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### **What proverbs and sayings can tell us about people?**

Richness, diversity and, of course, the originality of our speech depends on people's understanding what the originality of their native language is. Proverbs and sayings are an invaluable heritage of people. They had been accumulating for a long time before the writing system appeared and we have passed them from generation to generation. This is the oldest and the greatest genre of folklore.[4] Proverb is the most interesting area of oral speech. Proverbs and sayings have always supported the way of people's life and strengthened the moral spirit of people. It is like the commandments of people, regulating the life of every man. And, perhaps, nothing can express our national history, social system, way of life and worldview with such a power as proverbs do.[1]

We can find a great amount of proverbs in each culture. They help us know more about diverse countries and not only. Take for example Russian and British folklore. It has much in common. There are diverse sources of proverbs and sayings in both countries. Of course, the main source is nation. But what about a literature? In Britain, the most popular sources are Shakespeare's plays and speech: « Listen to many, speak to a few », « Be great in act, as you have been in thought ». In the Russian language, most of proverbs appeared from fables, fairy tales, works by Pushkin, Griboyedov and others: «Time flies when you're having fun», «All ages are to love submissive» (translation by V.Nabokov), «To love all ages yield surrender». (translation by Дж.Фейлен). But the common source for both languages is the Bible. It teaches us to be generous, fair, understanding and develop only nice character traits and both nationalities understand it. «Блаженнее давать, нежели принимать» - « It's better to give than to receive».

There are proverbs that are almost the same both in Russian and English, they have a similar meaning and context. For example, our famous proverb « Яблоко от яблони недалеко падает » is synonymous to «The apple doesn't fall far from the tree» or « He's a chip off the old block». [3] However, not all proverbs from the Russian and the English languages match in meaning. There is absolutely great difference between some of them. Let's take our proverb «Делу время, а потехе час». It has a variety of shapes in English: « Fun is fun, but there's the job waiting», « Business before pleasure», « Place for everything, and everything in its place».[3] Also we can find phrases that hide their meaning, for example, "that's all I need", which is translated - "это все, что мне нужно", actually means - "this was not enough".

Among the huge number of English proverbs we can find those that are familiar to people from their youth and are used everywhere. These are proverbs on which we were brought up by our parents: «Любишь кататься, люби и саночки возить» or as we could hear from the British «No pain, no gain».[3] Most people did something bad at least once in their life. You could do it occasionally but it had awful effects. On this case we can use a proverb « Дружбу помни, а зло забывай » or as British people say « Never forget good turns, but forgive the evil done to you». It says that we should be more patient to each other.[2] We can find numerous situations like this one.

To sum up, getting to know a country through various aspects of its language gives a sense of belonging to other people, promotes better mastery of the subject and expands knowledge about the language itself, its beauty, richness and features of its functioning. [1]

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