

MULTILINGUALISM AS A GLOBAL TREND AND A STRATEGY FOR MODERNIZING HIGHER PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION IN UKRAINE

This paper proposes the features of multilingualism as a modern trend in the development of culture and education and a strategy for modernizing higher professional education in Ukraine. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, multilingual education is not only a competitive advantage but also a necessity. Understanding the global trend of multilingualism. Multilingualism refers to the use of multiple languages in personal, educational, and professional contexts. In recent decades, more countries have recognized the importance of fostering multilingual skills, not just to preserve cultural diversity but to enhance communication across borders. A recent survey by the European Commission showed that over 50% of Europeans speak at least two languages fluently. This trend is even stronger in countries like Luxembourg, where almost every citizen speaks at least three languages. Why multilingualism matters in higher education. In higher education, multilingualism opens many doors. When students and professionals can communicate in more than one language, they gain access to a broader range of academic resources, research opportunities, and international collaborations. For Ukrainian students and educators, learning multiple languages—particularly English—can help them participate in global academic discussions, attend international conferences, and gain better access to scientific publications. Additionally, multilingual graduates often have an advantage in the job market. Companies value employees who can interact with international clients and partners, especially in fields like IT, science, and business. Multilingualism in Ukraine's educational system. Ukraine has a rich history of linguistic diversity. However, in recent years, there has been a strong emphasis on strengthening English language proficiency as well as preserving the use of Ukrainian. According to recent studies, more than 40% of Ukrainian students now study English intensively, while some are also starting to learn other languages such as German, French, and even Chinese. Programs like "English for Universities," supported by the British Council, are helping Ukrainian institutions enhance their English curriculum and train teachers in modern teaching methods. Additionally, bilingual programs and partnerships with international universities are bringing more opportunities for Ukrainian students to study abroad or participate in exchange programs. Strategies for implementing multilingualism in Ukrainian higher education. To make multilingualism a practical part of higher education, several strategies are crucial: 1. Integrating language studies into disciplines. Offering subjects like science or economics in English or other foreign languages allows students to learn technical vocabulary and concepts in an international context. 2. Encouraging study-abroad programs and international exchanges. Universities could establish more partnerships with institutions abroad. Programs like Erasmus+ make it easier for students to study in other countries, providing real-life language practice. 3. Training teachers in multilingual methodologies. Educators play a vital role in promoting multilingualism. By supporting language training for faculty members, universities can create a multilingual academic environment that is both immersive and practical. The benefits of multilingual education for Ukraine. Adopting multilingual education benefits not only individual students but also Ukrainian society as a whole. By preparing students to communicate internationally, Ukraine can build stronger diplomatic, cultural, and economic ties with other nations. For instance, the IT industry in Ukraine—one of the fastest-growing sectors—relies heavily on multilingual professionals who can work with clients around the world. Encouraging multilingualism in education is a direct investment in the country's economic growth and competitiveness. In conclusion, multilingualism is more than just a trend — It is a strategic approach to preparing future professionals for a globalized world. For Ukraine, embracing this trend means modernizing its educational system and aligning with international standards. By investing in language education and supporting multilingualism in universities, Ukraine can not only empower its students but also strengthen its position on the global stage.

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