

## Linguistic and Cultural Peculiarities of Teaching Ukrainian to English Speaking Students

*Romaniia Silinsh*

*Ivano-Frankivsk National Medical University, Ukraine*

**Introduction.** In the process of teaching the Ukrainian language to foreign English speaking students, the teachers face difficulties related to the mentality features of the representatives of different nationalities.

**Aim.** The aim of the study is to analyse the linguistic and cultural peculiarities of teaching the Ukrainian language in higher medical schools.

**Material and Methods.** While doing the research, specially designed individual tests were given to every student. More than 30 Ivano-Frankivsk National Medical University (Ukraine) students of 3 nationalities: Indian, Arabic, African, were involved in the experiment. Methods of analysis, comparison and observation were used.

**Results.** Language and culture make up an integral part of society. According to the Ukrainian linguist G. Zankovska, in the analysis of the linguistic and cultural features of the language, there dominates an idea of cultural translation, i.e. cultural knowledge is passed down from generation to generation, from language to language. O. Kopchak considers that the cultural phenomenon tries to summarise the most significant interaction with the language. Thus, the main objective of linguocultural studies, the language material functioning in different types of discourse is identifying everyday cultural and linguistic competence of every subject of linguocultural society with reference to cultural, conceptual meaning related lexical collocations. A doctor's language is essential because one word can either save a man's life or kill him. Therefore, while teaching Ukrainian, a professor must explain the new material in the way the students should like the language.

While working with foreign students, the following characteristics of the mentality typical of the Ukrainian language acquisition could be detected:

- I. The speed of the Ukrainian language acquisition. During the Ukrainian language classes, it was observed that students from different countries have different degree of susceptibility of the foreign language. The students from India and Africa showed better ability of perception of Ukrainian than those from the Arab countries.
- II. The level of English proficiency. Knowledge of English is a very important factor in the Ukrainian language class. As we know, the majority of foreign students speak English, and all the subjects are taught in English. Unfortunately, not all students are fluent in it, which leads to some misunderstandings between a teacher and a student.
- III. Peculiarities of national character and temperament. A number of students from the Arab countries behave as very emotional and, to some extent, aggressive people. However, many of them are polite and diligent. Meanwhile, students from India are friendly, courteous, diligent and purposeful. Dedication, activity, politeness characterize students from Africa.
- IV. The correctness of pronunciation of Ukrainian vowels and consonants. Standard pronunciation is of great importance in socialising: phonetic errors make it difficult to communicate or hinders mutual understanding. The study found that the most difficult for foreign students are:
  1. The pronunciation of vowels and consonants in different positions:
    - a) the use of occlusive [g] – gruntovny,
    - b) the pronunciation of affricate [dz], [dzh] – dzhhut;
    - c) the pronunciation of [k] instead of the [h] – lehkyk instead of lehkyh.
  2. The combination of sounds in a string of words (shvydko poduzhaty, vitayu z oduzhanniam).
  3. Pronunciation of certain grammatical forms (l'jet'sia).
  4. Stress and intonation.
- V. Ability to memorize a number of Ukrainian words during the class.
- VI. The development of reading skills in Ukrainian.

**Conclusions.** In the course of teaching foreigners Ukrainian, it was observed that the most typical difficulties are related to word building, stylistic, morphological, syntactic and spelling errors. Teaching Ukrainian to English speaking students and their acquisition of the target language were influenced by such important factors as different age groups (from 18 to 26–27) and different nationalities. During Ukrainian language classes, much attention was paid to the speech etiquette, i.e. ethical and psychological foundations of communication, which constitute the basis for the medical professional training. Thus, the results of the study give us an opportunity to confirm that in the process of teaching the Ukrainian language to English speaking students in higher medical schools, teachers should pay attention to the peculiarities of students' mentality, their age, nationality and temperament.