

*К.С. Хомиченко, 1 курс*

*Научный руководитель – Л.А. Изотова, преподаватель  
Полесский государственный университет*

Nowadays, in the century of globalization, we can't imagine our life without learning any foreign language. The Internet influences language environment as well because every day we consume tons of ads, books, videos and billboards while scrolling social networks. Our jobs, universities, colleges and volunteer activities require the acquisition of two or more languages at least. And when people go on to expand their abilities in two or more languages, they catch a deeper understanding of a language and how to use it effectively. They possess more practice in language learning, especially when they gain literacy in both, and they are able to compare and contrast the ways in which their two languages organize reality. [1, p. 186]

It is well-known that our mother tongue greatly effects second language learning and we can successfully use it during further training. It appears to be much easier for the learner when both languages are phonetically similar, and have an identical vocabulary, but at the same time there is an evidence of great difference. One of the important assumptions considering the efficiency of bilingual instruction is that skills and knowledge learned in the first language transfer to second language. [2, p.81] What is more, it surely leads to an enormous amount of errors and grammar mistakes. For example, when the learners experience gaps in their second language syntactical structures, they adjust the form of their second language written responses by using syntactical items which are part of their native language. [3, p.30] Therefore, we should take into account all the difficulties and try to analyse these statements properly.

As a rule, the moment we hear a new language tends to be just a steam of unknown sounds and we can't even determine where the words begin or end. But in case we know a few foreign words it's quite hard to define them in a continuous speech. Language similarities such as phonetics, intonation, grammar, morphological and vocabulary can be of the greatest assistance.

Comparing different languages we have found out that many sounds of English are similar to the sounds of many other languages, such as [b], [k], [p], [n], as well as such phonetical similarities as [i], [i], [u], [u:] exist in both German and English. In addition, it's vital to note that Danish, Swedish and Norwegian are all very similar, and it is common for people from all three countries to be able to read the two other without too much difficulty. When it comes to pronunciation, however, Swedish and Norwegian are very close. For a Dane and a Norwegian, it can sometimes be quite hard to communicate, as the Norwegians tend to 'sing', whereas the Danes 'talk as if they have a potato in their mouth'. The Swedes also 'sing', but depending on the region, some Swedish speaking people are easier to understand for the Danes than the Norwegians because they don't 'sing'[4].

It comes as no surprise that intonation is more likely to be influenced by a speaker's native language. A stressed syllable in English, for example, is a strong indication that a new word begins but in French the opposite is true; prominent syllables tend to be at the end of words.

However, when languages share more similarities but still have slight differences it can be harder for second language learners to use the correct speech prompts to identify words. For example, in French and Korean, prominent syllables tend to be at the end of words. But there is a small difference as Korean intonation drops before the next word begins while in French intonation drops during the first syllable of the next word. On the other hand, Spanish and Italian are almost equal in their vocabulary, for example, "giardino/ jardín" (garden), "partire/ partir" (to leave), "migliore/ major" (important, prime), "concerto/ concierto" (concert), "tempo/ tiempo" (pace, rhythm), etc. Moreover, French and English also have the same lexical structure, for example, "despair/ le désespoir", "imagination/ imagination", "mention/ la mention", "spirit/ esprit", "admirable/ admirable", "miserable/ misérable", "table/ table" – all these words are typical for both languages mostly because of some historical traits like warfare, science, trade and art.

So, we must admit that a great deal of languages can possess at least few identical features in pronunciation, grammar or vocabulary. Therefore, people whose mother tongue was Swedish or German, for instance, appeared to be superior at learning Dutch, because these languages are of the same linguistic family. But, on the other hand, absolutely the same mission appeared to be much more complicated for those whose native language was Thai or Somali, because these languages contrast with the majority of

internationally spoken languages. It means that some people considered to be superior in learning foreign languages a priori.

In conclusion, it is necessary to say that learning process is hard enough in any case and only being patient and eager to learn will help a student in language learning. Today's world dictates people what they should know, where they should work and where they should live. What is more, proficiency in a foreign language isn't a privilege anymore but even a necessity. It's an essential professional skill that can help you to get a work promotion, a better salary as well as more opportunities for travelling.

#### **Список использованных источников**

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