**The Faculty of Mechanics and Mathematics and the area of my research**

Mathematics has always been the basis of natural science and, together with mechanics, it is the basis of all engineering sciences and the main means to investigate laws of the Universe.

When MSU was founded there was no department of Mathematics. The lectures were read but considered Mathematics to be a secondary subject. The faculty of Physics and Mathematics began exist only in 1804. After the revolution in 1917 there were great problems with learning process at this faculty and in 1933 was founded department of Mechanics and Mathematics. The last change in its structure was in 1970, when the Department of Computational Mathematics and Cybernetics broke off.

Nowadays, the Division of Mechanics includes 9 branches and the Division of Mathematics consists of 17 departments, for example, Department of Mathematical Analysis, Department of Higher Algebra, Department of Higher Geometry and Topology, and many others.

Now, I’d like to tell some words about the area of my research. At the end of the last century it was developed the branch of geometry which deals with the ﬁnite sets of points in the plane.

In 1970s, the planar convex hull algorithm was generalized; it found the shape of a finite point set. This algorithm was based on the pivoting the line segment and sometimes this approach caused the mistakes. However, the difference between the logic structure of algorithm and the numerical evaluation of its geometric primitives makes difficult to turn the algorithm into correct software. Any mistake causes geometrical constructions which do not exist. Thus there are a lot of cases, for example, three collinear points, and all of these cases must be examined.

The main important structures in this branch of geometry are the Voronoi diagram and the Delaunay triangulation, named after two Russian mathematicians. A great number of algorithms of their constructions are known today, but it’s very important and difficult problem to find faster and more efficient method. These two structures are very useful and have a high significance value. In climatology, Voronoi diagrams are used to calculate the rainfall of an area, based on a series of point measurements. In epidemiology, they can be used to correlate sources of infections in epidemics. One of the early applications of Voronoi diagrams was implemented by John Snow to study the 1854 Broad Street cholera outbreak in England.

A great result in this sphere has been already achieved, but still there are directions that remain largely unexplored. Finally, there are ideas of creating shape spaces from alpha complexes which have yet unrealized potential. Today the range of application and development of this branch is very wide: pattern recognition, digital shape sampling and processing, structural molecular biology. It is applied in ecology, materials science, chemistry and even in mathematical statistic.

**Problems of modern mathematics and mechanics**

Nowadays mathematics becomes more and more important in a man’s life. Modern world brings new technologies, new way of thinking, new ideas, which are all based on the principles of mathematics. People may not even notice it, but a successful person will not be able to live in the society without any knowledge in Mathematics. So it is very important to understand which way mathematics is developing at that moment. I’d like to tell about the rapidly developing branch of geometry, which now has a lot of unsolved problems in spite of being widely used.

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**The art in man’s life**

When we talk about art what we imagine? Probably we remember such names as Picasso, Dali, Chopin or Tchaikovsky. And if we think about technology we imagine maybe a smartphone or a computer. Throughout history, technology has provided artists with new tools for expression. Nowadays, these two disciplines are interlinked more than ever, and technology becomes a fundamental force in the development and evolution of art. Naturally entirely new art forms are evolving as well. More and more artists are pushing the boundaries of art, looking outside of what's perceived as "traditional" to incorporate other aspects into their work. Art is becoming less static, taking up many new different shapes. Artist Ollie Palmer has created a machine to control the way synthetic pheromone directs ants - hoping this way to stage an 'ant ballet'.

Digital technology and modern techniques have had the strongest impact on the art of painting and drawing. In the past, painting and drawing depended on the artist’s skills in using his traditional tools - the brush, the pencil or pastels. The artist, through conventional and calculated steps, was in control of the density of color, different hues, the realism or abstraction of his work of art. Artists today operate with clicks of the mouse, video tools and digital colors. Contemporary art has been greatly influenced by the astonishing progress in the introduction of new, more attractive and convenient materials that artists could work with. Artist could focus more on contents of theirs works, creativity and developing delightful ideas. In other words, artists today have an enormous variety of techniques. Possessing this vast quantity of tools and potential must be accompanied by a comprehensive and in-depth knowledge of every detail of these tools and their capabilities, so as to enable the artist incarnate all his fantasies via the designated tool, using the best and the shortest way which is possible. Therefore artists need to improve their skills and understand these techniques well in order to use all opportunities they offer.

But on the other hand there are many people who think another way. One young artist from Japanize writes, that she is still learning the aspects of Digital painting and she thinks, painting digitally makes any Art work easy, efficient, fast and convenient, due to Undo / Redo commands and effects which you cannot use in traditional painting. In addition, you can paint digitally almost everywhere. But as I think digital painting is not easy as it seems, it is not just pressing any button or using a command. A digital artist must have deep knowledge in art in order to create painting comparable to traditional art.

Apparently digital technologies are changing the art very much. Firstly throughout history and until recently, the public was merely a passive observer. Today, in our modern world, everyone can create something. Digital painting tutorials are all out on the internet. You can find them easily and start your new hobby, digital painting. They are presented through a video where each step is demonstrated. All you have to do is to carefully watch the video and remember the steps and strategies that are showed by the expert. A lot of people don’t understand that it is not enough to make a really art. However, because it is now easier to create, we see a lot of strange things being created and exposed. A huge problem is that, as a result of so many new tools and techniques, we may lose our sense and ability to evaluate what is great art. But today, technology, and especially computer technology, develops and there will always be those who will experiment.

**Education in Russia and abroad**

Education has been always considered to be one of the most successful spheres in the modern life. Great changes in the Russian system of education took place last some years and new tendencies are still developing. In many countries changes are still taking place now too. I would like to compare the systems of education in Russia, in the UK and in the USA.

In all these countries the education systems consist of three stages: elementary school, secondary school and high school, in Russia secondary school includes the incomplete and complete education. There are 11 grades in Russia school system, in the USA children study at school for 12 years and in the UK there are thirteen years of education. It can be explained that in the USA children firstly go to the kindergarten at the age of 5. By contrast in Russia in the first grade children are usually 7 years old. In our country pupils take their first exams at the end of elementary school, they also do exams in 9 grade and 11 grade. In Britain pupils take examination in “Year 11” (GCSE), after that, pupils who remain in school take A level examinations in “Year 13”.

Education in these countries is accessible to all. According to the Russian constitution the general right to education is guaranteed to all the citizens. In Britain education is necessarily for all children since 5 to 16 years. Although there is nothing about education in the USA constitution (it has different historical reasons) the education in this country is necessary for all people too.

The one of the main difference between the systems of education in Russia and abroad is opportunity of pupils in the USA and in the UK to choose some subjects, which they’d like to study. In Russia all pupil need to study all subjects, which are in the time-table. But if believe to new tendencies such opportunity may become possible in the future.

The high education in the UK and in the USA is paid for all, native or foreign students. In Russia there are many universities which are free of charge. Although there is a tendency to decrease them. An interesting fact that in Britain and in the USA a man usually join to the all university, not to the one faculty while in Russia student need to determine with speciality before enter the university. In Europe and in US students who complete their university courses get bachelor’s degree. Then they could continue education and after two years get a masters’s degree. Before the recent time in Russia students become specialist after graduate in university but as in Russia nowadays there is a tendency to change according to the western scheme a lot of studens get bachelor’s or master’s degree.

To make a conclusion I could say that the systems of education I these 3 countries have much in common. The difference between them mainly due to the historic events.

**Lomonosov Moscow State University and international academic links**

Lomonosov Moscow State University was founded in 1755. It is named after Mikhail Lomonosov, an outstanding Russian scientist, who greatly contributed to the establishment of the university in Moscow. The University also claims to be the oldest in Russia and to have the tallest educational building in the world. Moscow State University is the largest of the classical research universities within the former USSR. It has 5,000 academic staff and 4,500 researchers, about 7 000 postgraduate students and more than 40 000 undergraduates including 5,000 international students from almost 100 countries. Moscow State University consists of 39 faculties, over 350 departments, and 14 research institutes. According to Federal Law, from November 2009, Moscow State University was granted a specific legal framework for its activities within the national educational context. The law recognizes the uniqueness of MSU as a leading classical university and entitles it to wider academic freedom. The law provides the University with the possibility of setting its own educational standards. Lomonosov Moscow State University is well-known for its strong natural sciences tradition: the 39 faculties cover practically all areas of research, besides, 11 (of Russian 18) Nobel Prize winners and 6 (of Russian 8) Fields medalists were former students or academics at the University.

In the modern world there is a necessity of development and consolidation international links between world scientific centers. Lomonosov Moscow State University has many international agreements with European universities of student exchanges, the organisation of joint educational projects and the promotion of research cooperation. Main International Exchange Partners of Moscow University are State University of New York (the USA), University of Geneva (Switzerland), University of Tokyo (Japan), a lot of Universities in Germany and in France, and many others.

Moreover there is Center for International Education. Its main aim is to prepare foreign learners for studying at Lomonosov Moscow State University and other Russian high schools. It was founded at the end of 1940s when youth from Albania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, arrived to study at Moscow State University, they needed of additional learning of the Russian language. And today Center for International Education gained a strong position and recognition in the international world of education.

It is not the only branch of international academic links, which exists in the University. Every student of it has an opportunity to participate in academic exchange programs, in case they fail to find a necessary course at home University. Besides, there are a lot of summer schools and scientific conferences, which attract a great number of students and scientists from all over the world. Undoubtedly all this actions are very important for development the Russian science and raising the level of education of students.

**Finance and economics**

Nowadays practically everyone adult has a credit card. They appeared recently and became very popular. I’d like to tell about the history of the system of credit card. Many people think of credit cards as a modern day convenience, but the history of the earliest credit cards actually dates back to the beginning of 20th century.

As far back as the late 1800s, consumers and merchants exchanged goods through the concept of credit. Plastic payments as we know them today became a way of life in about half a century. Credit cards were not always been made of plastic. There have been credit tokens made from metal coins, metal plates, paper, and now mostly plastic cards.

At the beginning of 20th century, oil companies and department stories issued their own cards entitled "Credit Cards and Payment Efficiency." Such cards were accepted only at the business that issued the card and in limited locations. While modern credit cards are mainly used for convenience, these predecessor cards were developed as a means of creating customer loyalty and improving customer service.

The first bank card, named "Charg-It," was introduced in 1946 by John Biggins, a banker in Brooklyn. When a customer used it for a purchase, the bill was forwarded to Biggins' bank. The bank reimbursed the merchant and obtained payment from the customer. But there were some catches: Purchases could only be made locally, and Charg-It cardholders had to have an account at Biggins' bank. In 1951, the first bank credit card appeared in New York's Franklin National Bank for loan customers. It also could be used only by the bank's account holders.

The Diners Club Card was the next step in credit cards. According to a representative from Diners Club, the story began in 1949 when a man had a business dinner in New York. When the bill arrived, Frank realized he'd forgotten his wallet. He managed to find his way out of the pickle, but he decided there should be an alternative to cash. Thus the Diners Club credit card was invented to pay restaurant bills. A customer could eat without cash at any restaurant that would accept Diners' Club credit cards. The Diners Club card was at first technically a charge card rather than a credit card since the customer had to repay the entire amount when billed by Diners Club.

Credit cards were first promoted to traveling salesmen for use on the road. By the early 1960s, more companies offered credit cards, advertising them as a time-saving device rather than a form of credit.

Speaking about the future, while the plastic card has been the standard for a half century, recent developments show alternative forms of payment which become more popular, from online services such as PayPal to credit card key fobs to chips that can be implanted into cell phones or other devices. But from my point of view, credit cards aren’t going anywhere any time soon, also cash would be still used for many years.

**Man in the modern world**

In the last century there was a time of unprecedented technical and scientific achievements. We can't imagine our life today without telephone, television, cars or computers. Nowadays modern industry is fulfilled with the help of robots which replaced man in some hard or dangerous labor and run by computers. Machines provide people most of necessities. In the 20th century, many infectious diseases have been conquered through vaccines and antibiotics. The advance of medical knowledge enables people to perform the most difficult operations with the help of modern equipment and to keep people alive with the help of implanted organs. It is necessary to notice that as a result of the advance of medical service average life expectancy in Europe has increased from 50 years to about 75 years.

Nevertheless in spite of the all advantage of the modern world there are a lot of problems today: terrorism, overpopulation, poverty, water scarcity. But I’d like to tell about the problem of consumerism in the 21st century. Economists tell us that natural resources are scarce but that human wishes are unlimited. What are the main humans’ needs? Food, health care, education, the opportunity to express themselves, and leisure. At the same time mass marketing and advertising makes people believe that they can't brush their teeth without the help of an electronic gadget. In other words people sometimes buy different things, which they don’t need.

Consumerism is an integral part of the 21stcentury lifestyle. Every person today is a consumer. Everyone buys anything practically every day. Shopping gives people a sense of choice and power which is often absent from the rest of their life. Certainly, consumerism has some advantages. For example, with the power of new technology, the consumer has the power to influence on the companies by choosing the products of high quality or by protecting his consumer’s rights.

But on the other hand consumerism in its most basic form is the creation of a system in which each of us do not need to go out and kill his food, make his clothing or build his house. In the modern world we could go to a store or to a company and buy what is needed. New products make more and more tasks ever easier, minimizing the amount of intelligence or even physical activity we must expend to get something. We have become quite lazy since our ability to obtain what we need has been easily, and we make an effort to obtain what we want. We need a little money to get food and clothes, and then we want to buy the latest gadget or toy to produce a sense of happiness. Many of us take up uninteresting jobs in order to make more money to buy more wanted items. As a result of consumer society people often couldn’t do anything with their own hands. We are accustomed to buy anything we need, and the major part of society doesn’t create or produce anything. So we become more and more depended and disabled to deal with difficult situations.

**Globalization and International organizations**

Globalization is used as a general term for a complex series of economic, social, technological, cultural and political changes. This is a process driven by international trade and investment and aided by information technology. It has effects on the environment, on culture, on political systems, on economic development and prosperity. As a result there are a great number of international organizations. Notable examples are the United Nations, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, European Union and Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Russia. And I’d like to tell about the organization which takes care of world’s heritage.

UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Its purpose is to contribute to peace and security by promoting education, science, and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, the rule of law, and human rights. It was created in 1945 in order to respond to the firm belief of nations, suffered from two world wars in less than a generation that political and economic agreements are not enough to build a lasting peace. Peace must be established on the basis of humanity’s moral and intellectual solidarity. And UNESCO became an agency of the United Nations in 1946. The headquarters are located at the World Heritage Centre in Paris. And there are a lot of departments of this organization all over the world, for instance cluster of offices to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova and Russia is situated in Moscow. The Organization has now 195 Members and 8 Associate Members.

Nowadays UNESCO takes part practically in every sphere of life, including technical, international science programs, freedom of the press, regional and cultural history projects, international agreements to secure the world cultural and natural heritage and to preserve human. Currently, there are 24 World Heritage Sites in Russia: 15 of them are cultural and 9 are natural. There are some the most famous of them:

* Firstly, Lake Baikal. Situated in south-east Siberia, it is the oldest and the deepest lake in the world. It contains 20% of the world's total unfrozen freshwater reserve. Known as the 'Galapagos of Russia', its age and isolation have produced one of the most unusual freshwater faunas, which is of exceptional value to evolutionary science.
* It’s worth mentioning Volcanoes of Kamchatka. This is one of the most outstanding volcanic regions in the world. The interplay of active volcanoes and glaciers forms a dynamic landscape of great beauty. The sites contain great species diversity, including the world's largest known variety of salmonoid fish and exceptional concentrations of sea otter.
* And the most famous places of interest in Russia are Moscow Kremlin and Red Square. Closely connected with all the most important historical and political events in Russia since the 13th century, the Kremlin was the politics and also a religious center. Situated there St Basil's Basilica is one of the most beautiful and well-known Russian buildings.

UNESCO's World Heritage Center has recognized more than 800 natural and cultural sites. For each, the country in which the site is located has produced a detailed study of the site and a plan for its protection. Monitoring of the state of those sites makes countries to work hard to achieve that protection, and over the history of the program only one country has withdrawn a single site from the list.

To make a conclusion the international organizations play an important role in the modern world. Amongst all other activities of them, the most important is negotiating and setting up multilateral agreements. The International Organizations are the necessary instrument of the achievement the peace in the world and of progressive development of all spheres of life.

**Eminent men of science**

There are a lot of men in the natural sciences, but I’d like to tell about the greatest women, who dedicated herself to the Mathematics.

Sofia Kovalevskaya was the middle child of Vasily Korvin-Krukovsky, an artillery general, and Yelizaveta Shubert, both well-educated members of the Russian nobility. Sofia was educated by tutors and governesses. She was attracted to mathematics at a very young age. Her uncle Pyotr Krukovsky, who had a great respect for mathematics, spoke about the subject.

When Sofia was 11 years old, the walls of her nursery were papered with pages of Ostrogradski's lecture notes on differential and integral analysis. It was Sofia's introduction to calculus. Sofia 's father decided to put a stop to her mathematics lessons but she borrowed a copy of Bourdeu's Algebra which she read at night when the rest of the household was asleep.

A year later a neighbour, Professor Tyrtov, presented her family with a physics textbook which he had written, and Sofia attempted to read it. She did not understand the trigonometric formulae and attempted to explain them herself. Tyrtov realised that in her working with the concept of sine, she had used the same method by which it had developed historically. Tyrtov argued with Sofia's father that she should be encouraged to study mathematics further but he permitted Sofia to take private lessons several years later.

Sofia was forced to marry so that she could go abroad to enter higher education. Her father would not allow her to leave home to study at a university, and women in Russia could not live apart from their families without the written permission of their father or husband. At the age of eighteen, she entered a nominal marriage with Vladimir Kovalevski, a young palaeontologist.

In 1869 Sofia travelled to Heidelberg to study mathematics and the natural sciences, only to discover that women could not join to the university. Eventually she persuaded the university authorities to allow her to attend lectures unofficially. Sofia studied there successfully for three semesters and, according to the memoirs of a fellow student, she immediately attracted the attention of her teachers with her uncommon mathematical ability.

In 1871 Kovalevskaya moved to Berlin to study with Weierstrass. Despite his the efforts the senate refused to permit her to attend courses at the university. This actually helped her since over the next four years Weierstrass tutored her privately.

In 1874 Kovalevskaya was granted her doctorate from Göttingen University. Despite this doctorate and letters of strong recommendation from Weierstrass, Kovalevskaya was unable to obtain an academic position. This was for a combination of reasons, but her sex was a major handicap.

In 1878, Kovalevskaya gave birth to a daughter, but from 1880 increasingly returned to her study of mathematics. In the spring of 1883, Vladimir her husband committed suicide. After the initial shock, Kovalevskaya immersed herself in mathematical work in an attempt to rid herself of feelings of guilt. Mittag-Leffler managed to overcome opposition to Kovalevskaya in Stockholm, and obtained for her a position as private docent.

She taught courses on the latest topics in analysis and became an editor of the new journal Acta Mathematica. She took part in the organisation of international conferences. Her status brought her attention from society, and she began again to write reminiscences and dramas that she had enjoyed doing when young. In 1889, on the initiative of Chebyshev, Kovalevskaya was elected a corresponding member of the Imperial Academy of Sciences.

In early 1891, at the height of her mathematical powers and reputation, Kovalevskaya died of influenza complicated by pneumonia.

**Environmental problems and a healthy lifestyle**

The Earth's environment nowadays in a bad state and there is practically no hope of it getting better any time soon. The forests are disappearing and green areas around cities are being replaced by buildings. Water is too toxic to consume. The air is unfit for breathing in. There is a problem of global warming and all kinds of pollution. And I’d like to stay on the problem of irrational consumption.

Consumption of products and services impacts the environment in many different ways. For example, the things we buy contribute, directly or indirectly through the product lifecycle, to climate change, pollution and resource depletion. There are some statistical facts about irrational consumption:

* Europe consumes more resources than most other regions. An average European citizen uses approximately four times more resources than one in Africa and three times more than one in Asia. And resource use in Europe is increasing in spite of the fact that people can use natural resources more efficiently, about a half of citizens think that their household produces too much waste.
* Europeans use more and more space for living. The average living space of the houses increased to 87 m² since 1990, while the number of people per household decreased from 2.8 to 2.4.
* About 89 million tonnes of food ends up as waste each year in the EU. This is roughly 180 kg per citizen, wasted in households, manufacturing, shops and restaurants. In the UK, 25% of food purchased is thrown out, of which nearly two-thirds could have been eaten.

The adverse impacts of mass consumption on the environment are best illustrated by cars. In the USA, the number of cars has steadily risen to over 254 million (about 1.3 people per car). On the other hand, the number of cars in China has shot up in recent years to overtake the US as the world’s largest auto market. Probably the Chinese appetite for autos eventually reaches the American standard of 1.3 people per car. The industries would be happy to produce as much as the market wants. However, an environmental breakdown in the form of air pollution and global warming would come first before this American Dream could be realized in China. The Chinese case also applies to other developing countries with large populations notably India Mexico and Indonesia, which are rapidly modernizing.

We can’t stop the process of mass consumption because there is no way to resist technological progress and people’s materialistic ambitions. However we must proceed on three paths that are equally important: market forces, government action, and education.

To make a conclusion, the environmental challenge of mass consumption in the 21st century is about long-term opportunity against short-term profit. Our consumption of goods obviously is a function of culture today. Only by producing and selling things and services does capitalism in its present form work, and the more that is produced and the more that is purchased the more we have progress. However, the consumption use natural resources (wood, ore, fossil fuels, and water) and it is a reason of pollution, which destroy nature. On a consumer level, we must think about our health as well as what is needed and what is not needed, because our consumption have a power to control production.

**Advances in science and technology**

Scientific discoveries are being made every day and they change the world we live in. I’d like to tell about the most important scientific discoveries which have been made in 2013. These are technological and medical advancements, that most people believed would never happen in their lifetime, now are real and continuing to develop. These discoveries bring with them a thousand of new technology and techniques that will only grow and improve with time to make the world a better place to live in.

On June 18th, it was announced that a team of researchers at Harvard and the University of Illinois were able to synthesize a lithium-ion battery smaller than a grain of sand and less than the width of a human hair. Researchers were able to achieve this astounding accomplishment through the delicate layering of a network of electrodes.

Secondly, I stop at the most important discovery in medicine in 2013. On June 6th, a group of doctors at successfully implanted the first bioengineered blood vessel into a live patient. Though bioengineering has been advancing rapidly, this procedure was the first successful implant of any synthetically bioengineered body part. The vein has proved more successful in tests than synthetic or animal-based implants because they are not prone to clotting and don’t pose risk of infection during the surgery. Soon, doctors hope to create bioengineered veins for heart disease and maybe even go on to bioengineer whole organs or body parts.

And now some words about the most incredible event in the scientific world. Being able to control the motion of objects may seem like the plot of a science fiction novel, but researchers from the Minnesota College of Science and Engineering showed that now it’s a reality. Using a noninvasive technique known as electroencephalography, five students are able to control the motion of a helicopter. Facing in the opposite direction of the helicopter, students were able to move it in various directions by imagining themselves moving their left hand, right hand, and both hands. After some time and training, participants were soon able to get the helicopter to perform several maneuvers including passing through rings with an image of the flight being showed to them on a screen. Researchers are hoping to expand this new noninvasive brain wave technology to eventually restore motion, hearing, and sight in patients suffering from paralysis or neuro-diseases.

Science develops rapidly nowadays. This progress is possible because of the close connection of different areas of science. Beyond any doubt our planet will change grossly with the evolution of the scientific world.

**Cultural diversity in the modern world**

The modern world can be called multicultural due to cultural and ethnic diversity. Through the process of globalization and immigration modern society has become a mixture of different nations and cultures. Cross-cultural contacts have grown significantly nowadays. Thanks to globalization we can enjoy foreign goods, food, music, ideas, technologies and practices. Thus there are own national holidays and cultural traditions in every country or even a region. I’d like to tell something about the traditions of celebrating birthday in different countries.

The tradition of birthday parties started in Europe a long time ago. It was feared that evil spirits were particularly attracted to people on their birthdays. To protect them from harm, friends and family would to come be with the birthday person and bring good thoughts and wishes. Giving gifts brought even more good cheer to ward off the evil spirits. At first it was only kings who were recognized as important enough to have a birthday celebration. A formal ball was planned and announcements were sent through the land. As time went by, children became included in birthday celebrations. And today birthday is a common holiday for every person all over the world. And although birthday traditions are quite similar in some countries today, not everyone celebrates in the same way. Beyond any doubt every family has its own way to celebrate it, but I’d like to focus on differences, which have historical and cultural reasons.

For example in Vietnam only a few urban people, influenced by Western customs, celebrate birthdays. Everyone else celebrate their birthday on New Year’s Day. The Vietnamese do not acknowledge the exact day they were born. A baby turns one on New Year’s Day no matter when he or she was born that year. On the first celebration, adults congratulate children on becoming a year older by presenting them with red envelopes that contain "Lucky Money". These envelopes are given to the children by parents, relatives and close friends.

As we know in Russia there is a tradition to pull birthday child by his ears and in Ireland it is customary to hold the child upside down and "bump" the child on the floor for every years of his (plus one extra "bump") for good luck.

In the religious countries or the countries of Africa the traditions of celebrating are based on the ethnical and religions differences. In India, where Hindu is the most common religion, it is customary for a child celebrating his first birthday to have his head shaved. This act symbolizes the shedding of negative energies associated with past lives. Additionally, the birthday child is dressed in bright clothing and visit a shrine for a special prayer. Or for example In Uruguay when a girl reaches the age of 15, she puts on a formal dress and dances with possible fiance.

It’s possible to say that the Western idea of celebrating a birthday with cake and candles has certainly caught on in other parts of the world, but many cultures have long-standing traditional ways to celebrate. Although many of them are more traditional and hypothetical than a reality.

**Global English**

There are over 70 English-speaking countries in the world. They are: Great Britain, the United States of America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and also some small states, which are situated on the islands in the Pacific Ocean.

The history of these countries is closely connected with the history of Great Britain as a great sea-power. In ancient times, England had the most powerful fleet in the world, which was the best in all the seas and oceans. The English ships sailed across the seas and oceans in all the directions and the English sailors made sea-voyages to different regions of the world. It’s not surprising, that the majority of great discovers and explorers were among the English people who were eager to bring glory to their native country and they took part in the exploring expeditions around the world and to different far-away regions. The aims of their expeditions were to discover new lands and to explore unknown continents and islands. As a result England conquered a lot of new territories. After that thousands of the people left their Motherland – England, reached the shores of new lands which had been just discovered, settle down on those territories and stayed there for ever.

Nowadays, the English-speaking countries are situated in different parts of the world. They differ in their geographical position, their climate, their nature and the way of life, which their people lead. Every country has its own national history, traditional, holidays and customs. But all of them have one thing in common. All of them speak a common language, the language of people who many centuries ago came from England to make their home in new countries.

Therefore English could be called a world language. It is a universal language of progressive science and technology, trade and cultural relations, commerce and business. It is also the major language of diplomacy. Hundreds and hundreds of books, magazines and newspapers are printed in English and read all over the world. Half of the world’s scientific literature is written in English. More than 350 million people speak on this language. Geographically it is the most widespread language on earth, second only to Chinese in the number of people who speak it. English can be at least understood almost everywhere among scholars and educated people, as it is the world media language, and the language of cinema, TV, pop music and the computer world

English is also one of the most studied languages across the world, in many countries it is learned as a second language from primary school. As per the statistics, it said that the English language is one of the easiest languages to learn, if we compare it with languages like Chinese, German, French and even Spanish. It is such an important language worldwide, that 80% of the information that we find in the internet is in English.