

# **LANGUAGE AS A TOOL OF COMMUNICATION**

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The article considers communication issues related to language transmission of information and the social significance of language as a cultural element. During the study it is highlighted that language is the most natural and the most reliable way of communication because using the language the original information is transmitted and also it helps to see and to feel the essence of communication. It means that the subject who transmits the information is not only audible and visible but we can also see his body language, hear his tone, attitude and etc. This method of communication combines two elements of its content: verbal and non-verbal that basically represents the body language, for example: smile, facial expression, various gestures, expressed mood and etc. Also article emphasizes that the language is one of the most important elements of identity and culture of any nation or individual social groups.

The topic combines two concepts: language and communication. First of all, what is the language? While analyzing various sources we can find a variety of concepts from the philosophical to the scientific. However, the whole concept combines the fact that language is the information transmission source and the most important tool of communication which connects verbal and non-verbal elements. The language includes not only grammatical and logical sounds but also a variety of notation. Language has a decisive importance of the development to individual, separate state and the whole of humanity in general. Therefore the language itself is also a social and cultural element.

Communication is defined as the exchange of information signs (language, gestures, facial expression, movements and etc). It is the process to exchange the information and the speaker assumes that his interlocutor does not know what he wants to share [1]. It means that communication is always directed to the other – to the listener, it is always an interaction between a group or two individuals, it is a common mindset when one informs and others are informed. It is natural that depending on the number of entities of social communication it can be a single, group or mass. It is important to understand communication not only as a speaker or the action of the speech. It can not be separated from the activity of the listener – listening. The listening itself, as the process of understanding we should understand as an active action of the listener. Communication is not just a simple action when someone sends and another one necessarily gets. It is necessary to understand the addressable information[1]. It is understood that language is not only a tool of communication or a way of societies and nation development but it is also an expression of the national culture, the method of its identity and connection. While speaking about the importance of

language to the national culture and mutual communication, emigrants J. Girnius stated that language is the brightest symbol of ethnic individuality and along the most significant factor in the relevant community to fuse to the nation [2, p. 69]. In his propositions author notes that the language as a tool of communication is connecting one group and also separate it from other groups. Language enables a person to maintain relationships with his own nation, to use his nation's spiritual wealth and its verbal creativity. It is understood that while creating their own culture, every nation uses its own tool of cultural expression – national language. Every nation develops the language, improves and cherish it. Therefore the language can not exist isolated from the overall national culture. While being a tool of communication, thinking and expression of national culture, language is also a result of cultural development, with distinctive features as linguists calls it – “the spirit of the language”. While talking about the importance of language mentioned author links it with even the nation's survival. He states that although the language is a tool of communication, if it is taken up from other nations, the nation which took it can also start to “melt” slowly. However, it is not always as such, for example the Irish came back to Celtic language which was almost dying, only after they won the freedom [2, p. 69]. Along the author states that still language is not the main factor to influence the unity of nation. For example Germans are not the only one who speaks German language – Austrians and Swiss does that too. French language is not only used in France but also in Belgium and Switzerland. English is also spoken in North America and etc.[2, p. 70]. It may be added that Belarus is a sovereign state, although the Belarusian language is not the only one language of the nation. In Belarus neighboring Russian language is often used even by the highest state leaders.

However, language is a tool of communication which transmits the information. That is why depending on its content and the complexity of information it is necessary to know how many times we have to repeat the information [3, p. 9]. Verbal language is better in transmitting thoughts, ideas, feelings, and desires because the listener sees gestures, facial expressions, and posture [4, p. 55]. Verbal communication has two forms: dialogue and monologue [4, p. 54]. Verbal dialogue is when a single person or a group use communicative act continuously.[5, p. 176 - 183]. However, we should note the fact that the language is not only a tool of information transmission but also a tool of thought formation and interpretation. After all, communication often takes place during the group thought formation and while discussing and solving highly complex issues. At that time the idea is not formed by the separate individual as it is sometimes unable to understand, but it is formed as an activity of whole group. Also, we are not capable to lift something with one finger but if we will put all fingers together any work will be easier. That is why language becomes a tool not only for communication and information transmission but also for thought formation and interpretation. As a result, we can say that language is not just a tool for communication but it is also a way to improve and develop ideas. Meanwhile it could not be said about the non-verbal communication as it transmits the information about the mood and mentality, culture and other external human features. But on the other hand, it is understandable that a non-verbal

communication is one of the most important elements in order to ensure an effective communication. It should be emphasized that science is interested in non-verbal communication and there are many appropriate studies abroad. In Lithuania foreign scholar studies can be effectively used only for facial expressions because the rest of non-verbal subgroups become the result of the cultural nature of each state. Therefore in order to maximize the application of research for Lithuania it is necessary to carry out the similar research with Lithuanian culture representatives [6, p. 167]. As mentioned language identifies the nation and their culture but today no one can say how many languages there are in the world exactly. The reason is that many languages are not fully researched; some of them do not have their own writing and literature so sometimes it is difficult to determine whether we are dealing with independent language or only dialect of some language. It is also not clear how many tribes (and their languages) are still unknown to science as it hides in South American jungle, in the islands of Oceania and other difficult to reach and not enough explored territories. Knowing the social importance of the language and communication it is still attempt to register all the world's languages. In meeting of the International Congress in Spain in 1970's linguists counted 2976 languages, although some consider that there are much more. In German Democratic Republic published linguistics manual found nearly twice the number – 5651. By the information of manual more than 1400 languages are dying or are unacknowledged. Only 500 of the 4200 independent languages are better explored, and 1500 languages almost not been studied. Three-quarters of all languages has no writing [7]. While being the most important communication tool of the social environment language is also one of the most important tool of identity for any nation or small group and also a source of survival and cultural development.

Language is one of the most important and the most prominent way of communication. Also the language can be a tool of communication and a part of social identification element of the culture.

1. The oral communication can be not only verbal or non-verbal tool to give information but also a way to form and develop collective thoughts.
2. Although the language can identify the nation or social group but it is not a decisive factor influencing social unity and identification survival. Because there are nations who speaks foreign languages.

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