

# THE ROLE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY IN CONTEMPORARY EDUCATION

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## **Abstract:**

In a globalized world where intercultural communication and international collaboration are increasingly vital, proficiency in foreign languages has become an essential asset. This article discusses about the necessity of foreign language acquisition through cognitive, educational, cultural, and economic lenses. Drawing on contemporary research, it argues that multilingualism is no longer a luxury but a foundational skill for global citizenship, academic success, and professional development.

**Keywords:** Necessity, language, English, foreign languages, skills, multilingualism.

## **Introduction**

Language is the cornerstone of human communication and cultural identity. In an era of rapid globalization, the ability to understand and communicate in more than one language offers both practical and intellectual advantages. Foreign language learning promotes not only cross-cultural understanding but also cognitive development, academic achievement, and broader career opportunities. However, despite its clear benefits, language learning remains underemphasized in many national education systems (American Academy of Arts & Sciences, 2017). This article critically examines the necessity of learning foreign languages, integrating empirical studies and expert perspectives to support a multidimensional argument. A growing body of research highlights the cognitive benefits of bilingualism and multilingualism. Bilingual individuals often demonstrate superior executive functioning, including better task-switching ability, working memory, and problem-solving skills (Bialystok, Craik, & Freedman, 2007). These advantages are particularly evident in young learners and older adults,

suggesting that foreign language acquisition enhances brain plasticity and may delay age-related cognitive decline.

Foreign language skills are a necessary element in the education of successful people. Nowadays, this item is presented in the questionnaires of personnel departments of public and private organizations. Candidates who, in addition to their native language, know at least one more, make favorable impression on employers. At present, the personal and professional development of a modern person cannot do without foreign languages. The ability to negotiate with representatives of different cultures forms the development of horizons and allows you to have the opportunity to climb the career ladder in the company, makes it possible to make useful contacts. The changes that have taken place in the past decades have made it possible to open borders for active interaction with other countries, while allowing the exchange of resources and achievements between them. For the successful development of both a particular person and various companies, it became necessary to have contacts with representatives of other countries. In the process of integration into the global economic and cultural space, with the increase and high-quality change in world standards, knowledge of foreign languages becomes one of the important tasks of modern person. A foreign language allows you to open the possibility for free communication and interaction between people of different nationalities and cultures.

Of course, everyone has known that knowledge of English can be very useful in life. Firstly, to know English, we can get more information from various media. This may be your computer, where all the technical information is written in English. You can read books in the original language; the translation does not always objectively reflect the true feelings and emotions that the author put into the novel. What about technical literature? After all, in this case, you could independently study any technique, program and equipment that interests you. Secondly, if you know English, you will always have the opportunity to talk with interesting people on a wide variety of topics, and besides, you can always travel abroad as a tourist, which is much more convenient and cheaper. Do you want to build your career? In this case, you need English like a fresh air. You dream is being an international businessman. What do you think, can you do it without any foreign languages, especially English? Of course, to build up your business career, all international negotiations, trading on stock exchanges - they are all conducted in foreign languages, and you want to take part in international

conferences, communicate with business people, read international magazines and newspapers about business. in this case, you must know English language, improving it every day.

At the moment, good knowledge of any foreign language is a privilege, a skill necessary for a successful life. Knowledge of foreign languages is now one of the main fundamental elements that shape the life of a successful person. A foreign language is required not only in order to purposefully interact in economics and politics, culture and literature, but also for the development of a person as a whole. The fundamental moment in the study of a foreign language is the need to understand and comprehend the worldview of another country, having explored its culture in the language of this country, to get the opportunity to communicate with people of a different mentality and a chance to acquire new knowledge in different fields of knowledge. The degree of proficiency in foreign languages is especially important for all young people who want to have a chance to get a well-paid job in the future, this will allow them to be able to touch the outside world, improve their own communication skills. In accordance with the study, confident knowledge of foreign languages helps to realize oneself in the future, teaches tolerance and trains memory, and is also one of the most important components in their employment. Knowledge of one foreign language allows you to have increased chances for successful employment today. It is important for the employer to understand how useful the employee to whom he provides the workplace can be. A foreign language in this case is not only an ability inherent in a person, but also a condition for the successful interaction of a company and its development within it.

Language learning has also been positively associated with academic achievement. Armstrong and Rogers (1997) found that elementary students receiving foreign language instruction outperformed their peers on standardized tests in reading and mathematics. The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) reports that language learners often develop enhanced listening, analytical, and problem-solving skills, which contribute to success in other disciplines.

Moreover, learning a new language exposes students to different worldviews and intellectual traditions, enriching their critical thinking and intercultural competence. As globalization reshapes educational priorities, multilingualism is

increasingly recognized as a key component of holistic education (Cummins, 2000).

Language is deeply embedded in culture. Learning a foreign language is also an entry point into understanding the values, customs, and beliefs of other societies. According to Risager (2006), language learning fosters intercultural competence—a critical skill in multicultural societies and international relations. As conflicts and global challenges increasingly require cross-border cooperation, language proficiency becomes essential for diplomacy, peace-building, and mutual respect. Language learners develop empathy and an expanded worldview, contributing to more inclusive and cooperative global communities (Byram, 1997).

In the global job market, multilingualism is often a competitive advantage. A 2017 report by the British Council highlighted that language skills are a major asset for businesses engaged in international trade. Multinational companies often seek employees who can communicate effectively across cultures and markets. Additionally, professions in healthcare, law enforcement, education, and public service increasingly demand language skills to serve diverse populations (American Academy of Arts & Sciences, 2017). Economically, investing in language education yields high returns by enhancing productivity and fostering global partnerships.

The necessity of learning foreign languages transcends utilitarian goals. It is a transformative journey that broadens the mind and deepens human connection. While translation technologies may offer temporary solutions, they cannot replicate the emotional nuance, humor, or cultural richness conveyed through authentic language use. True language proficiency fosters empathy, understanding, and cooperation—qualities essential in the 21st century. The evidence is clear: learning foreign languages is not an optional enrichment but a crucial component of intellectual, cultural, and professional development. Cognitive science, education research, and global studies all support the profound impact of multilingualism. To prepare future generations for a world that is interconnected and culturally diverse, language education must be prioritized and universally accessible.

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