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Эсперанто – ключ к единству?

В мире политических страстей, религиозных войн и разногласий сейчас как никогда не хватает того, что могло бы объединить людей под единым началом, создав нейтральный базис для свободных международных коммуникаций. Со всеми этими задачами справился бы единый международный общепринятый язык, а именно эсперанто – искусственно созданный язык польским лингвистом Людвиком Заменгофом. Он легок в освоении, достаточно благозвучен и именно ему удалось продержаться на плаву в течение более ста тридцати лет в отличие от других искусственных языков. Данная статья раскроет историю его зарождения и развития во времени, отличие от иных языков, включая естественные, его преимущества и недостатки, а также причины, почему эсперанто не удалось продвинуться дальше и стать официальным международным языком.

Is Esperanto the key to unity?

It is worth remembering one of the most prominent Biblical legends, which have come up to our days. It is the legend of the Tower of Babel. According to the story, a united humanity following the Great Flood, speaking a single language and migrating from the east came to the land of Shinar. There they agreed to build a city with a tower up to the sky; and seeing this, God deprived them of a common language so that they could no longer understand each other and scattered them around the world [5].

No one can state with certainty that this story is true and a lot of centuries ago there was a common language, in which people could communicate without any bounds. However, about one hundred and thirty years ago a Polish linguist Ludwik Lejzer Zamenhof gave the world something that would be a worthy prototype of such a common language [4]. It is called Esperanto.

Esperanto is a constructed international auxiliary language and the most widely spoken constructed language in the world as well. Nowadays, according to various estimates, there are from several hundred thousand (theory of Jouko Lindstedt, Finnish linguist) to several million (theory of Sidney S. Culbert, American linguist and Esperantist) speakers of Esperanto, or Esperantists [6]. Unfortunately, more accurate data does not exist and it is extremely difficult to ascertain. Esperanto was created in the late 1870s and early 1880s by L. L. Zamenhof and as a result in 1887 in Warsaw the first manual of Esperanto was published, «First Book» or in the language Esperanto «*Unua Libro*». Zamenhof signed the work as "Doktoro Esperanto" (Doctor One-Who-Hopes). Those who learned the new language began to call it "Esperanto" after Zamenhof's pen name, and Esperanto soon became the official name of the language, although initially the language was called «Internacia», i.e. «International» [6].

But what is the difference between Esperanto and all other native or artificial languages? Why has not it sunk into oblivion, and a century later still has its place of honor in the linguistic world? What are the pros and cons of Esperanto and any international language in general? And nevertheless, why has not Esperanto gained more popularity, and has not become the number one language all over the world?

First of all, Esperanto is a unique language because its grammar, vocabulary and orthoepy are maximally simple and easy for memorizing and studying. An interesting fact is that the Institute of Cybernetic Pedagogy at Paderborn (Germany) has compared the length of study time it takes native French-speaking high-school students to obtain comparable standard levels in Esperanto, English, German, and Italian and the results were surprising. Studying German takes 2000 hours, English requires 1500 hours and Italian (or any other Roman languages such as Spanish, Portuguese and Romanian) requires 1000 hours, while Esperanto takes just 150 hours [6]. It is an incredible difference. What is the reason for this? Perhaps, the greatest advantage of learning Esperanto is the absence of any exceptions to the rule. There is no doubt that memorizing thousands of exceptions to the rules is one of the main problems in the study of any

language. For example, in the German language there are about 5000 of rules and 45000 exceptions. Grammar basics of Esperanto are constituted only by 16 rules and the alphabet is based on the Latin script, using a one-sound-one-letter principle, but the vocabulary is a mix of several major world languages: about 75% of the vocabulary comes from Latin and the Romance languages (especially French), 20% are German (German and English) and other expressions are taken from the Slavic languages (Russian and Polish) and Greek (mostly scientific terms). Also it uses large quantities of international words; therefore, people who speak Russian, even without knowing the language, would be able to read about 40% of the text in Esperanto. The language does not have grammatical genders and word order is arbitrary. There are only two cases, three tenses, three moods of verbs and an extensive system of prefixes and suffixes, which can be used to create many new words from a single root [2].

The idea of creating an international artificial language has existed for a long time in the minds of people and there were quite a lot of attempts to do that. In 1868 a French linguist Jean Pirro invented the «universal language», Universalglot, but unfortunately, the project of Pirro stayed unnoticed by the public. In 1879 a German Catholic priest Martin Schleyer composed the constructed language Volapük, which was forgotten as well. Only Zamenhof's Esperanto was able to achieve such a global fame, which it possesses at the present day due to the most successful structure of the language. However, nowadays the international community is not ready to make an effort and raise Esperanto to a new level because of strained relations between many countries, nations and entire civilizations and as a consequence the lack of need in spiritual and linguistic unity [7].

What benefits could the humanity acquire, if it used a neutral international language? At first, it is certainly omniparity. For instance, if one of the interlocutors is English-speaking and the other is not, he or she will have to be able to understand a different language. Thus, Esperanto is a step towards each other because both participants of communication should make an effort to understand each other. Secondly, it can be used to see the world. There are lists of Esperanto speakers, who are ready to host other speakers in their own home or apartment [3]. Thirdly, it is translations of literary masterpieces. Many works have been translated into Esperanto while some of them may not be available in the native language of Esperantist ("Hamlet" by Shakespeare, "Iliad" of Homer, as well as the Bible and the Koran) [1].

However, Esperanto, like everything else, has some drawbacks. For example, writing letters is difficult using a modern keyboard because of diacritical marks such as *ĉ*, *ŝ* and *ĝ*. What is more, representatives from different countries are constantly trying to make the amendments to improve the language. This leads to disputes and differences in educational materials. Also its euphony is called into question, but the majority of people argue that it resembles Spanish or Italian [2].

Esperanto has not received the world fame and there are several reasons for this. Political turmoil of the 20th century had a significant impact on the spread of Esperanto in the world. In Nazi Germany, there was a motivation to persecute Esperanto because Zamenhof was Jewish. In *Mein Kampf* Adolf Hitler specifically mentioned Esperanto as an example of the language that could be used by an international Jewish conspiracy once they achieved world domination. In the USSR there was an active dissemination of Esperanto in the 1920s, on the proposal of Leon Trotsky; it was widely studied as the "language of the world revolution." But from the middle of 1930s Esperantists were persecuted by Joseph Stalin on suspicion of espionage. As a result, the Esperanto movement in the Soviet Union and Germany in fact ceased to exist [6].

Howbeit, Esperanto definitely has a future. It could be the first step towards the convergence of different nations and mentalities because this language is neutral to the political and religious views. Ludwik Zamenhof did not choose his pseudonym «One-Who-Hopes» in vain; he hoped that one day his creation will become the main tool opening the new vistas for all mankind in the spheres of politics, tourism, business, culture, communication, etc. Perhaps, someday humanity will realize that for common prosperity, peace and welfare everybody should stand united, not physically or even politically, but spiritually; and everyone will be able to understand other people and will be understood by them.

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Английские имена собственные в произведениях о Гарри Поттере

Статья посвящена этимологии и разным прочтениям имен, терминов и названий магических мест в серии книг о Гарри Поттере, написанной британской писательницей Джоан Роулинг. Особое внимание уделено семантизации иноязычной лексики романов.

Proper Names in Harry Potter books

Every person at least once in their life has heard about “the boy who lived”. Fourteen years, seven books and eight blockbuster films later, the Harry Potter brand, valued at over \$15 billion, is still going strong [1]. The huge advantage of Harry Potter novels is that this is a good literature for English learners. Many non-native speakers reread it in English. The language is beautiful and quite simple, partly because J. K. Rowling has written her novels for children. In addition, the books and the films based on them have produced an incredible amount of new words and phrases. The author thought through every detail in her Harry Potter series. Rowling's work is so thought-out and profound that the words, names and terms deserve a close look. This article deals with etymology and semantics of the words used in these novels.