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**FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AS A TOOL FOR
INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AND STEREOTYPE
REDUCTION**

Introduction. Interaction with representatives of another culture requires not only an actual understanding of their language, but also an awareness of the mentality and cultural characteristics of the speaker [2, p. 205]. Students should study educational materials in the source language to improve this process.

The work aims to study the benefits of foreign language learning for students to improve communication in international projects.

Language includes not only letters and words, but also the country's culture, the emotional tone with which the phrase was spoken or the text was written [1, p. 172]. Also, each language has certain aspects, idioms, and phrases that are often difficult to translate without losing the original text's meaning.

For international collaboration, Ukrainian students' learning of foreign languages has several significant goals.

Reading the learning materials in the original language. This approach is the most effective because it prevents learning information with translation flaws. Such mistakes can lead to misunderstandings between people from different countries when communicating. Therefore, studying information from the original language is crucial.

Often, information can be accidentally translated in a stereotypical perspective or deliberately defamed for information propaganda. Due to their lack of knowledge of other languages, Ukrainian students studied foreign publications in Russian, as there was a lack of translations available in Ukrainian. As a result, they were involved in the Russian information space, which promoted propaganda narratives that were harmful to Ukraine. Studying

information in Russian is an excellent danger to Ukrainian society and reduces the use of the Ukrainian language.

Fluency in foreign languages gives students access to primary sources from professional literature and fiction. This way, they can form opinions that will not be misrepresented or defamed.

In face-to-face communication, it is essential to consider the specifics of non-verbal communication in different mentalities. Each country has different gestures, the distance between speakers, emotional tone, and conversation volume. Therefore, studying the specifics of a country's culture in the source language is necessary to avoid conflict situations and misunderstandings. During live communication with a person from another country, the student will develop their understanding of the country's citizens, which will not be affected by stereotypes [3, p. 87].

Breaking stereotypes about Ukrainians in the international arena. Learning foreign languages is essential to shaping Ukraine's image for students participating in international projects. Demonstrating a high level of education, professional skills, and knowledge of foreign languages creates a positive impression of the country and its citizens. It is imperative to destroy stereotypes about Ukrainians during the war.

Building strong international connections. Communicating with colleagues from their professional field directly contributes to the professional growth of students. The exchange of knowledge and views provides a priceless experience. By communicating in the same language, students learn about each other's traditions, beliefs, and cultural background [4, p. 128]. It also creates powerful personal connections for future cooperation between countries.

Development of critical thinking. Students learn to separate the author's opinions and beliefs from real facts by studying sources. They analyse the mechanisms of influence on a person both in original articles and in translation.

Conclusion. Therefore, learning foreign languages by students is critical for international cooperation. Breaking down stereotypes and personal barriers,

raising the image of their country, and creating intercultural connections are all necessary tasks for a student who wants to become a highly qualified specialist.

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