

## ON THE PROSPECTS OF TEACHING ENGLISH IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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**Abstract.** The author of the article considers the prospects of teaching the discipline “Foreign language” in higher educational institutions of Russia. The point of view on the necessity to preserve the English language in the Curricula is substantiated. Alternative trending foreign languages are presented.

**Key words:** higher education, life-long learning, foreign language, prospects, prohibition of study, development, critical thinking.

## К ВОПРОСУ О ПЕРСПЕКТИВАХ ПРЕПОДАВАНИЯ АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА В ВЫСШЕЙ ШКОЛЕ

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**Аннотация.** Автор статьи рассматривает перспективы преподавания дисциплины «Иностранный язык» в высших учебных заведениях России. Обоснована точка зрения о необходимости сохранения английского языка в учебных планах. Представлены альтернативные трендовые иностранные языки.

**Ключевые слова:** высшее образование, обучение на протяжении жизни, иностранный язык, перспективы, запрет на изучение, развитие, критическое мышление.

The attitude to the foreign language (English, in particular) learning has been constantly transforming during decades: from big love to suggestions to prohibit it. It is not surprising because the Curricula are influenced by many social, political and economic factors. The special military operation in Russia facilitated the appearance of the points of view that English should be eliminated from the educational system [1-5]. On the contrary, the author of the article strongly believes that despite political differences and contradictions, European languages, including English will remain in demand and will not disappear from universities and schools in Russia. Learning English contributes to the development of students' communication abilities; mastering professional vocabulary in a foreign language; expanding presentation and self-presentation skills; improving the skills of reading professional literature in a foreign language in their specialty; deepening critical thinking; mastering the rules of

business communication and business etiquette. In addition, it facilitates students' academic mobility and their competitiveness in the labor market [6-10].

Moreover, most of the scientific papers in the world are written in English, and the study of languages that interest young people should have priority. However, more and more Russian schoolchildren are showing interest in learning Chinese, which may be related to the future prospects of cooperation with China.

The HeadHunter personnel search portal reported that since January, the number of demand for employees who know Chinese in Russia has increased by 40%. Some universities, including the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology (MIPT), are considering making Chinese a second compulsory language for their students [11-14].

The concept of banning the study of foreign languages in schools, including English, causes many conflicting opinions and discussions. In some countries, attempts have already been made to ban the study of English in schools. Such a step was taken in Russia in 2014, but was canceled in 2018. In April 2023, it became known that in Russia they again propose to abolish English, but will the relevant law be adopted?

In April 2023, Russia proposed to abolish the English language and even ban teaching it in all schools of the country. The initiator of such a proposal was Deputy Sultan Khamzayev, who is known for his extravagant proposals. For example, as the information portal writes [pronedra.ru](https://pronedra.ru), he has already proposed to cancel the Unified State Exam and remove the second foreign language. Not everyone in Russia liked the idea of banning the English language. For example, Anatoly Wasserman, a member of the State Duma Committee on Education, reproached his colleague for underestimating the objective factors that made English so popular. Due to disagreements, it was decided to postpone the idea of banning the English language. Most likely, such a law will not be adopted in 2023 [15-18].

Let's analyze the advantages and disadvantages of learning English.

Advantages of learning English:

It gives ample opportunities for communication. English is the international language of communication. Knowledge of English makes it possible to communicate with people from different countries of the world, do business, travel and study in foreign educational institutions. Moreover, it increases the chances of finding a job. Knowledge of English is mandatory for many specialties, especially in international companies. Learning English increases the chances of getting a high-paying job and career growth. It provides a deeper access to information. Most scientific articles, textbooks, research, as well as world news are published in English. Knowledge of English makes it possible to get information from primary sources and expand worldview and horizons. It promotes the increase of self-esteem and self-confidence. Learning English requires effort and work, but at the same time achieving success in learning the language increases self-esteem and self-confidence [19-23].

Disadvantages of learning English:

The real complexity of the studying the grammar rules (namely the table of tenses) is observed. English is a complex language, learning it takes time and effort and not everyone is ready to spend the efforts on it.

Difficulties in learning pronunciation and reading rules are well-known. There are many sounds in English that differ from the sounds of the Russian language. Learning pronunciation can be very difficult and learning all the exceptions from the rules is time-consuming as well.

Not a big number of teachers who are ready to teach English for the purpose of developing the communicative competence; that is speaking and listening. It is necessary for the faculty members to understand the basic purposes of teaching English at the university: oral communication and mastering the professional terminology, implementing the practice-oriented approach [24-25].

So, learning English has many advantages, but it is necessary to take into account some of the difficulties that one may encounter in the learning process. But despite this, knowledge of English is an important and useful skill in the modern world.

Definitely there are other prospective foreign languages that are in trend and cause much interest:

*German.* After English, this foreign language is much easier to learn, because the languages are similar. German is always promising. It is important that this language is spoken not only in Germany, but also in Austria, Switzerland and other European countries.

*Chinese.* This language is widespread all over the world and is now actively gaining popularity. At many multinational enterprises, knowledge of Chinese is very welcome. Yes, this language is not easy to learn (after all, it has an unusual writing system and over 10 dialects), but Chinese is the language of perspective.

*Spanish.* Spanish is the third most common language in the world. It is easy to learn and beautiful in sound. This foreign language is spoken not only in Spain, but also in many countries that used to be colonies. Spanish has enough dialects, but knowing the "classical" language, you will be understood anywhere in Spanish-speaking countries.

*Arabian.* Arabic occupies the next (fourth) line in terms of prevalence in the world. It is spoken by more than 240 million people in different parts of the world. This language also has a lot of dialects, but you can freely communicate in one of the selected ones.

*Italian.* A good knowledge of the Italian language is mandatory for immigration to Italy. By the way, the level of English proficiency in this country is almost at the same level as in Russia: Italians prefer to speak their native language even with foreigners, since many of them do not speak English.

*French.* French is also popular, as its knowledge is appreciated by French partners. French is the official language not only of France, but also of Canada. Its study opens up great prospects for cooperation with European partners.

Practice shows that knowledge of several foreign languages "raises" the salary and opens up new opportunities. When choosing a language, the key factors are the field of activity in which you plan to work, or the region in which you plan to live. It

is best to speak one of the most common foreign languages in a pair (or three) with less popular languages.

Most often, people who know English, German, French, Spanish are required. Those who speak Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Hebrew, Dutch, Swedish and other languages of the world earn more. However, it is important to remember that advice can be different, but only a student can choose the language, and it is worth evaluating not the global prospects of the language, but its prospects for a particular person. The student himself should decide which language will help in life and work.

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