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MULTILINGUALISM AS A GLOBAL TREND AND A STRATEGY FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN UKRAINE

Multilingualism refers to the use of several languages within a particular society, including a state. In the modern world, multilingualism as a means of mass communication within a single state is more often an exception, resulting from specific historical conditions, rather than the norm. Personal and social multilingualism is distinguished, most commonly manifesting as bilingualism [4, 2010, p. 15].

In today's globalized world, multilingualism is becoming a key skill of increasing significance. Knowledge of two languages is undoubtedly a significant advantage, but the ability to communicate in three or more languages opens up even more opportunities that extend far beyond simple communication. Individuals who are proficient in two languages are referred to as bilinguals, while polyglots can fluently speak three, four, or more languages [1, 2009, p. 4]. The ability to use several languages enhances competitiveness, fosters the development of intercultural competence, and provides better access to information, culture, and global resources. Multilingualism becomes a value not only for personal growth but also for building international cooperation and mutual understanding [2, 2007, p. 120]. Multilingual workers often demonstrate high adaptability and flexibility, contributing to more effective and cohesive teamwork. Knowledge of multiple languages can also develop empathy in individuals, facilitating the integration process into new environments and helping them find common ground with diverse cultures.

The inclusion of multilingual lectures in education offers numerous advantages that contribute to the development of students. It aids in fostering intercultural understanding: through multilingual lectures, students become acquainted with the cultures of other countries, which enhances their empathy and tolerance [3, 2001, p. 27]. Multilingual education improves cognitive skills, increases critical thinking abilities, multitasking, and strengthens memory, as learning multiple languages stimulates the brain to create new cognitive connections [5, 2011, p. 3]. Such lectures also develop students' adaptability, making it easier for them to integrate into new environments and communicate more confidently with non-native speakers.

Multilingualism enhances competitiveness in the labor market, as knowledge of multiple languages is increasingly valuable and opens new career opportunities, particularly in international settings [1, 2009, p. 5]. These lectures enrich educational materials, providing access to a broader spectrum of information, including resources that may be unavailable in translation, thus fostering a deeper understanding of the subject [3, 2007, p. 135].

Multilingual education stimulates global thinking, teaching students to navigate the contemporary globalized society, communicate effectively with representatives of other cultures, and better understand global processes. In 2024, multilingualism in Ukrainian universities is becoming particularly relevant. The expansion of international cooperation,

integration into the global educational space, and high demand for specialists with knowledge of multiple languages require higher education institutions to focus on multilingual educational programs [5, p. 52]. In the context of war and the challenges facing modern society, Ukraine seeks to strengthen ties with other countries, making language knowledge not just a means of communication but also a tool for developing diplomatic, economic, and cultural relations [4, p. 100].

International educational grants and exchange programs often require students and faculty to have knowledge of multiple languages. English language courses, as well as opportunities to study EU languages and those of neighboring countries, are becoming popular in universities, helping students become more competitive in the European job market.

Thus, multilingualism in Ukrainian universities in 2024 is not merely a trend but a necessity for preparing modern, flexible specialists capable of adapting to a globalized world. Multilingualism in education is a powerful tool that not only fosters the development of language skills but also enriches students with intercultural experiences, broadening their horizons and enhancing their competitiveness in the global job market. Through multilingual education, students develop critical thinking, adaptability, and cognitive abilities, making them more flexible and prepared for rapid changes in the modern world. Multilingualism in the educational process also helps strengthen international ties, attract foreign students, and integrate Ukrainian educational institutions into the global academic community. In the context of globalization, it becomes a prerequisite for preparing modern professionals capable of advancing society and facilitating its integration into the global space.

¹References

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