

## **THE GLOBAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE: PROSPECTS OR THREATS**

Since the end of the 20th century the English language has served as the lingua franca of politics, science, business and popular culture. Globalisation of English can be defined as the rapid spread of English as a second and foreign language. According to a recent report by British Council, within a decade, there will be 2 billion of people studying English and half of the world will speak it. Learning English has become a demand of the present-day time. Moreover, European integration of Ukraine contributes to the importance of mastering the English language considerably.

On the other hand, UNESCO reported in its recent report also, at the end of 20th century, 6800 languages were classified as being threatened. At least half of the world's languages are endangered and many could vanish in the coming decades or in the current century. It is a little hard to predict the exact pace. UNESCO estimates that half of the world's more than 6,000-7,000 languages will disappear by the end of this century. This devastating loss results from a variety of political, cultural, and environmental factors. Languages go extinct for many reasons, but the main reason – which you could put under the heading globalisation – is that there are very strong

economic and social pressures against languages. Communities, speakers essentially abandon languages because they are forced to do so. They are pressured into it. They come to believe, based on more dominant cultures, that their language is obsolete, backwards and not suited for the modern world; or that the only way to advancement is to switch over entirely to global languages. Linguist Leanne Hinton believes that even strong national languages might have some worries. The European Union, for instance, is increasingly concerned that English will eventually replace some European languages, since it is the only language that many Europeans have in common. And since English seem to be a demanding language that affects most of the social system in our lives, the language is both directly and indirectly mandates us to learn and practice it at all times.

Nowadays, Ukraine witnesses increasing Ukrainian-English language contacts which result in a great number of borrowings in different spheres of human activities including economics, politics, IT technologies, social and every-day life. The growing number of duplets is considered to be a threat to the language. Ukrainians replace original Ukrainian words with loan words increasingly. Thus, more and more people say *міленіум, офіс, менеджер* instead of *тисячоліття, контора, керівник* correspondingly. We should also mention barbarisms such as *no problem, no comment, made in* and others which are especially popular among young people.

In our opinion, each language should preserve its own basics and rules of pronunciation; we cannot just replace our own words with foreign ones just because it unifies languages. We have to keep our national pride and try to avoid using English words such as *style, party, trash* and *glamour* instead of Ukrainian ones. They are considered to be replacements rather than loan words. Replacement is only justified when there is no analogue. Learning of English is certainly very essential for higher education, communication with multi-lingual societies and institutions as well as for venturing abroad for education or business purposes. But despite the respect to the great language named English, it should be urgently seen, realised and made sure that the regional languages are not neglected.