



**INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION: DIFFICULTIES
AND OPPORTUNITIES OF LEARNING A FOREIGN
LANGUAGE**

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Abstract: Intercultural communication: the topic of difficulties and opportunities in learning a foreign language is very interesting and relevant. This topic allows you to study not only the aspects of learning a foreign language in the process of language teaching, but also related to intercultural differences, difficulties and new opportunities. The thesis, on the other hand, presents some problems and thus suggestions.

Keywords: Cross-cultural, behavior and customs, semantic barriers, grammatical and syntactic differences, Intercultural competence, interactive learning, empathy

The biggest obstacles to learning a foreign language are the cross-cultural differences. Cross-cultural differences mean differences in values, customs, meanings of words and expressions in the language of a nation. In the relationship between culture and language, language is not only a means of speech, but it is also based on humanity's own worldview, social and cultural values, historical, geographical and economic conditions of each society. Therefore, in the process of learning a language, a language learner inevitably encounters cultural differences.

One of the important obstacles is **semantic barriers**¹. A language learner can often misunderstand the meanings of words in a language. This is caused by semantic barriers, i.e. the fact that words and phrases have different meanings in different cultures. For example, the word "dog" in English may have generally positive or neutral meanings in most cultures, but in some cultures this word may have negative, even offensive meanings.

The second problem is **behavior and customs**². Cross-cultural differences also affect behavior, customs, and ethical standards. For example, in some cultures it is

¹ Inesh Gubaidullina. The ways to overcome the language barrier. 2021. № 34 (376). — Pp. 155-157.

² PERSONALITY TRAITS AND SUCCESS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE ACQUISITION. A.I. Krupnov, Yu.V. Kozhukhova. The Chair of Social and Differential Psychology Peoples' Friendship University of Russia. Miklukho-Maklaya str., 6, Moscow, Russia, 117198



possible to recognize the right view or strict lifestyle, while in others such behavior may be seen as unexpected and wrong. A language learner who is not familiar with these aspects of culture may have difficulty learning the language.

It can be said that **grammatical and syntactic differences** are also one of the main problems. Grammatical and syntactic differences also play an important role in learning a foreign language. Each language has its own grammar rules that reflect the history, evolution, and worldview of the culture. For example, passive constructions in English are rarely used in some cultures, preferring sentences in the active state. This, in turn, creates additional problems in the process of language learning by students.

So what to do to overcome intercultural barriers when teaching a foreign language? There are a number of pedagogical approaches to overcoming these problems.

Intercultural competence³ is the ability to understand and appreciate other cultures. It involves having an open mind, being respectful, and communicating effectively with people from different backgrounds. To develop this skill, several methods can be employed:

✓ Intercultural learning: This involves learning about the values, customs, and social systems of other cultures in addition to the language. For example, when teaching English, teachers can provide detailed information about British or American culture, traditions, and social relationships.

✓ Cross-cultural events: These include exchange programs, learning processes, and conversations on online platforms that allow students to engage with people from other cultures. They help students understand the perspectives of others and develop a more nuanced understanding of cultural differences. By incorporating these methods into the curriculum, students can develop intercultural competence and become more tolerant and accepting of diversity.

Another important method is **interactive learning**⁴, which provides students with the opportunity to experience cross-cultural differences in a real-life setting. These methods increase student engagement and help them learn the language within a cultural context. For example, students can participate in role-playing activities that simulate different cultural situations, allowing them to understand and appreciate cross-cultural differences more effectively. They can also engage in discussions about intercultural relations and values, which helps them gain a deeper understanding of other cultures and apply their language learning skills in practical situations.

³ DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS' INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE IN THE PROCESS OF LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE. Shoira F. Ismailova. 2022.

⁴ Бободжонов, X. М. Interactive technologies in language teaching . 2020. № 21 (311). С. 755-756.



But for taking classes in a foreign language, first of all, **intercultural competence of the teacher** is also an important factor. The teacher must understand not only language, but also intercultural differences and provide students with the necessary tools to overcome them. For example, a teacher should quickly identify and help students' intercultural problems. It is based on the experience of the teacher in working with different cultures.

The teacher must have a good understanding of his culture and, through it, show students the guidance of overcoming intercultural differences.

If teachers themselves have cross-cultural competence, they can help students **learn empathy** to understand the opinions and views of individuals in other cultures. Through this, they perceive intercultural differences in a positive way.

Several pedagogical approaches can be used to help overcome cross-cultural barriers when teaching a foreign language. These include the development of intercultural competence, the use of interactive methods and information technology, as well as the development of empathy and cultural awareness. These approaches help students to better understand other cultures and enhance their ability to learn the language more effectively. By developing these skills, students can overcome cross-cultural differences and achieve success in their language learning journey.

Intercultural communication can present challenges in learning a foreign language, yet it also offers new opportunities. Benefits such as gaining an understanding of cultural differences, developing global thinking, and establishing social connections can enhance the learning experience. By incorporating these aspects into the learning process, teachers and students can improve their intercultural communication skills. To foster intercultural understanding, it is essential for teachers and students to develop a deeper understanding of different cultures and apply a contextual approach in their learning. Additionally, creating psychological support systems can help alleviate the challenges associated with learning a foreign language. These strategies not only aid in overcoming obstacles but also enable students to thrive in intercultural interactions.

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