

« The influence of British culture on Russian society »



Работу выполнила ученица 8 «Б» класса
Ковальская Екатерина,
Руководитель: Лазарева С.В., учитель англ.языка

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The aim of my project work: *study the influence of British culture on Russian society, including the study of the process of introduction of English lexicon in our daily lives, the growing popularity of British music and cinema.*

The project problems:

- *Study the theory*
- *Find and analyze the facts, showing the influence of British culture on Russian society*
- *Find out the attitude of students to modern British culture*

Suppose: *British culture has a great influence on Russian society and our daily life*

Today, almost each and every person realizes the importance of English Language for the sake of development in the walk of life. In fact, a working knowledge of English has become a requirement in number of different domains, occupations and professions. At number of schools and Universities, English is compulsory subject for students up to graduation for it is considered to be a useful tool to acquire knowledge, skills and to bring about fruitful interaction. It, thus, brings remote people nearer by means of modern technology and provides the best medium to interact with outside the region, state and country. Hence, through this paper it has been proved that not only English sounds as a universal subject discipline but also a global language. As English is becoming a global language, proficiency in English is considered essential for personal and professional development of a person. It goes without saying that the language plays an important role in the mental, emotional and social development of a person . Though English is a foreign language yet it occupies a unique position in our country. Every language is the pride of the people who use it. No doubt, English has become a universal language . A language which is known all over the countries. In India also, it has occupied an important role. In every sphere of life whether social, political, academic, cultural, economic, scientific and technological development it holds significant value . English language helps us in bringing closer to the rest of the world. Without it, an individual would become an isolated island in the ocean. It is impossible to disagree with Nehru's words: "English is our major window on the modern world "

In every part of our country, while driving along it, you can be sure to see the English signs. You will hear English songs in any entertainment event, and you can often watch English movie on Russian TV, but what's more important - you will always find people who like it all.

The history of Russian-English ties.

The history of Russian-British ties goes back at least 460 years. Throughout this time, Russian culture was a very obvious phenomenon in the British Isles. England first became acquainted with Russian culture in the 16th century, when the embassy of Tsar Ivan IV arrived in London. References to Russia can be found in Shakespeare's plays, including *Love's Labour's Lost* as well as in Virginia Woolf's novel *Orlando*.

Despite the fact that our political relationship has had its ups and downs, the cultural fascination with each other has always helped us to keep in touch. In the 18th and 19th centuries, many influential Russian cultural figures such as Princess Ekaterina Dashkova, the historian Nikolai Karamzin, writers Ivan Goncharov, Ivan Turgenev, Fyodor Dostoevsky and many others visited Britain, along with Alexander Herzen, who lived here in exile. It is around that time that William Shakespeare became as much a cult figure in Russia as Anton Chekhov became in Britain in the 20th century.

After the strain of the unnecessary Crimean War of 1853-1856 and the terms of the Peace of Paris, Russia and Britain rediscovered each other during the allied relationship before and during the First World War. It went far beyond a joint struggle for peace in Europe. This was a time of great cultural exchanges: for example, a mission of prominent Russian public figures, writers and journalists – including the writer Aleksey Tolstoy, Vladimir Nabokov (the father of the novelist), and the children's poet Korney Chukovsky – visited Britain in 1916.

A similar British mission was sent to Russia. It was a genuine breakthrough in the relationship encouraged by the two governments, and it was a time when the people of Russia and Britain looked beyond the stereotypes. During the Second World War the Arctic Convoys served as a living link between the two countries and helped bring the two peoples closer through effective comradeship-in-arms. There are other examples of lasting cultural ties.

Many Russian scientists and artists were awarded the title of honorary doctor at Oxford University. The history of Cambridge University is closely associated with the name of the physicist Pyotr Kapitsa. One of the most memorable 20th-century events in Britain was the visit of the first cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin in 1961.

The Russian cultural presence became more prominent in the period of Russian-British alliances during the Napoleonic wars. Some buildings and monuments in Britain today reflect that influence, notably the sculpture of a Russian eagle on a double column in Bayswater Road in London, the nearby Apsley House and Windsor Castle.

Influence of English on Russian language

Nowadays English language occupies an important place in people's lives. More recently, it was just a foreign language, but now - it's the international language. No exaggeration to say that English is sometimes determines the fate of people and even saves lives. What's it worth? It's simple: the world of English language is given more importance. Every adult wants to learn the language at least at a conversational level, as children begin to train more with young children. What gives us the English language?

First, career. At the present time to find a prestigious job in a large organization must be free proficiency. This is due to the fact that large organizations are among the suppliers and buyers of foreign enterprises, and, accordingly, the negotiation, conclusion of contracts, signing contracts, etc. by it is the international language - English. With English, you can always communicate with business partners to participate in international conferences, read international newspapers and magazines about the business. Expanding economic and cultural contacts with different countries made English proficiency necessary for professionals in various fields. Today it is very popular to get the second tertiary education in "interpreter in professional competence."

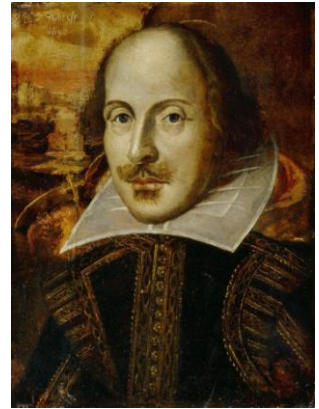
Secondly, a trip abroad. Everyone knows that modern man is the personality of a versatile and curious, seeking in his life to visit as many different countries and cities to get acquainted with the culture and customs of other nations. And how this is possible without knowledge of the English language? In tourist countries, whether Turkey or Spain, everyone who works with tourists speak English. This improves the quality of service visitors, and, hence, attracting more tourists. And the tourists themselves, being in a foreign country, feel much more confident, knowing that, in case anything happens, will always be able to talk with the locals, ask for directions, to clarify the location of something, etc. Tourism also is an important part - everyone knows that without English is difficult to feel confident in foreign country, especially when you traveling alone.

Thirdly, the study itself. Knowledge of the English language gives the opportunity to study in prestigious universities abroad, since it is one of the most important selection criteria for admission. With a diploma, say, London University graduate has an opportunity to get a job around the world, because, as you know, a diploma issued in the UK, one of the convertible.

Anyway, people have hundreds of reasons for learning the language. While studying the language, many people find British culture interesting. So they are beginning to explore it.



Influence of British literature



It is known that for a long time British culture has influenced on the Russian society through literature. The first influence of English literature in Russian can be seen in the XVIII century. Ideas of English literature of the last century were reflected in the Russian culture mostly in journalism and theater.

Influenced by English writers in Russian literature appeared Bourgeois tragedy, which had a great success in Moscow and has become widespread. What about the theater, very popular all over the world as well as in Russia plays written by William Shakespeare. His plays since time of the Russian Empire are an integral part of the repertoire of leading Russian theaters. Russian classical musicians wrote music by his creation, and Shakespearean characters remained in the Russian language as idiomatic phrase.

Important influence of English detectives. People read works of Agatha Christie, Arthur Conan Doyle and involuntarily started to memorize terms and borrow character traits of his favorite characters.

Russian films about Sherlock Holmes have become classics and have become known in whole world.

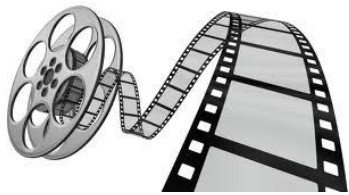
There is even a Russian rock band named "Agatha Christie"

Tremendous impact on society has had works of John Tolkien, which was the subject of thorough study literary critics, creating direction known as «Tolkienistica», devoted to literary and mythological roots of Tolkien's books and his fictional languages. In Russia organized Tolkien Society of Saint Petersburg. Well- known in Russian convents roleplayers: Zilantkon, which takes place since 1991 in Kazan and SibKon, which takes place since 1993 in Tomsk or Novosibirsk

During the census in 2002, many tolkienists pointed nationality as "elves" or "hobbits". The largest percentage of "ethnic elves" have been identified in Perm, where the local club specially organized flashmob.

Reading foreign book in its original context, without translation, you can get much more pleasure from reading, since translation usually is not quite accurate, depends on subjective opinions and skills of an interpreter, and can not convey the true thoughts and emotions that are invested by the author.

A technical literature? Knowledge of the language opens up great opportunities for studying interest and the equipment. The same applies to computer programs and applications. Using English words in Russian, also have considerable importance. In recent years the influx of English words in Russian language has increased significantly. Uttering such words as: "computer", "player", "hamburger," we no longer think about what all these words are borrowed from English. The borrowing of new words due to the influence of foreign cultures, and, for the most part, brings clarity and convenience in the designation of certain items.



Influence of British movies and music

The United Kingdom has had a major influence on modern cinema and has produced some of the most critically acclaimed and commercially successful films of all time. The first moving pictures developed on celluloid film were made in Hyde Park, London in 1889 by William Friese Greene, a British inventor, who patented the process in 1890. It is generally regarded that the British film industry enjoyed a 'golden age' in the 1940s, led by the studios of J. Arthur Rank and Alexander Korda.

Despite a history of successful productions, the industry has often been characterised by a debate about its identity (including economic and cultural issues) and the influences of American and European cinema. The British film industry has produced some of the greatest actors and directors of all time including Sir Alfred Hitchcock, Powell and Pressburger, Sir David Lean, Sir Laurence Olivier, Vivien Leigh, Audrey Hepburn, Sir John Gielgud, Sir Sean Connery, Sir Michael Caine and Sir Anthony Hopkins. The Influence of British cinema is similar to the influence of literature, because the most important films were based on literary works of literature – that is trilogy "The Lord of the Rings", numerous films about Hercule Poirot, Miss Marple or Sherlock Holmes, the film adaptation of Jane Austen's novels, successful series of films based on books about Harry Potter.

Today in Russia is also very popular different British TV series such as "Doctor Who", "Merlin", "Sherlock", etc.

The traditional folk music of England has contributed to several genres, such as sea shanties, jigs, hornpipes and dance music. It has its own distinct variations and regional peculiarities. The most famous Scottish folk song, Auld Lang Syne, is well known throughout the English-speaking world, and is often sung to celebrate the start of the New Year, especially at Hogmanay in Edinburgh.



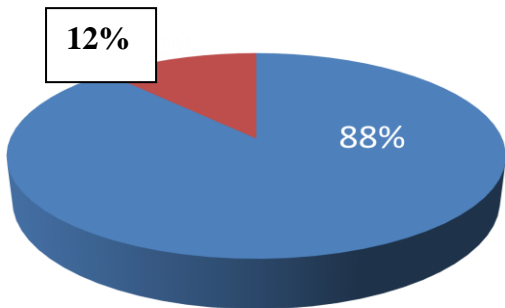
The UK plays a leading role in the development of the world of modern popular and rock music. The UK was one of the two main countries in the creation and development of many genres of popular music, including; rock music; The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Who, The Kinks; hard rock; Led Zeppelin, Cream, Def Leppard, Whitesnake. In the 60s formed and gaining mass acceptance classic British bands and artists: The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan. Influenced by them the Russian-language rock music appeared in the USSR in the 1960-1970s, and reached the peak of development in the 1980s., continuing to develop in the 1990s. Other notable British artists in pop music include; Spice Girls, George Michael, Seal, Leona Lewis, One Direction and Robbie Williams.

Today in Russia there are many "independent" groups that take the basis of their creativity any genre ever enjoyed success in Britain, but unknown in Russia, e.g. shoegazing or britpop.

Researches

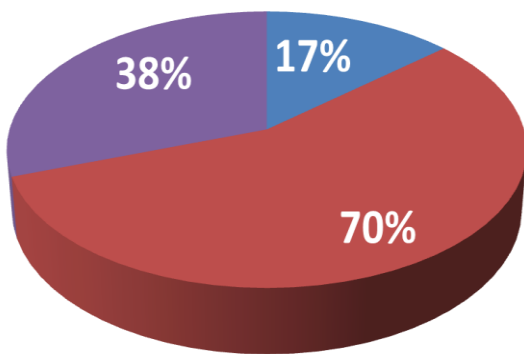
I had examined 100 of students from our lyceum and found out their relations to English language.

Is English important for you?



- 88% of respondents think that they will need English in future , but 12% said “no”.
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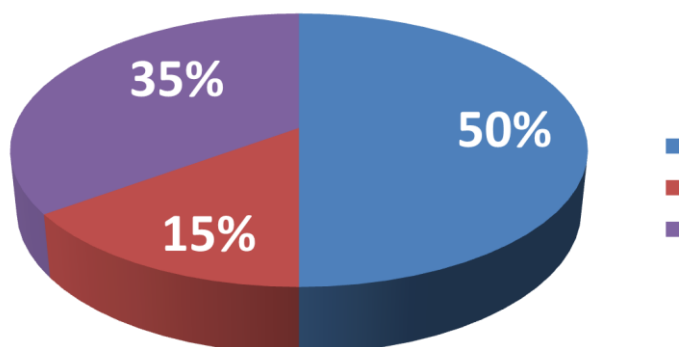
Why do you study English?



- 38% have extra language classes and half of all respondents diligently to learn the language at school and with their hobbies. 70% of all interested in English,
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Because it is the language of international communication, 17% like language for other reasons, and others do not like to learn English.

Do you like Anglicism?



Attitude to the language changes as they get older - so a little less than half of the 6th class students think that English unnecessary or uninteresting, and in 10th -11th classes there are no such. All similar attitude to increase Anglicism in Russian language – about 50% think that it is has beneficial effects on the development of language, 15% think that they clog up language, and about 30% are indifferent to it.

Conclusion

One of the important sources of cultural influence in Britain today is the Russian community. Its members have established a number of organization promoting Russian culture and language and play an important role in the multicultural fabric of British society. The London office of the Russian Federal Agency Rossotrudnichestvo has become a popular place for people in love with the country's culture.

Regular cultural exchanges continue: the Bolshoi and Mariinsky theatres, a huge number of different theatrical companies, exhibitions, singers, musicians, artists and many others are frequent guests in the United Kingdom.

The Year of Culture in 2014 will build on this tradition, contributing to the growing sense of affinity between our nations. The governments of Russia and Britain have designated the year 2014 as Russian-British Year of Culture. More than 250 cultural events are expected to take place in the first project on that scale in our bilateral relations. However, we are not starting from scratch.

British culture has always been welcome in Russia (favourites include Shakespeare, The Beatles, the architect Charles Cameron, the artists James Whistler and George Dawe), but Russian culture has also been popular for centuries in Britain. There is plenty of evidence that our cultural relationship has always had strong elements of interaction and mutual influence.

I came to the conclusion that British culture really has a great influence on Russian society, it has a lot of positive, because knowing English help Russian people travel and work abroad. It breaks the language barrier.



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