

## **THE INTERNET, THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND THE YOUTH OF KRASNOYARSK: WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?**

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Nowadays there are too many global political problems. On the background of them people forget about the greatest social challenge which appeared in the modern world.

I considered two of the problems using the modern Krasnoyarsk youth as an example. First of all, it is a problem concerning the role of the Internet and social networks in the life of a young person or a teenager. I also considered the influence of this environment on a human. Secondly, it is a problem concerning the knowledge of the English language and its relevance in Russia.

I am sure, that it would be senseless to consider each of the problems only intuitively or on my own example, so I have conducted a survey among the first year students, which included the following questions about the first problem:

- «How many hours do you spend on the Internet and social networks a day? »,
- «Do you use the resources of the library for writing reports? »,
- «Do you scrupulously observe spelling rules and punctuation when you communicate in social networks? »,
- «Do you maintain a communication with people who you have in the table of friends in social networks? ».

The results showed that 79 percent of respondents spend up to 6 hours a day online communication. Also, only 37 percent use the resources of the library for their reports. It is interesting that about 85 percent observe spelling rules and punctuation when you communicate in social networks and half of respondents constantly chat with their friends from the Internet.

Therefore, I concluded that young people are unable to find information without the Internet. They do not visit libraries. This fact is a huge problem, but not because of the low level of literacy, like many sociologists suppose, it is because of the influence of limited number and types of the information on the Internet. At first, the Internet offers us unlimited quantity of information, however in reality we use only that one which is on the first page of the search engine. Accordingly, all people who ask a particular question form an absolutely similar opinion about it. Despite all this, the level of literacy does not reduce, because young people read and remember words and rules automatically, but the readable information is useless or similar. The worst consequence is that the worldview becomes limited and thinking becomes narrow. Most of young people cannot find answers themselves by reflection; they used to work according to the template. There is also one more important thing: the time youth spend near the computer or laptop. Like many doctors say, spending too much time in front of a computer screen is very dangerous for eyesight. Because of this most of secondary school teenagers wear glasses. Furthermore, excessive communication on the Internet harms the process of a socialization of the person. People should talk to each other, they should communicate. They should even learn how to talk to someone if they do not want to, but must do it, because one day they will be forced to start or maintain a moral unpleasant conversation, for example at work. Interaction with other people opens up more opportunities for the young person than spending time alone on social networks and on the Internet. For example, useful links, new real friends and new emotions are better than online chatting.

I believe that this problem could be solved only in two ways. The first one is a total rebuilding of the education system and principles of the upbringing. Thinking is developed in a secondary school. And whether it would be wide or template depends on these several years. The second way is a young person own choice: be active, sociable and clever or ordinary and uneducated.

For the second problem concerning the knowledge of English in my survey there were the following questions:

- «Do you have extra English lessons? »,
- «Will the English language be useful for your future job? »,
- «How many times have you been to the English-speaking countries, Europe or America? »,
- «Are you planning to work abroad? ».

The results showed that only 21 percent have extra English lessons, however, 84 percent of respondents realize that it would be useful at their future work. Unfortunately, 65 percent had never been to the English-speaking countries, Europe or America. And almost half of respondents (45 percent) are planning to work abroad.

These results have led me to the conclusion that the English language is not popular in our region due to the lack of opportunities to travel or study and work abroad for the most part of population. For example, in Europe many people learn English because they know that it will be necessary for them, because they live close to this environment or directly in it. There is an opposite situation in Krasnoyarsk and Krasnoyarsk region. There are a lot of people who are sure from their childhood that they will not travel or study abroad, because it is too expensive. Due to this confidence the opinion of the uselessness of a foreign language is produced in teenagers` minds, but only during the school years. Being more mature awareness about the need of the English language for job comes, but to learn it almost from the beginning there is neither time nor energy. English as any other popular foreign language is very important in the career of every person. It gives such advantages as priority in the promotion, chances to go abroad for training or a permanent job and the possibility of additional earnings using the language, like a translation of letters or instructions. As I already said, the basic knowledge and love for learning a foreign language is formed at school by a teacher. This pedagogical fact hides the another possible reason of poor knowledge of the foreign language. It is also connected with education issues and sociological propaganda. Nowadays it is not popular to be a teacher, mostly due to a small salary. Therefore, most of those who could not enter the prestigious universities enter the Pedagogical University. And after the graduation young teachers do not want to work for too small salary, so in many schools, especially in the village ones, the English language is taught poorly or is not taught at all.

I think this problem could be solved with the additional funding of the education sphere, in particular with raising teachers` salaries. This would lead to an increase in popularity of a teacher profession and return its former prestige.