

## NONVERBAL CULTURAL CODES IN TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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*This article is devoted to nonverbal cultural codes in teaching foreign languages. They are viewed as a necessary part of educational process because their knowledge helps avoid any communicative barriers and sometimes language ones. The definition of the term 'nonverbal cultural codes' is represented in this work some kinds of nonverbal cultural codes are given.*

**Key words:** *nonverbal cultural codes, teaching foreign languages, foreign language lesson.*

## НЕВЕРБАЛЬНЫЕ КОДЫ КУЛЬТУРЫ КАК НЕОБХОДИМАЯ ЧАСТЬ ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОГО ПРОЦЕССА ПРИ ОБУЧЕНИИ ИНОСТРАННОМУ ЯЗЫКУ

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*Данная статья посвящена невербальным кодам культуры при обучении иностранным языкам. Невербальные коды культуры рассматриваются как необходимая часть образовательного процесса при обучении иностранным языкам, поскольку их знание помогает избежать коммуникативных и языковых барьеров. В работе рассмотрено определение данного понятия «невербальные коды культуры» и приведены их примеры.*

**Ключевые слова:** *невербальные коды культуры, обучение иностранным языкам, урок иностранного языка.*

The modern world is striving for globalization. We read about this in print media, on the Internet, and in many TV programs and documentaries, but nevertheless, when people come to another country and even know the language of this country, they often face unexpected traditions sometimes windfall ones that they do not know how to respond to. If such problems did not exist, in the age of globalization, there would be no contemporary literature and fiction films that are about the difficulties of perception of "their" traditions, "their" culture, which are devoted to this situation in whole or in part, for example: 'How I became Russian', dir. Konstantin Statsky, 2015; 'The Assassin From Apricot City. Reportages from Turkey (Zabójca z miasta moreli. Reportaże z Turcji)' by Witold Szablowski, 2015.

There are a lot of ways to improve foreign language skills [1], [2], [3], [4], [2], [6], [7]. You may have the perfect knowledge of any foreign language, but it is almost impossible without knowing traditions that are an everlasting source of nonverbal cultural codes. Cultural codes are the cues which provide better understanding of a culture. Nonverbal cultural codes are cultural patterns which we can understand without words or which we just copy not to offend people, for example, when we see a girl in Russia in a white dress with many people around we understand that she is a bride, a bride in India should wear a red dress. When you are in Russia you should take off your shoes while entering somebody's home, vice versa in the USA or other English-speaking countries. You know, there are always exceptions, much depends.

We think that festivals are the most interesting source of nonverbal cultural codes because many residents just keep their traditions, follow them but they do not remember the idea or their versions may vary or even be diametrically opposed.

Easter is a good example of the mentioned idea. The Sunday before Easter in Poland is called Niedziela Palmowa, and then begins Wielki Tydzień. The Saturday before Easter is called Wielka Sobota. On this day, people take a basket with food (koszyk z jedzeniem) and go to the Church. The following food is usually put in the basket:

Baranek – lamb;

Wędlin – sausage products;

Chrzan – horseradish;

Masło – butter;

Jajka – eggs;

Sól – salt;

Babka wielkanocna - Easter 'Baba' [8].

We did not dig for information about what the food in the Easter basket symbolizes in books or on the Internet, but asked the Polish people. Interestingly, the answers varied slightly, but we chose the most common ones. Lamb (usually made of sugar) symbolizes the Risen Christ, sausage products are a sign that the fast is over, horseradish reminds of disappointments, butter means prosperity, eggs — rebirth, new life, salt — absolution, it is also considered a talisman, Easter "Baba" — fertility.

In the UK 'Easter was once a traditional day for getting married, that may be why people often dress up for Easter. Women would make and wear special Easter bonnets - decorated with flowers and ribbons. Even today in Battersea in London there is a special Easter Parade, where hand-made bonnets are shown off. And Britain children hunt for (chocolate) Easter eggs hidden about the home or garden by the Easter bunny.

Rabbits, due to their fecund nature, have always been a symbol of fertility. The Easter bunny (rabbit) however may actually be an Easter hare. The hare was allegedly a companion of the ancient Moon goddess and of Eostre.

Morris dancing is a traditional English form of folk dance which is also performed in other English-speaking countries such as the USA and Australia. The roots of morris dancing seem to be very old, probably dating back to the Middle Ages.

In the dance men dress up in costumes with hats and ribbons and bells around their ankles. Men will run up to young women in the street and hit them over the head with the pigs bladder, this is supposed to be lucky (men)! [9]’.

To crown it all it should be noted that knowing of any foreign language is a very necessary part of our modern life, because any employer wants his or her employees be competitive. One may say that all the ways of developing or improving foreign language skills are good and useful. Nonverbal cultural codes, their knowledge helps to enrich the vocabulary, overcome communicative barriers and language ones, and better understand the "their" culture, which is extremely important for the formation of a multicultural language personality.

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