foreign language.

To sum up, I would like to highlight that learning English is a valuable experience that brings pleasure at any age. Knowledge of English opens up a so-called "window of opportunity" when you look at the future more optimistically. When you leave a job, it is much easier to find a new one. Knowledge of the language allows you to feel confident abroad or in a society in which there are foreigners. Confidence feeds person's desire for new discoveries. And there is no sphere where you cannot use your English language skills. English is a door that will open up many opportunities for you and social work is not an exception.

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