

## TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION ACCELERATES INTEGRATION IN THE EU

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### Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to bring some ideas on the importance of foreign languages towards integration, internationalization, its effect in the international trade market and in increase of cultural diversity as well as the commitment of the institutions of higher education to raising awareness of young generations in these important issues that improve their life quality., competencies of the XXI century etc. Independent learning skills, long life learning as well as the ability to be an active citizen and engaged in social issues, economic policy of the country, ability to find and communicate information are the most important components of the XXI century.

. Monolingualism is characteristic only of a minority of the world's population, Everyone is interested in expanding their knowledge and the best way to achieve it is by paying more attention to advancement of foreign languages in schools and in higher education in general as well as enabling them to visit many other European countries and get familiar with the methods and the quality of teaching/ learning at the university level. Various universities organize multiple projects on the issue of social integration based on international, interdisciplinary and intercultural cooperation, in the field of scientific research, teaching and educational practices between different persons and institutions all these organized due to the knowledge of foreign languages by participants.

Key words; Higher education, integration, internationalization, multilingualism, communication, cultural diversity, foreign languages etc.

### Introduction

The clear evidence that the world is becoming smaller has made people struggle for the better knowledge and try to understand the competencies of the XXI century which clearly tell us the way we should improve our behavior, abilities and skills, how to better understand the role of the teachers, citizens, parents, the role of business and the role of the state itself.

All countries of the world arise and evolve in the language of their nation striving to rise economically, physically and at the same time linguistically too. Considering different circumstances it is not the same with all countries, because countries in transition seek corporation with economically developed countries and this should be done in a language understandable for both parties.

Foreign languages (English) are the most practical skills one can acquire. It gives people the ability to move freely in a different language speaking environment without the aid of an intermediaries. This has many implications. You will be able to do your own market research, talk to the employees who work on the assembly line in your company's overseas manufacturing facility, call a company in a foreign city without having to worry if the phone will be answered by someone who speaks your language.

Translation of legal documents are required for many different reasons relating to judicial or administrative proceedings in other countries. Often the translation must be accompanied by a sworn affidavit of the translator, certified by foreign authorities so as to be considered valid in the procedure for which it is required.

One of the important competencies of the twenty-first century is no doubt ability of speaking foreign languages. Every teacher as well as every student should commit itself towards this competence which brings us real profit in every field.

### Competencies of the 21<sup>st</sup> century

= Civic, global and cross-cultural skills

- Active life in the community
- National and cultural identity
- Individual identity of a global society

•and social responsibility and cultural sensitivity

= Critical and creative thinking:

•Logical reasoning and decision-making

•Reflective thought

•Curiosity and creativity

•Management of complex and ambiguous issues

= The ability to find information and communicate:

•Being open-minded

•Classification of information gain

•Responsible use of information

•Effective communication of information received

**Education after the latest events of 1999 was followed by;**

• the opening up to the world,

• educational reformation,

• training and the world of the internet, academic formation and training of the teachers, development of academic curriculum for teachers etc.

Higher education and the "Bologna Process" reform within its legislation and its dynamic process, study cycles, ECTS, transfer studies, quality, study forms had a quick and positive influence and led to a new and alternative education as a concept and as a practice: a. Full time studies; b. part-time studies; c. distance learning

Efforts for a new education in our country were addressed in the following areas:

First, new concepts to society, recognition and enforcement of fundamental human rights, giving a new structure and a new face to social subjects which should reflect the changes and new concepts of democratic era; rapid changes in school documentation of pupils and students; rapid changes in the curriculum materials developed in schools of different levels etc.

In this period, we have a series of public and private universities, which marked a new rhythmic layers in educational development of the population. This has greatly increased the number of students and young faculty graduates in Europe and the U.S. all in foreign languages which contributed positively to the creation of a new atmosphere in education.

Education now seeks new treatment, because within the population occurred major changes, which came not only from the opening to the world, but also from the symbiosis of teachers prepared at home, but also those who have studied abroad.

Visa liberalization and free movement would create a new situation in the field of education of Kosovar population because it would increase communication and experience exchange with developed democratic countries in the field of education.

What should be noted is the phenomenon that foreign languages influence in different population levels already created a new mentality in the field of education.

### **Integration and foreign languages**

In order to assess the role of language in integration we should begin by listing the main functions of language. Language is:

- the most important medium of human communication;
- a symbol of identity;
- an expression of culture;
- a medium of cognitive and conceptual development;
- an instrument of action (Language is, for instance, sufficient to perform acts such as promise, complaint, invitation, etc).

These functions are the arena in which the relationship between English and community languages and expression of multiple identities are played out. Multilingualism enables us to consider diversity, dynamism and hybridity.

Acquisition of the host country language(s) is important for various aspects of newcomer integration. Host country language proficiency is strongly related to not only labor market outcomes, but also to indicators of social integration.

### **Foreign languages and the Economy**

Wherever economic internationalization processes are involved, 'economy' and 'foreign languages' prove to be two sides of the same coin: without international trade the spectrum of linguistic contacts would be much smaller, language families such as the Indo-European would not exist, at least in their present form. German would not have such terms as "Konto" (account), "Bilanz" (balance sheet) or "Scheck" (cheque) and the symbol for the British pound sterling "£" would certainly not have been derived from the Italian 'libra'. On the other hand it is true that, for example, without the willingness to practice foreign languages trading routes such as the Silk Road would not have been opened up, or that the trading associations such as the Hanseatic League and the Fuggers would not have enjoyed the success that enabled them to act as central economic forces in Europe for centuries. And last but not least it should be mentioned in this connection that it was precisely Jacob Fugger who was said to have given the – now highly topical – advice, when conducting business

negotiations speak your own language and understand the foreign tongue.<sup>1</sup>

The development of international exchanges have made the mastery of two or three languages an essential asset in the modern world. The "language barrier" has to be overcome due to ever increasing international relations.

The ease of traveling, the intensification of immigration and the presence of new populations in Europe's socio-cultural landscape are engendering a more and more pressing need to learn languages other than the mothers tongue and English. Faced with such situation where the knowledge of several languages responds to the intensification of exchanges and communications, the advantages of individually mastering several languages, multilingualism in other words, is being felt by many. Multilingualism indeed presents advantages in many areas: individually, socio-culturally, economically and politically.

Economically, the more developed countries in North America and Europe have recently created large organizations in order to increase trade. Such groups are also beginning to take shape in developing countries. In such contexts, multilingualism facilitates exchanges and becomes an asset in the sale of products abroad. The mayor of an important city in the state of Maine, for example, argued recently that to buy merchandise from the international market, one needs only to speak of semblance of English to get by. However, he added that in order to entice foreign buyers, you have to speak their language. "Being able to speak French is having a second window on the planet."<sup>2</sup>

Politically, foreign languages are an asset that politicians know how to use well. We all remember President John Kennedy's declaration to Berliners in 1961: "Ich bin ein Berliner!" in order to demonstrate his country's support during the Cold War. During the Francophone Summit held in Hanoi in November 1997, the President of the French Republic stated that in the 21st century, large linguistic communities will play a very significant role in political agendas.

Therefore, whether we like it or not, the world of tomorrow will remain multilingual. Educating people to be multilingual is not only offering a reflection of the various socio-linguistic and socio-cultural realities, it is also a means of defending this diversity.

Language skills are crucial for growth and jobs. Each year, thousands of European companies lose business and miss out on contracts as a result of their lack of language skills and intercultural competence

Today European society is changing at an unprecedented rate as a result of globalization, technological advance and an ageing population. Europeans are also becoming increasingly mobile. There is more interaction among counterparts from different countries and a growing number of people live and work outside their home country.

<sup>1</sup>.CILT - The National Centre for Languages (Ed.), ELAN: Effects on the European Economy of Shortages of Foreign Language Skills in Enterprise. 2006

<sup>2</sup> Jacques Rebuffot and Claudette Tardif- CPF [www.Advantagesofmultilingualism](http://www.Advantagesofmultilingualism) . 19.12.2011

**Conclusion**

Nowadays, thanks to the needs of globalization, cultural openness and the ease of access to information acquaintance with foreign languages is becoming a social phenomenon. That's why, bilingualism, as a natural skill is something valuable these days. Competencies of the 21 century have led to a new perspective and a new concept of the world.

Independent learning skills, long life learning as well as the ability to be an active citizen and engaged in social issues, economic policy of the country, ability to find and

communicate information are the most important components of the XXI century.

*Language learning has many advantages. Business, education, entertainment, traveling and development in general have more importance and more success is if people especially young generation speak foreign languages. To sum up it remains the task of the present and future government to use their policies as an incentive for young generations and commit them self more on education issues.*

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