THE SOCIO-EDUCATIONAL IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION

Tursunqulova Mashhura Erkinovna
First-year student of Foreign Languages and Literature

Abstract. In the modern era of globalization, learning foreign languages has become an important part of both social life and education. This article discusses how foreign languages influence communication, cultural understanding, and professional development. Special attention is given to the cognitive differences between people who speak one language and those who speak two or more languages. It is shown that multilingualism improves brain functioning, memory, and problem-solving skills. The article also explains how foreign languages create new academic and career opportunities. Overall, learning foreign languages is considered an essential skill in today's global world.

Keywords: globalization, foreign languages, multilingualism, communication, culture, cognitive development, brain function, education

Introduction. Today globalization is influencing almost every part of our life. Countries are becoming more connected, and people communicate with each other more often than before. Because of this, foreign languages are becoming very important. They are not only a subject in school, but also a real-life necessity. People learn foreign languages for different reasons: education, travel, work, or communication. However, their importance is much deeper. Foreign languages help people to understand the world better and become part of the global society.

Foreign Languages and Communication. Communication is one of the main reasons why people learn foreign languages. In today's world, it is very common to meet people from different countries. Without a common language, communication becomes difficult. Knowing foreign languages helps people express their ideas clearly and understand others. It also reduces misunderstandings and helps to build strong relationships. In international business and education, communication skills are especially important [Harmer, 2007, p.19].

Educational Value of Learning Languages. Learning foreign languages has a strong influence on education. It helps students develop important skills such as memory, attention, and critical thinking. Students who learn languages often perform better in other subjects as well. Foreign languages also give access to international knowledge. Many scientific articles, books, and educational platforms are available in foreign languages. Because of this, students who know languages have more opportunities to learn and grow academically.

Brain Function: Monolingual vs Multilingual Individuals. One of the most interesting aspects of language learning is how it affects the brain. There is a clear difference between people who speak only one language and those who speak two or more languages. Monolingual individuals usually use only one system of communication. Their brain processes information in a more direct way, but it may be less flexible. On the other hand, multilingual individuals constantly switch between languages. This process trains the brain and improves its functioning.

Research shows that bilingual and multilingual people have better memory and attention control. Their brains are more active in areas responsible for decision-making and problem-solving

[Bialystok, 2001, p.45]. They are also better at multitasking because they can manage multiple language systems at the same time. Another important fact is that multilingualism can delay cognitive decline in older age. Studies suggest that people who speak more than one language may develop dementia later than monolingual individuals [Craik et al., 2010, p.175]. This shows that language learning is not only useful in youth but also beneficial throughout life.

Cultural Understanding. Language is closely connected to culture. When people learn a language, they also learn about traditions, values, and ways of thinking. This helps them understand other cultures better. In a globalized world, cultural understanding is very important. It helps people respect differences and avoid conflicts. Learning foreign languages makes people more open-minded and tolerant.

Career Opportunities. Foreign languages are very important for career development. Many companies work internationally and need employees who can communicate with foreign partners. Because of this, people who know foreign languages have more job opportunities. They can work in different fields such as business, tourism, education, and translation. In many cases, multilingual individuals also earn higher salaries and have better career growth [Graddol, 2006, p.72].

Personal Development. Learning foreign languages also helps personal development. It improves confidence and communication skills. People who know languages can travel more easily and feel more comfortable in different environments. Language learning also teaches patience and discipline. It takes time and effort, but the results are very rewarding.

Conclusion. In conclusion, learning foreign languages is very important in the era of globalization. It helps people communicate, learn, and grow both personally and professionally. It also improves brain functioning and develops important cognitive skills. The difference between monolingual and multilingual individuals shows that language learning has a strong impact on the brain. Multilingual people are more flexible, attentive, and better at solving problems. For these reasons, foreign languages should be an important part of education. In today's world, knowing more than one language is not just an advantage, but a real necessity.

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