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Simultaneous learning of two foreign languages: English, Spanish

**Одночасне оволодіння двома іноземними мовами:
англійська, іспанська**

Анотація

У дослідженні розглянуто поняття двомовності, сутність якої полягає у співіснуванні і взаємодії двох мов у межах одного мовного середовища, здійснено аналіз вивчення іспанської мови, як другої іноземної мови, яка посідає друге у бізнес сфері місце після англійської. Сьогодні студенти закладів вищої освіти найчастіше вибирають вивчення іспанської мови як другої іноземної мови. Отже, володіння двома іноземними мовами дають можливість швидше вийти на міжнародний рівень професійної діяльності та оволодіти міжкультурною комунікацією багатьох країн.

Ключові слова: двомовність, іспанська як друга іноземна мова, англійська.

Abstract

The study considers the concept of bilingualism, the essence of which is the coexistence and interaction of two languages within one language environment, analyzed the study of Spanish, which ranks second in business after English. Today, students of higher education institutions often choose to study Spanish as a second foreign language. Thus, knowledge of two foreign languages makes it possible to quickly reach the international level of professional activity and master the intercultural communication of many countries.

Key words: bilingualism, Spanish as a second foreign language, English.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the human experience is our ability to connect with others. Being able to communicate with someone in his or her language is an incredible gift. The ability to speak and understand two or more foreign languages is known as

bilingualism or more generally multilingualism. Bilinguals have the unique opportunity to communicate with a wider range of people in their personal and professional lives. Knowing the language makes you a local no matter where you are, opening up your world literally and figuratively.

Language skills can be a significant competitive advantage that sets you apart from your monolingual peers. They are among the top eight skills required of all occupations no matter your sector or skill level and the demand for bilingual professionals is rising exponentially. Employers are seeking professionals who can communicate seamlessly with customers in new and expanding overseas markets, as well as serve and sell to a large foreign-born population here at home.

The question of how the two languages interact at the cognitive and behavioral levels has been of long-standing interest to psycholinguists as well as to neurologists, clinicians, and educators. Language, a system of conventional spoken, manual, or written symbols by means of which human beings, as members of a social group and participants in its culture, express themselves. The functions of language include communication, the expression of identity, play, imaginative expression, and emotional release[2]. Our research deals with the students of the faculty of international relations at the second year of study who obtain and learn the Spanish language as a second foreign one.

According to most estimates, Spanish is the mother tongue of more than 400 million people around the globe, which equates to approximately six percent of the world's population[3]. As a result, it is officially recognized as the second most commonly spoken language, when measured by native speakers, ranking ahead of English.

Our students mostly choose Spanish because English has huge numbers of Romance loanwords and most of them are from Spanish. When our students start learning Spanish they face a number of similarities and differences concerning both the languages. There are tons of weird rules and linguistic details to which our English-reading eyes aren't quite accustomed. We are to investigate and show the Spanish grammatical difference in comparison with the English one.

Spanish possesses a gender. While assigning gender to objects is something that is common in other languages, it's almost unheard of in modern English. For English speakers, it can be a bit overwhelming at first. In the Spanish language, every noun is considered to be either masculine or feminine, and the articles "the," *el* (masculine) or *la* (feminine), will often accompany the noun to demonstrate which gender the noun is. It sounds easy enough, but mastering gender gets much more complicated since it's something that affects various parts of the sentence. In order to speak the language properly, there is much more to be learned than just the articles that precede the word. Relative pronouns, adjectives and more within the sentence must also be modified according to the specific gender of the subject. Another possible difficulty of learning gender is simply remembering and recognizing what the gender of a word is. Usually words that end with the letter *o* are masculine, and words that end in the letter *a* are feminine, which is simple enough to remember. But of course, there are many words that have different endings and those that are irregular and unintuitive. Spanish adjectives come after the noun. For starters, in Spanish the adjective generally comes after the noun instead of before. For example, if you wanted to say "the black suit," in Spanish, you'd say *el traje negro* (literally: the suit black). Most all of the time, this will be the setup. But, there are always a few exceptions to every rule. With select types of adjectives—such as quantifiers, for example—they come before the noun. So if you wanted to say "the only house," it would have the same order as English, *la única casa*. The most difficult part of mastering adjectives in Spanish could be remembering to correctly modify them. What is simple about English is that many parts of the sentence will stay the same despite the subject. In Spanish, however, if the subject is plural and feminine (for example), the article and adjective accompanying the subject must also be plural and feminine. Let's look at an actual example: To say "the red flowers," in Spanish, we say *las flores rojas*. See how the article, noun and adjective all end in *-s* since it's plural, and *las* and *rojas* end in *-as* since *flor* is feminine. If we only had "the red flower," singular, it would be *la flor roja*. And if it were a masculine word like *el gato* (the cat), the plural would be *los gatos rojos* (the red cats). In comparison with the English language

negation is much simpler in the Spanish language. In English, negation can be much more complicated than it has to be. The variety of prefixes—like “non-,” “un-,” “dis-,” “in-“—and many other trickster negative words are often required in order to properly negate a word. And when constructing sentences, we also must be careful to avoid using double negatives. In Spanish, it’s much simpler than this. In a sentence, usually just putting *no* before the verb will negate it, and there are fewer prefixes to confuse you. When making Spanish sentences, double negatives are supposed to be used, rather than avoided. English requires that we mix negative and affirmative words, which may create confusion for non-native English speakers.

Despite the fact that there are a variety of difficulties while learning two foreign languages, for students it will be only the benefit to do it. Corporations and international organizations are looking for bilingual or multilingual employees. Learning a new language you can open a whole world of opportunities for yourself. Once you pick up a second language, you will find it much easier to learn a third and fourth.

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