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The Russian Language

Today, we communicate beyond the national borders by e-mailing, chatting, blogging, web browsing besides speaking and writing. Effective communication with people of different cultures is especially challenging.

Same words can mean different things to people from different cultures, even when they talk the "same" language. The potential for misunderstandings increases. We can decrease these misunderstandings by means of studying foreign languages, foreign cultures and history.

Why is Russian important? Russian is one of the world's major languages. It is one of the six official languages of the United Nations, and it is the eighth most widely spoken language in the world. With around 155 million native speakers and around 260 million speakers in total if we include second language speakers. Even in a lot of places where it is not an official language. That's why Russian is important.

Russian is the most widely spoken language of the Slavic language family. The beginning of the Slavic language branch traces back to a language called Proto-Slavic which existed around 500 CE. Russian is written in the Cyrillic script which was created for the purpose of writing old church Slavonic. The spoken language existed alongside the literary language of Old Church Slavonic. It was a situation of Diaglossia (a state of being bilingual). After the end of Mongol rule in the end of 14th century the Old East Slavic area was split into two separate states: The Grand Duchy of Moscow to the East and The Great Duchy of Lithuania to the west. The Old East Slavic dialects in those two states began to split and develop in different directions:

1. In the West, Ruthenian language emerged with heavy Polish influence. Ruthenian dialects would later develop into Ukrainian and Belarusian.
2. In the East, Russian emerged with more influence of the Old Church Slavonic.

Modern Russian today is a result from kind of tug-of-war between Old Church Slavonic on one hand and the vernacular spoken dialects on the other hand.

During the rule of Peter the Great, from 1696 to 1725, the written language was pulled away from Old Church Slavonic. In order to increase literacy, he simplified the orthography of the written language, eliminating some letters, and some diacritics. His reforms were some of the first step in the development of modern literary Russian: the basis of Standard Russian today.

In the 20th century, Russian underwent some small changes, mainly in orthography. But, by far, the most important thing to happen to the language was the creation of the Soviet Union. Universal schooling and the mass media spread modern Standard Russian and reduced dialects variation in Russian.

Russian grammar is quite complicated. Russian is a fusional language, meaning that suffixes and prefixes added to root words to show grammatical meaning. It can make a challenge for English speaker to deal with grammar.

Orthography.

Russian is written in the Cyrillic script. An alphabet consisting of 33 letters which were mostly developed from Greek letters. Some are the same as letters of the Latin alphabet, but some of the sounds are different.

Phonology.

Consonants.

There are 21 consonants in Russian. Though, 15 of them can be pronounced in two different ways. Either ‘hard’, or ‘soft’.

Vowels.

There are 6 basic vowels in Russian. But there is a lot of variation in the vowels, depending on the surrounding sounds and based on the stress pattern of the word. Vowels are often reduced when they appear in an unstressed syllable. This can make a challenge for English speaker to pronounce words correctly based on their spelling.

Nouns.

There are six noun cases in Russian, meaning that both the singular and the plural form of a noun can take six different forms, depending on their grammatical function in the sentence.

Adjectives.

Adjectives in Russian are quite complicated. They are inflected to agree with the noun they modify in gender, number and case. That means any particular adjective can have 24 different forms. You have to memorize two big sets of endings for nouns and adjectives.

Verbs.

The Russian language has 3 verb tenses: Past, Present and Future. That sounds straightforward. But Russian verbs are also distinguished by “aspect”.

Perfective future: Я напишу книгу (Ya napishu knigu) – I will write a book.

This sentence uses the verb with the perfective verb stem and is in the future tense.

But when we take the aspect into the account, the meaning is “I will write one specific book”. An action that will be completed.

Imperfective future: Я буду писать книгу (Ya budu pisat’ knigu) – I will be writing a book

This sentence uses the imperfective verb stem and is also in the future tense. The meaning of this one is more like “I will be in the process of writing a book, at a certain time in the future”

Or if we use the plural form of “book” then the meaning changes:

Я буду писать книги (Ya budu pisat’ knigi) – I will be writing a books

And that means “I will write numerous books”. A recurring action.

And in that case imperfective aspect indicates slightly different meaning.

Basic word order.

The most common word order is Subject-Verb-Object (SVO). But because of the case system the word order is much more flexible than it is in English. E.g:

The cat caught the mouse	The mouse caught the cat	caughtthe catthe mouse
Кошка поймала мышь	Мышь поймала кошка	Поймала кошка мышь
Koshka poymala mysh	Mysh poymala koshka	Poymala koshka mysh
The most common	Both technically correct, but less widely used in speech.	

Articles.

Like most Slavic languages, Russian doesn’t have any articles. That’s the reason that Russians drop the articles when they are speaking English.

How hard is Russian to learn for English-speaker?

According to the American Foreign Service Institute, Russian is a category 4 language.

The most difficult category is category 5 and that includes Japanese, Mandarin, and Arabic. That means that Russian is relatively difficult, but not the most difficult. Russian is a major global language that will be very useful if you spend any time in Russia or any other former Soviet Republics. So one's efforts will be well-rewarded.

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American's punctuality and Russian's patience

Social rules and own customs are an important part of the culture for every country. This all includes good and bad manners, traditions and mentality. So, there are significant differences between the countries because they have their own national characteristics.

As you know, time is money to Americans. Moreover, in this country it is a vital commodity. Time is a great importance and a source like coal or water which can be used. Thus, punctuality is a virtue sign of reliability for Americans. The ideal person for them values other people's time and is punctual. They appreciate a well-organized person, who makes a schedule of things for doing them.

What is punctuality to Americans?[1]Punctuality means to arrive on time and make great effort to do it. American businesspeople don't have high tolerance for people who are usually late. To Russians, however, punctuality doesn't matter. Being on time is often alien. They are used to being late and long arrival after the appointed hours is not considered being late. That's why, there is a number of rituals that must be played out before the business part of a meeting can start. For example, a necessary part of all personal encounters is the small talk. The business conversation is last of the day, because at first colleagues usually discuss family and personal problems. Moreover, the business part of the talk is also lengthy.

For Russians, time is not measured in minutes or hours, so the venerated virtue is not punctuality but patience. In contrast, Americans first consider the practical points and the details to be overcome. Americans will want to negotiate an agreement expeditiously, begin on time, complete the work as promptly as possible, and show early or profit. Russians will need more time to get organized, and there will be frequent delays and postponements [2].

So, Americans fulfill their promises and obligations. Violation of the timeframe is unacceptable, because they are used to being never late. They do not prefer to feel that their time is wasted and that they are kept waiting without good reason. Punctuality is a virtue sign and arriving on time is the key of a successful transaction. Most Americans would agree that it is good manners to be punctual for an appointment. Arriving on time for formal events such as an interview or a business meeting is considered important. For this reason, many people try to arrive a few minutes earlier for an appointment. As for Russians, they get used to being late and it isn't considered improper.

Such different views of time can create difficulties in cooperative efforts and joint ventures. What to do? Not much, except to persist patiently, and speak softly but carry a big prod. Once prodded and made to understand that a deadline must be met, Russians can work around the clock to complete the job.

So, the values and beliefs of these two countries are various and they don't coincide absolutely. What is plausible in Russia is not quite valid in the USA. Whereas Russians value one concept, Americans do not pay any special attention.

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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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**Формирование иноязычных фонетических навыков на среднем этапе обучения при
помощи социокультурного аспекта
(на примере 5 класса средней общеобразовательной школы)**

Проблема обучения произношению остается актуальной в методике обучения иностранному языку на всех этапах школьного образования. Эффективность данной деятельности имеет прямое отношение к успеху овладения устной речью. Вербальному общению может серьезно помешать отклонение от произносительных норм, приводящее к непониманию речи собеседника. Именно поэтому развитие слухо-произносительных навыков у учащихся, а конкретнее, их способность правильно ассоциировать слышимый звук с соответствующим ему значением и произносить соответствующие определенным значениям звуки является залогом успешной коммуникации на иностранном языке.

Целью данного исследования является определение роли таких языковых единиц, как английские пословицы и поговорки при создании условий реального или приближенного к реальному устному общению для закрепления и совершенствования звуковой стороны иностранной речи на среднем этапе образования.

Для достижения поставленной цели использовались следующие методы исследования: изучение источников методической литературы по теме исследования, наблюдение за коммуникативным поведением школьников в процессе изучения фонетической стороны языка с использованием пословиц и поговорок на уроках иностранного языка во время прохождения производственной практики.

Результаты проведенного исследования представлены в форме описания теоретических основ обучения учащихся слухо-произносительным навыкам на уроках иностранного языка и практической реализации (использование английских пословиц и поговорок как фонетического и социокультурного материала) предлагаемого способа решения рассматриваемой методической проблемы.

Анализ научной литературы по исследуемой проблеме позволил выделить следующие положения, на которых основывается данная работа: средний этап обучения подразумевает закрепление, поддержание и совершенствование сформированных на начальном этапе произносительных навыков учащихся [1]. Работа над произношением у учащихся должна включать следующие аспекты: выполнение фонетической зарядки на каждом уроке, чтение вслух, изучение и отработка фонетической составляющей нового лексико-грамматического материала, чтение вслух, построение устных монологических высказываний и диалогов, аудирование, знакомство с новыми ритмико-интонационным моделями, принятыми в изучаемом иностранном языке. И для успешной реализации данных этапов работы могут служить пословицы и поговорки, которые характеризуются специфичной фонетической и ритмической организацией.

Анализ нормативно-правовой базы обучения иностранному языку, личный опыт преподавания иностранного языка в рамках производственной практики позволили сформулировать методическую проблему, которая заключается во внедрении такого фонетического материала как пословицы и поговорки для закрепления и совершенствования произносительных навыков учащихся.

Для решения поставленной методической проблемы была проведена опытно-практическая работа, включающая организационный этап, этап реализации, этап констатации и этап интерпретации.

Организационный этап включает в себя формулирование методической проблемы, проектирование программы обучения в соответствии с поставленной задачей и разработку учебно-методических материалов (отбор материала на основе английских пословиц и поговорок, в которых используются необходимые для отработки учащимися звуки).

На этапе реализации были проведены уроки с использованием самостоятельно разработанных учебно-методических материалов и выбранных приемов и методов обучения, а именно: представление учащимся поговорки или пословицы с определенными фонемами; повторение данной единицы в течение 2-3 уроков с последующей корректировкой произношения того или иного звука. Данный вид работы, являющийся своеобразной зарядкой для учащихся, был применен на разных этапах урока. Особое внимание уделялось двум сторонам фонетики: сегментной (закрепление звуков английского языка, несовпадающие со звуками фонетической системы русского языка) и сверхсегментной (отработка просодических аспектов языка и его составляющих: интонация, ритм, рифма, ударение) [2]. В конце прохождения производственной практики в школе был проведен итоговый срез приобретенных знаний, навыков и умений.

Этап констатации подразумевает анализ результатов опытного обучения, которые показали, что произносительные навыки учащихся автоматизировались во время отработки звуковой стороны речи через пословицы и поговорки, где учащиеся учились делить высказывания на интонационные и ритмические группы, ставить логическое ударение. Это указывает на то, что использование разработанного учебно-методического материала способствовало успешному внедрению пословиц и поговорок в процесс обучения учащихся средней школы фонетическим аспектам английского языка.

На этапе интерпретации полученных в ходе практической работы результатов мы можем сделать вывод, что активно используемые пословицы и поговорки во время фонетических разминок, выполнения упражнений на закрепление и повторение фонетического материала и объяснении нового явления в фонетике повышают успех учащихся в освоении данного аспекта изучения иностранного языка, а потому данную методику можно рекомендовать к использованию в практике работы учителя по профилю.

Таким образом, во время проведения исследования было выявлено, что пословицы и поговорки, являющиеся фонетическим и социокультурным учебным материалом, предлагаемые на уроках иностранного языка в средней школе, не только обогащают словарный запас и развивают память учащихся, помогают постичь им образность языка и проникнуться народной мудростью, но и являются элементом повышенной важности в обучении фонетической стороне изучаемого языка. Данные единицы поддерживают в тоне подвижность речевых органов, участвуют в постановке артикуляционной базы, влияют на мелодический диапазон голоса; наконец они создают базу для совершенного овладения звуковой стороной иностранного языка. Описанная методика работы с английскими пословицами и поговорками представляется эффективной, в дальнейшем планируется совершенствовать описанный прием и применять его на разных этапах уроков иностранного языка в средней школе.

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Music is a language of cross cultural communication

Music is a pattern of sounds made by musical instruments, voices, or computers, or a combination of these, intended to give pleasure to people listening to it. [1]

The research is concerned with music. The purpose of the research work is to study of borrowing music and ways of distribution American music in Russia. The purposes of the paper is to identify the role of borrowing different styles, to define the reasons of borrowing. The scientific novelty of this work consist of the fact that the US borrowed music have a cross cultural communication in connection with the historical, social, and cultural conditions.

Let's start with the music history of America. It's very important thing to descry the issue. Let's look at item number one.

A unique kind of song grew from the experience of the Africans brought to America in slavery. That unique song was the African American spiritual. The old spirituals had no known composers and were not written down. They passed from generation to generation of singers and are still sung today. These songs originated in the South before the Civil War. Some spirituals are slow and full of emotion. Others are lively, with strong rhythms. [2]

It all comes down to this- America has always had a song.

American musicians began to use elements of high and low music culture. This blending of forms has made it more attractive to multinational and foreign audiences.

America's music culture does everything possible to unite in it not only people of different music genres, but of different generations, as well, because of this American music is common around the world. America's music culture has been growing and spreading its popularity for many years. The music of the United States reflects the country's multi ethnic population through a diverse array of styles.

Let's move on to number two.

Russia is a large and culturally diverse country. There are many ethnic groups with their OWN locally developed music.

The most important thing is Russia was a late starter in developing of classical music. The focus on European music meant that Russian composers had to write in Western style if they wanted their compositions to be performed. After the Russian Revolution, Russian music changed dramatically. It is a known fact that Russia was in a difficult situation after 1945. Russia was cloaked behind what soon became known as the Iron Curtain. In the days of the Iron Curtain, people didn't managed to hear songs and learn about music. In those days world media wasn't wide open to Russia.

The next point is the fall of the Iron curtain. It coincided with the end of the cold war, signifying the end of a crucial and dramatic period of Russia history. [3]

When the Iron curtain was fallen the Russian culture was borrow different kinds of American music. One of the most important western influences on the culture and people of the Soviet Union at this time was western music.

From the 1950's onward there had been some form of a counterculture movement in the Soviet Union based around western Music. Jazz sprang up in the USSR in the 1920s, when it was flourishing in the USA. Western rock music continued to garner an underground following throughout the 1960's, 70's, and 80's. Russian musicians eventually began playing rock music themselves, "Rock 'n' roll entered the Soviet Union stage as an English phenomenon. The early rockers sang American or English songs, often not understanding what they were singing about" Wells

From the mid 1970s Western popular music (including rock-n-roll) finds its way into the USSR, quite an official way already. Melodia, the only sound house in the country starts releasing albums of

the series 'Melodies and rhythms of foreign variety music', among which there happened to be also hits by western pop and rock stars, from Elvis Presley to Tom Jones. In the late 1970s Cliff Richard, Elton John and Boney M performed on tour in the USSR.[4]

This mid 1980's were the first time in which western acts were allowed to tour in the U.S.S.R. and even in Soviet Russia itself. Western music encouraged and nurtured the new sense of freedom and individuality that was growing at the time. It also served as a means of protest against the failed Soviet regime. [5]

The conclusion is the research results showed that American culture has a great influence on Russia in past and nowadays. Today there are some International Festivals in our country, concerts, performances which are not banned.

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The differences of religions in the United States and Russia

Religion is one of the most important and integral things of our life. Faith is a certain system of people's thoughts, feelings and actions which we usually do. All people believe in one thing or another. Their beliefs depend on their character, background and life experience. Religion includes the world which has supernatural things. Professing some religion is developing, teaching and educating. Faith makes the world stronger. Religion is people's life. Voltaire wrote that «if God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent him».

People in different country have their religion, thoughts of life and moral code. Religious values in Russia and the USA have some differences and similarities. God is one, but different nations call him in different ways. The problem is rooted at the very beginning of human existence, since the creation of the tower of Babel, because according to the legend, earlier on the Earth, there was a single language and a single nation, then, God is one. Each nation added something from itself to the holidays, rituals, and former united faith began to "branch out" into a separate religion.

Religion in the USA traditionally plays a major role. Nowadays, the Americans cannot say «how many believers there are in the USA», about 85% of the population are believers. There is no dominant religion, but this country has Christians of different faiths. Protestants make up a large number (about 56%), Catholics - 28%, Jewish 2%, other religious communities make up 4%. The theme of religion in the United States is important, because religious organizations are actively involved in solving social problems, and affect the political life of the country. As for religion in Russia, there is not any official statistics of religious organizations because by the law it is prohibited to ask the Russians about their religious affiliation. We have orthodoxy (75 %), Islam (5 %), Catholicism (1 %) and others. Although the religion of USA is quite democratic and dynamic, its distinctive feature is differentiation. Nowadays, the United States has many new religious movements so it is difficult to answer the question about the religion in the United States. However, a few indigenous people have tried to save the memory of the past. «The diversity of religions in the USA is closely linked to the religious life of native Americans, the colonial past, and the flow of migrants»[1]. The main religions are based on «...rebutals but the prevailing belief was that people in the afterlife would continue the same life they led before death...» [2]

Both the United States and Russia are characterized by their belief in special religious customs and traditions. The USA thinks of itself as a New Light because it is going to open new religions for the old World. Russia is characterized by the idea of identifying itself with the Third Rome. Both Russia and the United States are the last two apocalyptic states, and they are committed to the end of world history. The most important American values written in the Declaration of human rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is necessary to know the main feature of Americans, which is connected with Protestantism as their main religion is hard work.

Thus, the values of Russian civilization are different with the values of American civilization. People think that justice is equality or social justice. It is not equality of opportunities but social, civil and propriety equality. Americans focus on individual success, while in Russia the traditions of community and proletarian collectivism are strong.

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Communication differences between Russians and Americans

Communication is simply the act of transferring information from one place to another. Today it is the most important part of our life. We communicate with others not only by face-to-face communication, but also by giving information via the Internet and printed products such as books and newspapers every day. With the right approach to communication, we can not only achieve many desired things, but also decorate our lives with new colors.

There are certain standards of communication in various spheres of life. We will definitely talk reservedly and dryly with business communication, freely and sensually with personal communication, using special terms depending on the sphere of interest of a group of people.

Despite the common standards of communication, each nation is having a specific communication differences.

Now we will consider the differences in communication between Russia and the USA.

The most important aspect for comparison is interpersonal communication.

Many people might think that Russians do not speak but shout at each other, and this way of communication might seem really weird. However, this does not mean that people have a conflict. People in Russia really like debating on various global topics, especially politics or history. Emotions very often substitute arguments in this kind of debates. But it does not mean that people hate each other, it just means that when Russians argue they do it passionately. In general, Russians invest lots of passion and enthusiasm in everything they do.

At the same time, many people say that Russians are not rude at all but they are rather sentimental. This is also reflected in the language. In Russian, there are a lot of words that describe shades of emotions that are impossible to translate into English, which even sometimes causes problems with understanding. A textbook example is the word «толка». That's how Vladimir Nabokov explains it: «No single word in English renders all the shades of toska. At its deepest and most painful, it is a sensation of great spiritual anguish, often without any specific cause. At less morbid levels it is a dull ache of the soul, a longing with nothing to long for, a sick pining, a vague restlessness, mental throes, yearning. In particular cases it may be the desire for somebody of something specific, nostalgia, love-sickness. At the lowest level it grades into ennui, boredom.»

Anyway, Russians are rather expressive in both good and bad sense, and this expressiveness is most vividly revealed in the manner of speaking.

Americans often seem very friendly, even when you first meet them. This friendliness does not always mean that the person is looking for a deeper relationship. Many Americans are pleasant and professional, but indirect and hide their true emotions/feelings. Being polite is important in this culture, and sometimes they may keep being nice to you even if they do not wish to pursue a deeper friendship.

Many people believe that Americans think it is better to be smart and not right, even if they are sure that the other person is wrong. Americans try keep smile up even when they are upset. Pleasant but direct words at the right time and place can save misunderstandings and improve relations. The people do not say what they feel because they do not want to hurt you, or because they may try to alleviate a stressful situation.

The other aspect for comparison is communication in public places.

Americans often say that Russians: «soft and tasty» inside, but «bitter and hard» from outside.

Russians are mostly five-line and can tell even a stranger in a public place if he does not like something. Public displays of affection, anger or other emotions are both acceptable and common. The other feature is mentioned often that Russians prefer to keep silence in public transport. They rather

read books or do something in mobile phone, for instance, chat, watch video etc. to talk with other people.

In America during their trips by the underground lots of people speak loudly, talk to each other, and make business phone calls.

However, when you are invited to their place, the situation changes completely. Russians are very hospitable and generous, they share their secrets even with people they do not know very well.

Also the difference in business conversation is one of the important aspects for comparison.

There tends to be very little visual or verbal feedback during business meetings in Russia. «People listen silently and with little obvious body language being displayed. This does not mean, however, that mean that the listener is disinterested or does not understand. Russians will tend to wait and think before responding to a point. Allow the Russians the time and space needed to take part fully in the conversation»[1].

There are some traits that pop up in descriptions of the USA business culture again and again: individualism, competitiveness, efficiency, informality, openness to innovation and change.

Americans always polite, friendly and respectful during business meetings. They talk freely with their partner but on business.

In conclusion, I would like to say that communication is the art of transmitting information, ideas and attitudes from one person to another. Communication is the process of meaningful interaction among human beings. It is typical for every person of any culture. But it is natural that communication between people of different nationalities has significant differences depending on the culture.

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Формирование нравственных ориентиров в конфликтных ситуациях

Конфликт – столкновение интересов, обострение противоречий. В конфликте всегда затрагиваются значимые для участников интересы. Из-за незначимых вещей никто не идет на конфликт.

Конфликты, большие ссоры и малые, незначительные препирания – постоянные спутники нашей жизни. Вся история человечества – это история бесконечных войн и конфликтов. Конфликты существовали, и будут существовать, они – неотъемлемая часть человеческих взаимоотношений, и нельзя говорить о том, что конфликты бесполезны или являются патологией. Они нормальное явление в нашей жизни, особенно во временном детском коллективе в условиях загородного лагеря. Каждый ребенок уникален по-своему и каждый имеет свои положительные и отрицательные черты характера, достоинства и недостатки. В процессе достижения взаимопонимания часто возникают трудности, то есть отношения между детьми могут быть конфликтными. Поэтому одной из главных задач педагога-организатора является предвидеть и предотвратить конфликт.

Существующие конфликты в детском коллективе можно разделить на следующие группы: внутренний конфликт и межличностные конфликты. Причин для возникновения конфликтов множество. Чаще всего с внутренним конфликтом сталкиваются дети, которые впервые приехали в лагерь. Они оказываются под действием психогенных факторов таких как: смена привычной обстановки, долгая разлука с родными и близкими. Длительные и тяжелые переживания ребенка могут нарушить его психическое развитие и ввести в депрессивное состояние. Разница в возрасте, агрессия, проявление эгоизма, стремление к превосходству – все это ведет к межличностным конфликтам, которые чаще всего встречаются в организационном периоде смены на начальном этапе формирования коллектива.

Как и все в этом мире, конфликт имеет положительную и отрицательную сторону. К отрицательной стороне, следовательно, можно отнести: ухудшение климата в коллективе; отрицательные эмоции и переживания; нарушение общения или полное его прекращение. Положительными факторами климата считают: возможность увидеть скрытые отношения; возможность выплеснуть отрицательные эмоции, снять напряжение; конфликт – толчок к пересмотру своих взглядов, а также способ к сплочению коллектива. Конфликты заставляют нас менять правила общения, взаимодействия и меняться самому. Конфликт – своеобразный двигатель прогресса, что-то не устраивает, мешает, вносит дискомфорт – нужно найти источник – выяснить причину и устранить его.

Для того, что успешно справляться с конфликтом необходимо не только педагогу уметь построить алгоритм его решения, но и сформировать навыки у детей, чтобы они могли самостоятельно решать конфликты. Для этого необходимо следующее: развивать у ребенка эмпатию, навыки общения, ведущие к сближению; формировать умение оценивать совершенный поступок, а не личность ребенка; научить детей управлять эмоциями; способствовать совместному поиску альтернативных путей решения из конфликтных ситуаций.

Количество конфликтов в детском объединении можно значительно уменьшить, если способствовать формированию здоровых межличностных отношений. Для этого педагогам необходимо соблюдать следующие правила: постоянно осуществлять контроль за формированием коллектива; уметь определять «популярных» детей и детей с низким статусом; организовать интересную и эмоционально насыщенную досуговую деятельность, обеспечивающую занятость детей; формировать нормы и традиции коллектива.

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Intercultural stereotypes about Russia and America.

Stereotype is a widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing [1]. With all its schematism and generalization, stereotypical ideas about other peoples and cultures prepare people to interact with another's culture, weaken its impact on the human psyche, and reduce the force of cultural shock. Stereotypes play a very important role in communication in general and in the process of intercultural contacts. But the stereotype is also not always true knowledge, it is often a biased attitude, not based on someone's own experience, and brought into consciousness [2].

Russia is a country of hackers. In the view of the Russians, a generic hacker is most likely American. But for Americans it is exactly the opposite. The US believes that Russia is the country with the highest level of cybercrime in the world, with hackers skillful, desperate and well organized. This stereotype came from the Internet: most of the pirated content in the global network is supplied by Russians.

Every American has a gun. In America it is very easy to acquire weapons, even legally. Wherever you live in America, there's at least one person in the 100-foot neighborhood who's ever shot and doesn't have to have a gun. But, despite the stereotype, many Americans do not have weapons and a support restriction on their possession, but at the same time, no one believes that this should be banned at all. It is worth noting that the possession of weapons in small towns is more common than in large cities, and there are fewer people who keep weapons at home.

Russians like matryoshka. Matryoshkas are really widespread among souvenir shops in Moscow and St. Petersburg. In this sense, they are already becoming a tourist commodity rather than just traditional toys. But, if we consider that after all, most tourists are Russians themselves, then matryoshkas are not just toys for foreigners.

Americans are super patriots. It is believed that in America the level of patriotism is off scale. It has always seemed that Americans are very proud that they are Americans. Mass media also makes us think that Americans know nothing about other countries. In general, to meet patriotic Americans is not a problem. But in fact, many Americans love to travel and admire other nations.

In Russia it is terribly cold. The oceans maintain a moderate temperature, while the continents are full of temperature diversity. So, if we are talking about Russia, then in such remote places from the ocean, for example, South Siberia, ocean heat simply does not reach (maybe some meager percentage). Although the weather there can be very pleasant, and sometimes hot.

All Americans love McDonald's. Many people think that in America the whole fast food of the Earth is concentrated. It is true that such chain restaurant as McDonald's flooded most of the streets. But in fact, American cuisine is very diverse and very tasty. From burgers to Mexican, Cuban, Lebanese, Thai, Chinese, Italian, Russian cuisine. At the same time, there is also a traditional "American" cuisine, which is also very diverse from state to state. From gumbo and jambalaya to the South, to seafood and shellfish to the North. So American cuisine is more than just McDonald's.

The relationship between a person's cultural identity and the character traits attributed to him or her is usually not appropriate. People of different cultures have different understanding of the world, making communication from a "single" position impossible. Guided by the norms and values of their culture, a person determines what facts and in what light to assess, which significantly affects the nature of our communication with representatives of other cultures.

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The difference in the perception of friends and familiar faces for Russians and Americans

It is better to have one hundred friends than one hundred rubles. The meaning of the proverb is obvious: the value of the ruble varies but not the value of friends. This well-known Russian proverb shows the highest degree of importance of amicable and family relationships for a Russian person perfectly. Russians have always relied on a close network of family, friends, and coworkers as protection against the risks and unpredictability of daily life. In the village commune, Russians felt safe and secure in the company of family and neighbors. Today, in the city, they continue to value familiar faces and mistrust those they do not know. Despite its great size, Russia is run on the basis of personal connections. In the workplace and private life, Russians depend on friends who owe them favors, former classmates and others whom they trust. Because of the mistrust of their government, the bureaucracy is not expected to respond equitably to a citizen's request. Instead, Russians will call friends and ask for their help. In their turn, friends will say a good word for the official and all problems will be solved. Americans who want something from the government will approach the official directly and tell about their problems, they hope law and logic will prevail. [1]

In spite of the apparent unlikeness, there are still points of contact. Let's reason the matter out. Like most European languages, Russian has two forms of "you". The more formal "vy" is used between strangers or in addressing people of higher position. The informal "ty" is reserved for friends, family members and children. Americans tend to be informal in their speech—candid, direct, and without any rituals or polite forms. Russians welcome and appreciate such informal talk but usually only after a certain stage in the relationship has been reached. [1] Due to lack of ease in communication Americans often think Russian people are too gloomy and close-lipped. The choice of which of these forms should be used by foreigners in addressing Russians depends on the degree of their relationship. Who can be considered a friend? The word "friend" must be used carefully in Russia. For most Americans, anyone who is not an enemy seems to be a friend. An American can become acquainted with a complete stranger and at once describe that person as a friend. American friendships, however, are compartmentalized, often centering around colleagues in an office, neighbors in a residential community, or participation in leisure activity. This reflects the American unwillingness to get too deeply involved with personal problems of others. A friend in need may be a friend indeed, but an American is more likely to refer a needy friend to a professional for help rather than become involved in the friend's personal troubles. [1] Nevertheless, it does not mean complete indifference. In the USA people will not listen to a lengthy tirade about that the life is unhappy because it is not accepted to complain there. However, people will not refuse to sympathize and say encouraging words. It will not be dry, just brief. Everyone has always got their own problems, someone has more, someone has less, but, in the Americans' opinion, it is not a good idea to tell about their worries to others. Americans are very warm-hearted. If you are lost or look upset, an occasional passer-by will come to you and ask whether you need any help. Communication with Americans is really lightweight. Topics of conversation are usually different, but at the same time completely impersonal. A person learns about the news, but he is unlikely to wait the soulfulness that is inherent in the Russian. In American friendship, there is a concept of personal life, which Russians do not always understand. The American will not try to know about your earnings, will not interfere in your life, will not give unnecessary advice. The boundary between "we have fun together" and "this is not my/your business" is clearly observed. You can spend a whole evening together and discuss a lot of things, but you do not learn anything innermost about each other if your relationship does not reach the right condition. The

situation is no different in Russia. Therefore, the opportunity to find an American friend, who can be trusted, despite some detachment, is possible. [2]

However, the difference still can be traced. In the Russian language, the concepts of "friend" and "acquaintance" are not synonymous. A friend for Russians is an equal member of the family. Such friendships are not made easily or quickly. This friendship is all-embracing and implies a special relationship between people. For the reason that the society has been closed, Russians share their points of view on life\society\politics and so on inside with their friends whom they trust. It is a connecting link between Russian friends. Talking with friends becomes their second nature, even a need. So, in Russia, at four o'clock in the morning, without a phone call, your friend can come to your house, and you're up and putting the teapot on will not be something out of the ordinary. Russians say that "between friends, what's theirs is yours and what's yours is theirs, especially if it's in the refrigerator". Because of the desire to separate, many Americans would regard this as impositions. [1]

So, both Americans and Russian appreciate their friends and they are always ready to come to help. There is essential difference in only two things: how exactly is the trust relationship established between friends and whether the boundaries of privacy are respected. These borders are very often erased for Russian people.

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The Russian soul

Every person has a soul. The soul is an almost weightless part of the body responsible for our moral values. It grows and changes with us. As for properties and qualities of the soul, people's opinions are different in this.

But what is Russian soul? It is a property, a treasure and a pride of the nation that had been formed during a long historical and cultural development. If people talk about England "good old England", implying the preservation and observance of traditions, then about Russia they say "Holy Russia", assuming that Russia is a country historically oriented to spiritual life, a country that adheres to the traditional way of life. We try to know about the Russian and American soul.

The traditions of the Russian people are unique. Let's remember the favorite Shrovetide with mass eating pancakes. The meeting of the Old New Year: you can understand by the name that only Russians could create such a holiday. Be the way, when the Russians give girls in marriage, many customs must be observed to ensure that the marriage was happy.

There is no one much kinder than a Russian in the world. Honestly, the concentration of kindness increases significantly with age in the body of Russian people. Kindness is such a quality, possessing which a person automatically becomes the owner of a «broad» soul. There are many opinions and statements concerning precisely the «scales» of the Russian soul. Of course, it cannot be measured in any way, but you can feel on yourself this waterfall of good and disinterestedness.

The character of the Russian person is special and unique. A Russian man is purposeful, clever and skillful, and lazy at times. The character of Russia is the same. There are many problems coming from laziness, both for the Russian people, and for Russia. Conversation is a very important part of our social life. "There is no better way to get to know Russians than over conversation with food and drink", wrote Mr. Richmond, the author of the book "From Nyet to Da." [1] In the Russian language there is such an adjective "khlebosolny" which consists of two words "bread and salt" and means "hospitable". So, I think this word is the brilliant definition of the Russian soul and Russian character.

Speaking about the traditions of the USA, it is important to consider the characteristic peculiarities of the American nature. Who is a typical American? Americans are nice, welcoming and friendly people. In suburbs and cities neighbours spend free time together, people smile and they are always ready to help if you need it. They always understand the sense of community.

Also, they are willing to experiment. They can change something in their lives without long thinking about it. Americans are friendly and easy in communication. Among their values there is no doubt - the family, a lot of work for free in public organizations.

It can be argued, that the USA determines the life style for the modern humanity. The major life aspirations of the Americans are expressed in the "American dream" idea. A lot of people, even if they are not from the USA try to follow its core principles.

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The system of higher Education in America and Russia

Nowadays people in many countries come across the problem of choosing and entering University. There are some differences between the possible solutions to this question due to the different systems of education. It plays essential part not just only for the individual but it helps in the development of the country because every country needs qualified workers who should be able to solve the problems of the society.

Universities may be either state supported or private. Basically, American universities are private, for example, Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Cornell, Stanford and many others. In Russia, the most popular are state universities.

As for the schedule, it is more convenient in USA because the students should choose their majors and electives they like while studying. But in Russia, all courses are required. They cannot change the schedule. The essence of checking students' knowledge always remains the same: surely, both in Russia and the USA attendance is an important factor of grading the course. Students should attend lectures, seminars and practical classes; also they should take and pass some kind of practice. Just as Russian students, Americans should also pass the finals at the end of the course. In addition, each academic year Russian students write course papers; similarly, in the USA it is also required to prepare and perform a work, which is called a project.

The tuition fees of Russian universities may be different, but nevertheless it's lower than in the US. Sometimes, Americans have to get a job during their holidays. Therefore, not all Americans continue their studies at University.

As for the USA assessment system, students may get A, B, C, D and E grades. A means high level of knowledge; D is minimum knowledge while E is an absolute failure mark. Russian students may get excellent, good, satisfactory or poor marks.

The aim of American system of education is focused to form a unique and independent individual while in Russia the aim is systematic development of knowledge in students.

In Russia the relations between professors and students are just academic and official, while in America they are more informal. Russian teachers are usually attended with great respect and there is a strict borderline between students and the faculty within, but in America a talk on the phone with a teacher is quite a common thing, as well as teachers' involvement into extracurricular activities.

We can see that there are quite a lot of differences between American and Russian higher education but nevertheless it is an essential part for both of these countries. It helps us to self-develop and to become qualified workers in the future. Studentship is a wonderful time for both Americans and Russians. Our life greatly changes during it.

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