

**МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОСВІТИ І НАУКИ УКРАЇНИ
СУМСЬКИЙ ДЕРЖАВНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ
КАФЕДРА ІНОЗЕМНИХ МОВ
ЛІНГВІСТИЧНИЙ НАВЧАЛЬНО-МЕТОДИЧНИЙ ЦЕНТР**

**МАТЕРІАЛИ
VIII МІЖВУЗІВСЬКОЇ НАУКОВО-ПРАКТИЧНОЇ
КОНФЕРЕНЦІЇ
ЛІНГВІСТИЧНОГО НАВЧАЛЬНО-МЕТОДИЧНОГО ЦЕНТРУ
КАФЕДРИ ІНОЗЕМНИХ МОВ**

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LANGUAGE POLICY AND INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION AS A FACTOR OF STABILITY IN MODERN WORLD

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Language is a tool given to a human to be able to contact with the world. Understanding the language of a person of different culture is the first step to understanding his character, mentality and nature of his actions. It is the first step towards intercultural cooperation.

Each language is a kind of mirror of culture, which reflects not only the real world that surrounds a person, not only the conditions of life but also social consciousness of the people, their national character, traditions, morals, values. People understand each other through language. Difficulties arise when the interlocutors speak different languages. The notion of intercultural communication concerns the aspects given below.

Misunderstanding the language often leads to serious conflicts at the international level, so the task of cross-cultural communication is to prevent it. As Goethe said: «He who is ignorant of foreign languages knows not his own».

Intercultural communication is a dialogue between representatives of different cultures. A person must know certain linguistic stereotypes of different nations, their specific rules of behavior, habits, etc. For example, in Ukraine, handshake is the main form of greeting. However, in some countries giving a hand to a woman is not acceptable, you should wait until she does it first. In France and Mediterranean countries it's common to kiss on cheeks. In Latin America the greeting is made by hugging. So it's very important to know national traditions and customs of the country if you don't want to get into the comic or unpleasant situation.

The important role in the development of intercultural communication is given to a language policy. It helps organize language in the society and resolve any conflicts. Nowadays the language issue is topical on the international political arena as one of

the possibilities to confirm the identity. The dialogue of cultures is possible only when maintaining the own cultural code of each culture. The former French prime minister Lionel Jospin claimed, that language policy was cement and value of the Republic on which it was built. In some countries bilingualism or multilingualism policy is conducted.

Language policy defines the use of language in its dissemination (mass media, book publishing, education and public administration). In our opinion the stability of the country depends on the adoption of a single official state language.

Usually official language is the language of the national majority: English in the UK, French in France, Russian in Russia. In such cases the need for mutual understanding for most people is satisfied but minorities have to put up with bilingualism and possibly even oppression of their rights.

In modern world the international contacts are highly developed, the implementation of thousands of business projects everywhere means that the process of intercultural communication has long gone beyond diplomacy and cultural exchange.

Great importance in the process of intercultural communication gets the role of an interpreter who acts as a mediator because of having a sound knowledge of the language, culture and national traditions. So the interdependence and interrelation of teaching foreign languages and intercultural communication is quite clear.

In order to ensure stability in a society, young people should realize that each foreign language class is a touch to another culture, the practice of intercultural communication because even one foreign word reflects the culture of another nation. Each word is conditioned by national mentality of understanding the surrounding world.