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## **LANGUAGE SKILLS OF BILINGUAL AND MONOLINGUAL SPEAKERS**

Rapidly developing international relations lead to a close interaction of different cultures and civilizations. There are few places left in the world where people encounter only one for their lives - their native language. Therefore, the concept of bilingualism is becoming common every day.

There are some reasons why People acquire their skills in the language environment under the conditions of common everyday life of two cultures, for example:

- with long-term residence abroad
- due to immigration (at a more mature age, usually when attending language courses)
- children's bilingualism, when the child was already born in a foreign language space in a family of a national minority
- in the case of an international marriage of parents [1].

For a long time, the main criterion for bilingualism was fluency in languages. This opinion was held not only by everyman, but also by specialists. The American linguist Leonard Bloomfield stated in 1933 that only one who learns to speak two languages from birth should be called as a “true”, “real”, “correct” bilingual[2]. All the rest is a much larger number of people than it seems at first glance - either do not categorize themselves at all as bilinguals, or do so with a lot of reservations, considering that in their case there is a special kind of bilingualism. They often give a low rating to their own level of “weak” language, or even hide that they know it. If we included in this group only those who easily communicate in two languages, they

would leave a huge number of people behind, who use two languages in everyday life, can not boast of fluency in both [3].

Learning a language in bilinguals is a rather difficult question. When a child grows up in a house where they speak two languages and more, they learn two languages absolutely normally and speak them fluently. However, it is known that the vocabulary of bilinguals is on average less than the vocabulary of the monolingual. But at the same time, the bilingual can speak two languages at once, so this can hardly be considered a disadvantage. Thus, the fact that at home the children are surrounded at once by two languages does not constitute any problem, they will learn both of them.

Literacy things are more complicated. Children's mastery of literacy in both languages depends on whether the languages use the same writing systems and also depends on what kind of training a child received in each of the languages. The research that was published in 2005, in which they compared first-graders-monolinguals, native speakers of English with English-Chinese, English-Hebrew and English-Spanish bilingual children. They found that when languages had the same writing systems and some other commonalities, this had a positive effect on the development of literacy in both languages. If the writing systems were different, as for example, in English and Chinese, when children studied the literacy of each language separately, a "subsidiary" effect was not observed.

This does not impair the ability to study any of the writing systems, but it does not help in learning. In turn, if you study two alphabetic systems that use the same letters, for example, English and Spanish, then languages will be easier for you, since the very idea that letters represent sounds will be clear.

Finally, if two languages use the same written system, but different letters (for example, English and Hebrew or English and Russian), alphabets are used in both languages, but with different letters, the process will be facilitated to a lesser degree. It seems that children benefit from the commonality of two languages, and this helps them to master them [4].

In conclusion, the 21st century is a new stage in the development of modern society. Most of the political, economic and socio-cultural changes of recent years are inextricably linked with the desire of countries (including Ukraine) to open society and integration into the European cultural and educational space. Television, media, Internet penetrate everywhere, and with them the foreign language forms of communication. People travel, migrate, try to adapt to the new environment, to understand the peculiarities of life in other places. Without knowledge of another or other languages in one degree or another can not do now. These processes have a significant impact on the language situation in general. The development of an open information and communication space creates prerequisites and conditions for the spread of bilingualism as the leading trend in the language development of modern society. Also Giles Lytton Strachey said “Perhaps of all the creations of man language is the most astonishing.” [5].

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