

Районная конференция работ  
исследовательского характера учащихся  
«С наукой в будущее»

ИССЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬСКАЯ РАБОТА  
«English language in our everyday life»

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## **Introduction**

It's not a secret that English is the most popular and widespread language in the world nowadays. There are plenty of reasons for that. Firstly, it's the language of English literature and Shakespeare. Secondly, it has become a really important in various fields, such as, tourism, business, medicine, education, IT, law, etc. Thirdly, English is a melodic and practical language to learn. Other than that, knowledge of English opens endless opportunities in career development and studies.

English language plays a significant role in everyone's life. The English language is among the leading languages in terms of usage all over the world. The usage of English has become common in all sectors, moreover, some people use English words and think that they are Russian's ones. Why do we use English so often? Why do we consider English as the most convenient language? Do all people understand the true meaning of English words? Our research is aimed at finding the answers to these questions.

The object of the research is the usage of English in our everyday life.

The subject of the study are English words in the names of different products that we use every day, the names of various places with usage of English and English words in our usual conversations.

The purpose of the study is to select linguistic analysis of English words in different spheres of our life.

Objectives to achieve this purpose are:

1. To study the literature on the subject;
2. To find some examples of English words in our everyday life;
3. To translate the words and verify with the translation of the people who use these things;
4. To summarize the findings.

Our work is divided into two parts: theoretical and practical. The theoretical part includes information about the historical periods of the formation of the English language and its importance in the life of every person, regardless of his place of living and level of knowledge of the English language. The second part presents the results of the questionnaires and the analysis of linguistic expertise.

The problem is in the fact that not everyone knows the semantic meaning of some words that are used in the names of places and things, however, we use these words in speech, buy products with English names, and at the level of intuition, we comprehend their meaning.

This work can be useful and interesting for pupils of our school, because they can pay attention to the translation of the names of products and places, they can analyse some information thanks to knowing English and, of course, they can understand the importance of English in our life. We hope this work can encourage pupils to learn English.

# **1. The theoretical part**

## **1.1. The history of English**

The history of the English language really started with the arrival of three Germanic tribes who invaded Britain during the 5th century AD. These tribes, the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes, crossed the North Sea from what today is Denmark and northern Germany. At that time the inhabitants of Britain spoke a Celtic language. But most of the Celtic speakers were pushed west and north by the invaders - mainly into what is now Wales, Scotland and Ireland. The Angles came from "Englaland" [sic] and their language was called "Englisc" – from which the words "England" and "English" are derived. Some scientists divide the history of English on next periods:

### **Old English (450-1100 AD)**

The invading Germanic tribes spoke similar languages, which in Britain developed into what we now call Old English. Old English did not sound or look like English today. Native English speakers now would have great difficulty understanding Old English. Nevertheless, about half of the most commonly used words in Modern English have Old English roots. The words be, strong and water, for example, derive from Old English. Old English was spoken until around 1100.

### **Middle English (1100-1500)**

In 1066 William the Conqueror, the Duke of Normandy (part of modern France), invaded and conquered England. The new conquerors (called the Normans) brought with them a kind of French, which became the language of the Royal Court, and the ruling and business classes. For a period, there was a kind of linguistic class division, where the lower classes spoke English and the upper classes spoke French. In the 14th century English became dominant in Britain again, but with many French words added. This language is called Middle English. It was the language of the great poet Chaucer (c1340-1400), but it would still be difficult for native English speakers to understand today.

### **Early Modern English (1500-1800)**

Towards the end of Middle English, a sudden and distinct change in pronunciation (the Great Vowel Shift) started, with vowels being pronounced shorter and shorter. From the 16th century the British had contact with many peoples from around the world.

This, and the Renaissance of Classical learning, meant that many new words and phrases entered the language. The invention of printing also meant that there was now a common language in print. Books became cheaper and more people learned to read. Printing also brought standardization to English. Spelling and grammar became fixed, and the dialect of London, where most publishing houses were, became the standard. In 1604 the first English dictionary was published.

## Late Modern English (1800-Present)

The main difference between Early Modern English and Late Modern English is vocabulary. Late Modern English has many more words, arising from two principal factors: firstly, the Industrial Revolution and technology created a need for new words; secondly, the British Empire at its height covered one quarter of the earth's surface, and the English language adopted foreign words from many countries.[1]

As we see the history of English was very long, difficult and interesting, but there is one question: why is this language still so popular and widespread?

### **1.2. The importance of English all over the world**

Of course, English is the most common spoken language in the world and the language of international business. We think that there are many reasons why it is so important, firstly, we think English is easy to learn. For example, there is no gender, declension, there are only 26 letters in the alphabet. And if it is so popular, we can hear and see English words everywhere (music, TV, radio and so on). English is so multilateral; you can say things in a hundred different ways. No doubt, English is the language of the Internet, it helps us understand some other languages.

One of the best assets of the English language and why it is so awesome is its flexibility. It is a huge entity of vocabulary and is constantly absorbing new words, whilst at the same time seeping into foreign languages. English contains over 750,000 words. With so many different words available to describe things, you should never be short of synonyms. It is also adding hundreds of new words every year such as 'blogging', 'selfie' etc... Another reason why English is so amazing is that there are even new 'languages' created from English, such as the numerous creole languages across the world which developed as a result of colonization.[2]

The role of the English language in the modern world is invaluable. English is believed to be the most commonly used language. More than 450 million people consider it to be native. Another 600-650 million citizens use English as an additional language for communication. It is in demand in many countries of the world. Knowledge of this language is also essential in order to study abroad. Those wishing to find a prestigious and well-paid job can't do without it.[4]

Nowadays, English is the important language. English is the language that helps us to communicate with other countries as well as in our business as we go abroad, we have to learn English that which helps us to communicate with other people in foreign country. English helps us to build our personalities and nowadays there is a big craze of English.

To keep up with modern trends, we accept English words as they come into our language, we don't try to find Russian equivalents for them, we don't try to find a suitable translation or something else, we just enter them into our native language and are used in many applications.

## **2. Practical part**

### **2.1. English in the speech of Belarusian people**

First of all, we want to note that at the moment a lot of people use English in their speech or in correspondence on social networks. Often the words that came from the English language are so rooted in our language that people do not think about their origin, and some words are used in a different meaning than the English language. Also, often people who do not learn English use words of English origin by analogy or simply because they have heard or seen them somewhere. Borrowing from the English language can help study not only English, but also Russian language. It's not a secret that girls and boys are sometimes easier express their thoughts and feelings with the help of a foreign language, they have difficulty in choosing suitable Russian words. For example, listening to the speech of my classmates, acquaintances and friends we can find a lot of English words that they say in the Russian manner, and cannot often express the same words with the help of the native language. That is why we decided to make a survey among the students of our school, as well as passers-by on the streets of Orsha and Babinichi. We asked questions of three types: do you know English, explain the meaning of words that came from English, choose one of the three words that have an English origin. The results of the survey showed that even people who have not studied English know and understand the words that came from the English language. The third question was difficult for the most part, many answered by guessing.

The results of the survey showed that most of the respondents were able to explain the meaning of all the words, despite the fact that not every one of them has a sufficiently high level of the language, moreover, 5 people do not know English at all, however, they answered as confidently as those who know English. The easiest to explain were "marketing" (90% answered), "click" (85% answered), "training" (80% answered). Difficulties were caused by such words as "casting" (only 55% answered), "discount" (60% answered), and "cleaning" (75% answered) [App 1].

As for the third question of our survey, three words were proposed ("дача", "миксер", "рюкзак"), among which only one of them has an English origin ("миксер"). As mentioned earlier, 20 people were interviewed, 12 of them answered correctly, which amounted to 60%, 5 people considered that "рюкзак" is a borrowed word, which amounted to 25%, 3 people chose the option "дача", only 3% [App2].

So, we can summarize that in oral speech, English words have become on the same level with their native vocabulary, because even people who have not studied English understand their meaning.

The other sphere of using English words is texting. Numerous social nets and new types of communication such as e-mail and mobile phone texting gave birth to a new text language, which is characterized by shortenings, abbreviations, deliberate mistakes and the use of slang words.

With the popularity and rise in real-time text-based communications, such a Twitter, e-mail, «Agent@Mail.Ru», «ВКонтакте», «www.facebook.com», «www.odnoklassniki.ru», Internet chat rooms, discussion boards and mobile phone

text messaging (SMS), came the emergence of a new text language tailored to the immediacy and compactness of these new communication media.

Text messaging is the smart way to communicate in the 21st century. Everyone uses it- men, women and, of course, teenagers. Why? Because it is fun, simple and really addictive. People send text messages to finalize their infinitely flexible plans, to make a date, to share a joke and, naturally, to flirt. And they do it under the noses of their mums, dads and even teachers.

Here are several rules (if there are any):

1. Make words as short as you can: Pls= please.
2. Use a letter instead of a whole word where possible: U= you.
3. Use numbers instead of letters where possible: w8 = wait.
4. Use symbols- they look so beautiful in the middle of the word! The percentage sign can be used for the “oo” sound (sk%l), a dollar sign can be used instead of doubles (me\$age).
5. Use abbreviations for long phrases: LOL = Laughing Out Loud.[3]

We can say with confidence that our classmates and peers very often use such words, because it is very convenient, you do not need to spend a lot of time typing a text, and everyone is used to it, so it is easy to recognize and understand them in correspondence.

## **2.2. English in the names of different places of Orsha and Babinichi**

As we said, at the moment, in our world, English has a huge demand in all spheres of life. An increasing number of people are learning this language and widely practicing their knowledge in daily life. The relevance and the most important aspect of our work seems to be that currently most stores prefer to have English names. It is believed that the name is a strong and memorable identifier that will contribute to the promotion of goods and services in the sales market. This is why a large number of people use English words in their stores. It is with the help of such words that people can quickly remember this information about this store or some other information. In our city, we were able to find a small number of shops that are somehow related to the English language.

Have you ever thought about the fact that the names of cafes, shops, boutiques in our city very often have English words or letters? We decided to walk around our city, count the number of such establishments and analyze the names. [App3] Of course, we understood that the number of establishments with English words would be impressive, but we were really surprised that at almost every step we met signs using English words or letters. This caused us great interest, so we also decided to do a small survey. We asked passers-by how, on their opinion, names using English words could affect the status and success of the institution. The most frequent answer was the fact that such names sound more prestigious. We agree with this opinion, because if you translate some place names into Russian and present them on a sign, they can really look ridiculous. Therefore, we also consider the use of English names as a great marketing way to attract customers and visitors. For example, the "Smile" cafe attracts

visitors and is associated with a positive mood, the "For you" store attracts customers with its care and attention.

After doing a little research, we made the conclusion that English is deeply rooted in our mother tongue. In some cases, for example, in the names of institutions, they perceive and respond better to English words than to Russian ones. Even Belarusian brands use letters, if not words, in their names, for example, Mark Formel, Belita, Martin and others.

### **2.3. English on the products that we use in everyday life**

How often do we go shopping, but how rarely do we notice that most of the products are brought from America or England, and therefore the names are also preserved in English? On the one hand, this could anger the customer, because questions arise about what kind of product it is, for what, and so on. But in fact, all these names have already become so close to us that we use them almost as common nouns. Moreover, more and more products of the Russian or Belarusian manufacturer began to appear, but already with names in English. In this regard, we decided to thoroughly study the store shelves and make conclusions. When you buy different products with foreign names, you usually don't think about their meaning. For example, popular chocolate bar "Sneakers" is translated as "Кроссовки". There are many other product names with interesting meanings: "Fairy" - "Сказочный", "Bounty" - "Награда" or "Щедрость", "Milky way" - "Млечный путь", "Skittles" - "Кегли". But do you know why some products have English names. We think this is due to the fact that names in English sound more pleasant than in Russian. Compare: "Sneakers" in English and "Кроссовки" in Russian, it is clear that the first option sounds melodious and hearing this name we don't have associations with shoes.

One more interesting thing, we usually don't have idea why some products have such names and what it is connected with. In the Internet we have found the information that the most popular sweet "Rafaello" received its name in honor of the great genius of all time, the Italian artist Raffaele de Santi. The most delicious coconut bar "Bounty" is literally translated as "The taste of heaven", therefore this sweetness is advertised exclusively against the background of a tropical island and use the expression "Bounty is heaven delight". Next chocolate bar with interesting name is "Twix". Originally the bar was called "Raider" and was produced in the UK, but after the bar was brought to the USA it was recalled "Twix", literally "Twix" is translated as "Double cookie". In the course of studying this issue, we can say that such products occupy a large part of our life, but do people know any information about them?

To find the answer to this question we made a survey where we asked people to translate the names of different products.

We chose the names of various products such as "Fairy", "Sneakers", "Mr Proper", "Bounty", "Fruit story", "Milky way". Initially, we, as English-speaking people, thought that almost all words would be easy to translate, however, we found the fact that many people did not translate words literally, they called the words that caused these associations words. So, for example, the word "sneakers" was often translated as nutty, energy boost, snack; "bounty" was translated as pleasure, paradise,



a paradise island; “milky way” was called as milk chocolate, delicious chocolate. "Fairy" and "Mr Proper" could not be translated even by those who know English, no one has ever thought about translating these words. Thus, in our opinion, this task was the most difficult. We use names with English words, but do not think about their meaning, we just get used to and remember the associations taken in advertising.

## Conclusion

We believe that in the course of studying this issue, we have achieved all the objectives. We have studied information about the historical course of the development of the English language, we have found out the importance of this language throughout the world. During the practical part of our study, the fact that English has long been rooted in our native language was revealed, many native Russian words were replaced, each of the respondents, even those who did not study English, could easily answer most of the tasks. In our speech, oral or written correspondence, words with English origin are very common, we accept them without hesitation, we know their meanings, and sometimes we completely forget the Russian counterpart.

Also, the fact that English is present in our speech is due to the presence of a large number of institutions using English words, letters or meanings. We have identified a large number of such places; most often English names were chosen due to the fact that their owners believe that such names give prestige and can attract visitors. Names with English words are the most common in our city, but there are also names using English letters.

English is everywhere in our lives, we communicate with each other using this language to explain ourselves, we visit places with English names, and of course the products we buy are also in English in large quantities. We are so accustomed to the English language that many words have become common nouns for us. For example, "Fairy" is often used to refer to any cleaning product, "Twix" is used to compare things that come in a pair, "Apple" is primarily associated with an expensive phone.

We believe that this work proves the fact that the study of a foreign language, in particular English, should be an important part of the education of every student. Even if not, everyone will be able to apply their knowledge abroad, but this knowledge will be able to increase the level of overall development. We believe that this work is relevant for school students, it can push them to make more efforts in learning English, because if you think about what we studied in this work, we can conclude that each of us, to one degree or another, can use words borrowed from English. We have achieved our goals and believe that this issue has been studied at a decent level, however, we believe that it can be continued to be studied as part of the use of the English language in other areas.

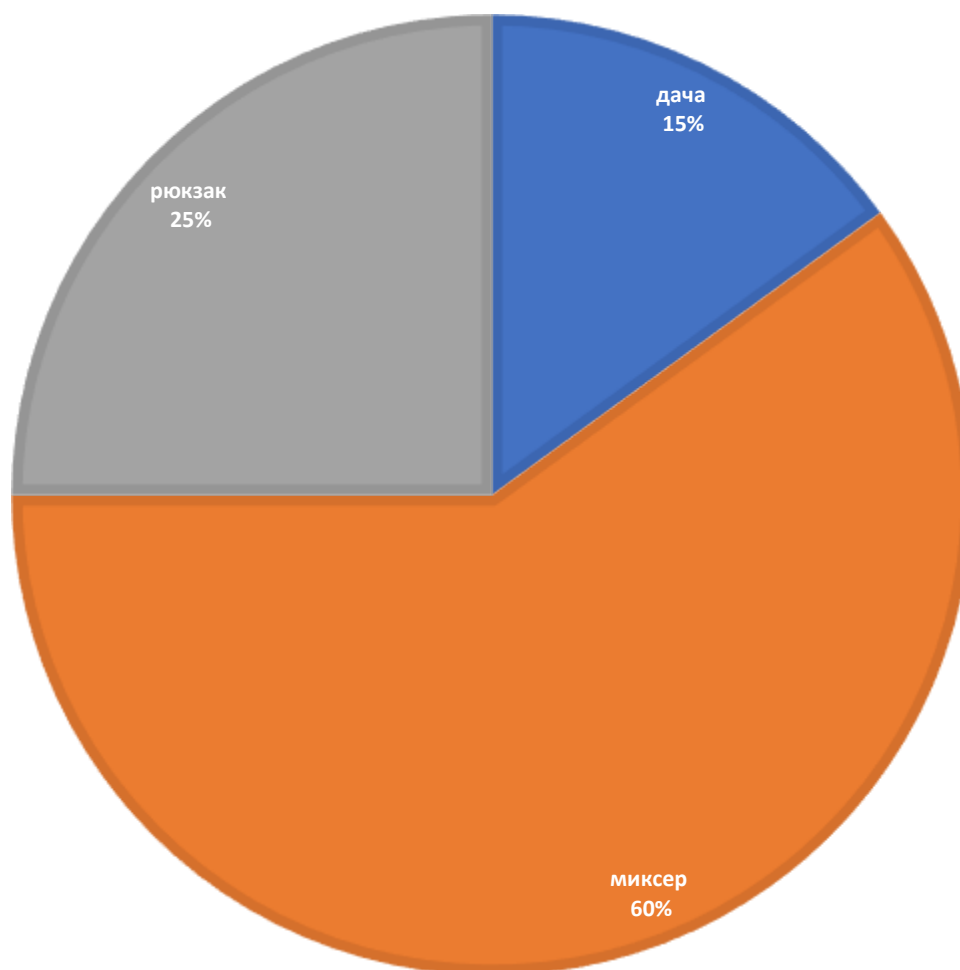
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**The results of the survey**  
**(explaining the meaning of words that came from English)**

The word	Sphere of usage	People who could answer (20 people)
Cleaning	House	15/20 (75%)
Click	Communication technologies	17/20 (85%)
Discount	Trade	12/20 (60%)
Marketing	Business	18/20(90%)
Casting	TV	11/20 (55%)
Training	Sport	16/20(80%)

**The results of the survey**  
**(choosing one of the three words that have an English origin)**



**Names of places and establishments with English words or letters in Orsha**

	<p>«Grey»</p>
	<p>Coffee station «Piri Piri»</p>
	<p>«Smile coffee»</p>



«Wildberries»



«Kari»



«Fix Price»



«See»

**Selected words for the survey**

Word	Translation
«Fairy»	Сказочный
«Sneakers»	Кроссовки
«Mr. Proper»	Мистер Правильный
«Bounty»	Награда
«Fruit story»	Фруктовая история
«Milky way»	Млечный путь