



Psychological Characteristics of Foreign Languages Speakers

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PSYCHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES SPEAKERS¹

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Bilingualism and polylinguism are complex, multifaceted phenomena that have both a linguistic nature and social determinism, supported by psychological aspects.

In modern Western psycholinguistics and psychology, issues of bilingualism and polylinguism are actively studied from the standpoint of emotional perception and empathy (Dewaele and Wei 2013), a neuropsychological approach, the relationship of bilingualism with mental health and emotional balance (Martinovic and Altarriba 2013), with divergent thinking (Kharkhurin 2010), with cognitive control (Biyalistok et al. 2012). Meanwhile, in Russian science, the topic of the psychological aspect of bilingualism and polylingualism remains poorly studied, despite the undeniable multilingual intercultural environment of Russia.

The aim of the research is to study the psychological characteristics of foreign languages speakers.

Partisipants: Students with special educational needs in foreign languages learning of the Alliance Française cultural center and of the Southern Federal University (46 people) took part at the research, with 7 men and 39 women. They were divided into three conditional groups: 1) bilinguals (17 people), 2) multilinguals (14 people) and 3) monolinguals (15 people).

The research participants are “artificial” bilinguals and polylinguals, because they were learning a foreign language at school, university, language center, and not within the family, implementaring of actualized language educational needs.

Research hypothesis: differences in the psychological characteristics of bilinguals and multilinguals may be due to the peculiarities of their dominant thinking styles.

Empirical research objectives:

1. Conduct a comparative analysis of the severity of psychological characteristics between native speakers of a foreign language and monolinguals, between bilinguals and polylinguals.

2. Make a correlation analysis of psychological characteristics of foreign languages speakers .

Psychological testing was carried out using the **following techniques:**

1. Questionnaire "Styles of thinking" by A. A. Alekseev and L. A. Gromova (1993: 351).

2. The BFI five-factor personality questionnaire modified by S. Shchebetenko, (2014: 129-148).

3. Test of Eysenck's mental states.

4. Thomas-Kilman test for behavior in a conflict situation.

Statistical data processing was carried out using the STATISTICA 13.0 software package. Descriptive, comparative and correlation analyzes have been carried out.

Results.

The following significant differences were revealed between native speakers of foreign languages and students who speak the same language: the tendency to attract attention among native speakers of a foreign language is higher ($p < 0.05$), which can be explained by changing social requirements for job search and conditions for successful work and comfortable life; the tendency to plasticity among native speakers of a foreign language is higher ($p < 0.05$), which

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can be explained by the need to switch from the logic of one language to the logic of another as quickly as possible.

As a result of a comparative analysis of the psychological characteristics of bilinguals and multilinguals, the prevalence of the realistic style of thinking in bilinguals ($p < 0.05$) was revealed, which can be explained by their rationality, while the idealistic style of thinking dominates in polylinguals ($p < 0.05$).

It was shown that bilinguals are significantly more prone to passivity in behavior, while polylinguals are more likely to be active ($p < 0.05$), which is associated with their dominant thinking styles.

It has been reliably confirmed that bilinguals, in contrast to polylinguals, demonstrate a higher level of affection, and are also more inclined to show warmth, are open to cooperation, more often show understanding and respect for others, whereas polylinguals are more prone to competition ($p < 0.05$). These results can also be explained by the preference of bilinguals for a realistic style of thinking, since the above characteristics are more socially acceptable and cause strong business social contacts.

It has been substantiated that polylinguals demonstrate a higher level of aggression than bilinguals ($p < 0.05$), which may be due to their idealistic style of thinking, lack of understanding of a specific problem, the search for its solution, awareness of its causes and consequences.

Conclusion. We revealed the dominance of a realistic style of thinking, a tendency to passivity in behavior and a high level of attachment in bilinguals, in contrast to polylinguals ($p < 0.05$) and also a higher level of aggression in polylinguals in contrast to bilinguals ($p < 0.05$).

It is concluded that the differences in the psychological characteristics of bilinguals and polylinguals are due to the characteristics of their dominant thinking styles.

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