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THE ROLE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN THE TRANSFORMATION OF UKRAINE'S LINGUISTIC SPACE IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

The European integration processes that have been taking place in Ukraine over the last decade have had a significant impact on all areas of public life, including language policy and the education system. The formation of a common European space involves not only economic and political convergence, but also intensive cultural and communicative interaction. In this context, the English language occupies a special place, as it is the main means of international communication, academic mobility, scientific exchange and professional development.

After Ukraine gained independence in 1991, English gradually acquired strategic importance in the educational, scientific and cultural spheres. However, it was with the start of an active course towards European integration that its role became key in the transformation of the state's linguistic space. In the 21st century, knowledge of English has become not only an educational requirement, but also a social indicator of modernity, openness and competitiveness.

Ukraine's gradual integration into the European space has led to a review of the fundamentals of state language policy. Modern Ukraine strives to meet European standards of multilingualism, as enshrined in documents such as the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

One of the key steps towards linguistic modernisation was the adoption in 2024 of the Law of Ukraine 'On the Use of the English Language in Ukraine,' which defined its status as a language of international communication. The law obliges state authorities, educational institutions,

science and tourism to create conditions for the wider use of the English language.

In addition, in 2025, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the Concept of the State Programme for the Promotion of English Language Learning and Use in Ukraine for 2026–2030, which sets out specific steps to improve citizens' language skills, develop modern teaching materials and support teachers.

Thus, the state officially recognises knowledge of English as an integral factor in successful European integration, cultural openness and economic development.

English in Ukraine today is not just a subject at school or university, but a kind of bridge between national and European cultures. Proficiency in English opens up access to international educational programmes, scientific resources, professional communities and cultural projects.

Thanks to Ukraine's participation in the Erasmus+, Horizon Europe and eTwinning programmes, thousands of students and teachers have had the opportunity to study, intern and teach in European Union countries. This experience contributes to the formation of a new generation of citizens oriented towards the values of a democratic world, tolerance and multilingualism.

In addition, English is actively penetrating professional spheres such as IT, business, tourism, science and diplomacy. Universities are increasingly introducing courses in English and expanding ESP (English for Specific Purposes) programmes that meet the requirements of the modern labour market.

Thus, the English language becomes a symbol of Ukraine's openness to the world and a means of communication in a global environment.

European educational standards have led to a large-scale reform of language education in Ukraine. Today, curricula are focused on a competency-based approach, the integration of interdisciplinary practices, and the development of communication skills.

The reform is based on the CEFR language proficiency levels (A1–C2) used in most European countries. It is incorporated into the standards of general secondary and higher education in Ukraine, as well as into the new State Standards for Basic Secondary Education (2020).

An important role is played by the methodology – subject-language teaching, when non-philological disciplines are taught in English. This approach stimulates the development of language competence and professional vocabulary, which is extremely important for the European integration labour market.

The British Council Ukraine makes a significant contribution to the development of language education by implementing teacher training programmes, developing new courses and conducting certification according to the international standards of IELTS and Aptis.

The spread of English in Ukrainian society has not only educational but also socio-cultural dimensions. According to surveys conducted by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology in 2023, about 35% of Ukrainians are fluent or have a sufficient command of English, and among young people this figure exceeds 60%.

English is gradually becoming part of everyday life – in the media, advertising, online content, and corporate environments. It is shaping new cultural codes and communicative behaviour patterns.

The growing importance of English among Ukrainian youth is particularly noticeable, as it has become a symbol of modernity, professional success and European identity. Many students consider proficiency in English to be a prerequisite for self-fulfilment in a globalised world.

This trend contributes to the formation of a new type of linguistic consciousness – multilingual, open, capable of combining national identity with European values.

Despite positive dynamics, the process of expanding the English-speaking space in Ukraine is accompanied by certain difficulties. Among the main problems are unequal access to quality language training between cities and rural areas, a shortage of qualified teachers, limited funding for educational programmes, and low motivation among part of the adult population.

However, the implementation of state programmes for 2026–2030 aimed at promoting the English language could significantly change the situation. There are plans to increase teachers' salaries, support online language learning platforms, certify teachers according to international standards, and create free courses for public service workers.

In the future, English has every chance of becoming the second language of public communication in Ukraine – alongside the official Ukrainian language, which will correspond to the models of European countries such as Poland and Lithuania.

Ukraine's European integration has caused a profound transformation of the country's linguistic landscape. English, which was considered a foreign language just a few decades ago, has now become an integral part of education, science and culture.

Its role goes far beyond the scope of an academic subject: English has become a symbol of modernisation, global openness and Ukraine's integration into the European community. It contributes to increasing the competitiveness of citizens, developing innovation and strengthening the international image of the state.

Thus, the transformation of Ukraine's linguistic space in the context of European integration is impossible without the active spread of the English language, which is not only a means of communication but also the key to new educational, professional and cultural opportunities.

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МУЛЬТИЛІНГВІЗМ ЯК ОСНОВА ЄВРОПЕЙСЬКОЇ ІДЕНТИЧНОСТІ: ВИКЛИК ДЛЯ УКРАЇНИ

Сучасні дослідження з мовної політики України в аспекті євроінтеграції здебільшого наголошують на механізмах зміцнення (і на рівні законодавчого забезпечення, і на рівні практичної імплементації) позицій державної мови як потенційної офіційної мови ЄС. Це засвідчено цілою низкою урядових рішень, зокрема указом Президента України «Про невідкладні заходи щодо зміцнення державного статусу української мови та сприяння створенню єдиного культурного простору України», законом України «Про забезпечення функціонування української мови як державної», розпорядженнями Кабінету Міністрів України «Про схвалення Стратегії популяризації української мови до 2030 року «Сильна мова – успішна держава» та «Про схвалення Державної цільової національно-культурної програми забезпечення всебічного розвитку і функціонування української мови як державної в усіх сферах суспільного життя на період до 2030 року». У дослідженні О. А. Тарасенка [6] ці та подібні нормативно-правові акти проаналізовано посутньо.

Здається, що законодавча та інституційна підтримка державної мови, значно підсилена ще й мотивацією більшої частини українців