

Сергій Тарасов

студент 1 курсу спеціальності 141 «Електроенергетика,
електротехніка, електромеханіка»

Науковий керівник: **О.В. Чайковська,**

к.філол.н., викладач кафедри іноземних мов,

Подільський державний аграрно-технічний університет,

м. Кам'янець-Подільський

THE LANGUAGE BARRIER IN ENGLISH

Nowadays one of the main and actual issues of foreign languages learning is the so-called 'language barrier'. There are some researches, but strategies are outdated. So, we are offering new and innovative tools to overcome this phenomenon. Because the need to learn foreign languages is extremely important nowadays. Foreign language competence gives you several benefits: getting a job or getting to study abroad, learning new cultures and traditions, feeling comfortable during your travel, in general, is the thing that brings a huge amount of pleasure. Each of us has a reason or maybe not the only one, why studying a new language is important and why do you want to speak in a non-native language. On your way, there may be several obstacles and challenges that will interfere with your result, but the main problem is the 'language barrier' with which the majority facing daily, so we will try to help you today to understand this issue and overcome it once and forever.

The purpose and objectives of this article is to help you to explain most clearly what does it mean the term 'language barrier ', and I will be your guide who will help you to understand in detail the common reasons, and besides, we will propose a list of ways to overcome it and we will give you a good piece of advice, some of them based on personal experience because I'm among the number of people who have had this kind of issue and got through this extremely terrible challenge. Do not wait with a thought that it is running out by its own. You must overstep your fear and become a greater person and a fluent speaker. I hope that this article helps you in your life and you will be released from the chain of the widespread terrifying phenomenon.

First of all, consider the term itself and get acquainted closer. So 'the language barrier' is a phrase that is used in a figurative sense and denoting the difficulties that arise, when we are speaking in a language other than ours. It should also be noted that this phenomenon could face beginner and a person who for a long time studying a foreign language and has a piece of good luggage of knowledge.

And now it is time to consider the root of evil, I mean the reasons for the 'language barrier'[3]. To categorize the issues we have to divide into: linguistic and psychological.

So let's begin with the linguistic:

1. Poor vocabulary. The richer your vocabulary is, the easier it is for you to express your thoughts to the other person. With a poor vocabulary, it will be more difficult for you to explain, as well as to understand the words of an English-speaking friend.

2. Insufficient knowledge of grammar. Of course, even knowing the times of the simple group will already allow you to chat on some simple topics. However, if you want to communicate your thoughts to the interlocutor more precisely, learning more complex grammatical structures cannot be avoided. Also, to fully perceive the English language by ear in full, you need to understand all the subtleties of English grammar.

3. Lack of practice. If you speak only a couple of hours a month in English and listen for half an hour a week, the appearance of the language barrier should not surprise you. For the systematic development of any skill, be it speaking or listening, you need regular "training", that is, English classes. Based on the experience, we recommend studying with a teacher at least 2-3 times a week for 60-90 minutes and independently study English daily or every other day for at least 20-30 minutes. Remember how people learn to drive: to feel confident behind the wheel, you need to constantly practice. One lesson per week or month will not bring the desired result. Another way to become an experienced speaker is to participate webinars [1] or to become a member of the social media group like "podcasts users" [2] and exchange information.

And now it is time for the the psychological component:

1. Fear of the unknown

It often happens that if you need to say something in English, we fall into a stupor. This may occur because we find ourselves in an atypical situation for ourselves: we need

to talk to a stranger in a foreign language. In addition, we do not know what this conversation will turn into: on what topic the interlocutor will speak, what phrase will he say further, and so on.

2. Fear to make mistakes

Of course, the main enemy in speaking in English is the fear of “blasting out something wrong”. When talking with an English-speaking interlocutor, we are so afraid of appearing silly or ridiculous that we prefer to keep silent or say only Yes or No. Psychologists explain this fear by the fact that we got used to it from childhood: we are punished for mistakes. Therefore, even adults subconsciously try to avoid mistakes, so they prefer to keep their mouths shut in the truest sense of the word.

3. Shyness caused by accent

Some people shy of their accent in English. Moreover, this psychological problem sometimes takes on a universal scale: a person cannot achieve the perfect British pronunciation, therefore he prefers to keep silent and communicate with the help of gestures. This is because of the fear to show that we do not belong to this society, we do not know how others will react to our speech. In addition, it seems to us that they will laugh at our accent, we are afraid to look silly. At the same time, we completely forget how we like it when foreigners try to speak in our own language, their accent seems nice to us and does not interfere with communication at all.

4. Fear of speaking slowly.

Another common phobia sounds like this: “But what if I’m going to pick words for a long time, speak slowly and with pauses. A foreigner will think that I am stupid”. For some reason, we think that the interlocutor expects a speech from us at a speed of 120 words per minute, and not a normal conversation. Remember, when speaking in Ukrainian, we also make pauses, sometimes we select the right words for a long time, and this is perceived quite normally.

5. Fear not to understand the interlocutor

The final phobia combines all the previous ones: “I can make a mistake, I speak too slowly and with an accent, and I can also not catch some words of the interlocutor. All this will not let him understand me”. At best, this fear makes us speak with a foreigner

too loudly (it seems to us that they will understand us more quickly), at worst, it keeps us from even trying to speak English.

It is not a secret for anyone that all our problems are the vigorous activity of our brain with imagination. We often imagine terrifying situations that even, perhaps, will never happen to us. We often imagine as we speak English, but we make some mistake and the native speaker starts laughing at us and making fun of us. Of course, all this is the fruit of our turbulent imagination. The real reason for the language barrier lies deep in the subconscious.

Everyone should just decide for themselves what is more important to stay at a dead point or to overstep the fear, shyness or whatever and make the most difficult first step towards an interesting and magnificent world that gives us English!

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