

## MULTILINGUALISM IN MODERN WORLD

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**Introduction.** In the modern days, when society is constantly progressing, knowledge of several languages is known as an opportunity and requirement, rather than odd privilege of the wealthy. Statistically, there are more people who speak more than one language, so modern society can surely be identified as bilingual and multilingual. Kazakhstan is known for being one of the multicultural countries so bilingualism and multilingualism exist in our country and people can be called multicultural.

According to Michael Clyne, the word "multilingualism" can be applied to either to a use of language or the competence, or to the linguistic situation in a whole nation or community. Individually, though, it is commonly referred to as "bilingualism". This might be because, there are definitely more bilinguals worldwide, and not as many individuals are considered to use more than two languages on a regular basis [1].

Multilingualism is proved to bring a number of benefits which are in the list of requirements of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills that every modern global citizen is expected to acquire. The role of languages in our quickly-developing reality is undeniable and learning about how we can benefit from knowing numerous languages can motivate learners and promote diversity. multilingual education is simply required for the formation of a competitive specialist, a sociable personality capable of offering their professional competencies in society, who recognizes and appreciates other cultures, and who desires to live in peace and harmony [2].

### **Methodology**

*Design.* This research used the quantitative research approach using a cross-sectional survey for data collection. For this purpose, the research survey was conducted online (accessed by the URL link) and the instrument applied for it was an anonymous questionnaire that was developed to identify the benefits of multilingualism [3].

*Participants.* The survey participants were composed of 21 bachelor's and master's students of Eurasian National University. Besides, it was essential to establish that the participants were well-informed of the terms "multilingualism" and "multicultural", so the definitions were included.

*Instrument.* A brief questionnaire was developed based on the literature review. As the participants were all English major students, it was decided the best to conduct a survey in English. The questions were formed to be completed in approximately 2-5 minutes.

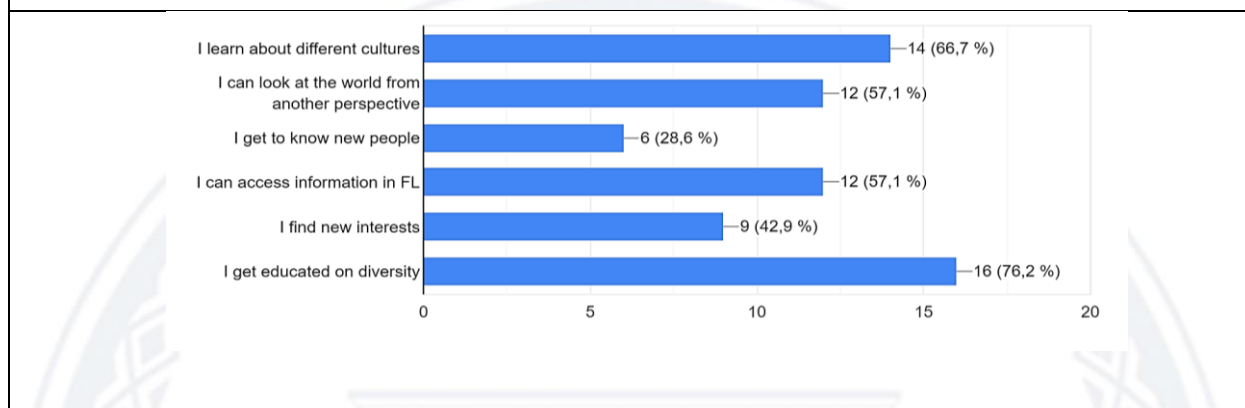
Students were given a questionnaire consisting of 8 questions including multiple-choice questions, general questions and open-ended questions to reveal their knowledge of multilingualism and its benefits in life.

*Data collection.* The study used a questionnaire designed to answer the research question of how beneficial multilingualism is. Data were collected from 21 participants, consisting of bachelor's and master's students of Eurasian National University. As the questionnaire was conducted online using Google Forms, the link was sent to group chats with the participants. Recipients were requested to complete the questionnaire and were pre-informed that participation in the study was voluntarily and that they were under no obligation to participate.

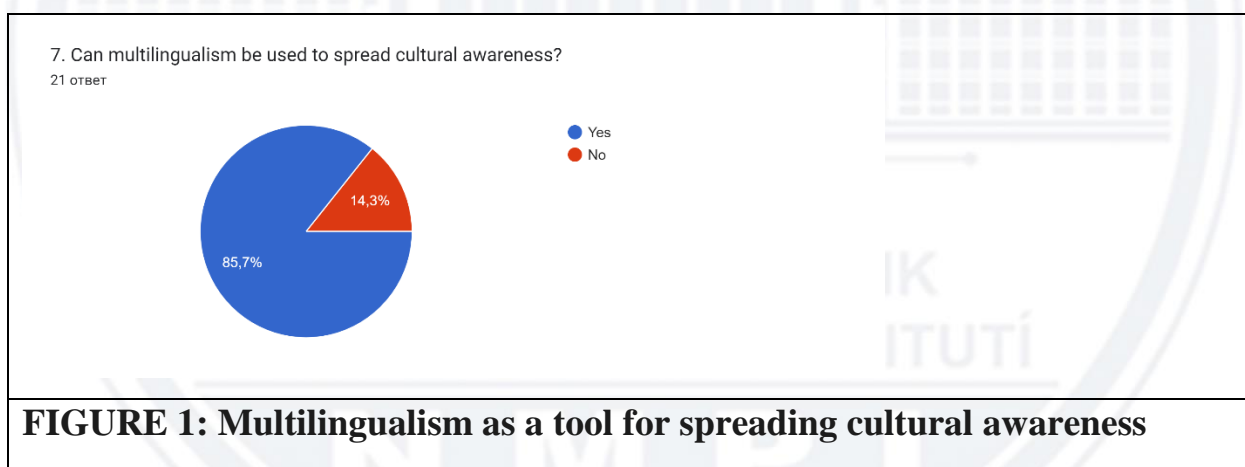
*Data analysis.* Using Summary from the Google Forms, descriptive statistics and independent sample t-tests, the data was analyzed. The descriptive statistics were used for overall mean scores of the different investigated variables. The independent sample t-tests were used to compare bachelor's and master's students, in addition to comparing the benefits of multilingualism for each group.

**Results.** As *Table 1* shows, the responses of participants suggest what the benefits of being a multilingual are. The option that got most votes of 76,2% was “I get educated on diversity”. The purpose was to identify the positive impact of multilingualism in participants’ lives [3].

**TABLE 1: The expansion of the worldview with the help of multilingualism**



According to *Figure 1*, multilingualism can potentially be used to spread cultural awareness [4].



**FIGURE 1: Multilingualism as a tool for spreading cultural awareness**

**Discussions.** Based on the survey results demonstrated above, this section discusses the findings of the study. The results show that the bachelor's and master's students who took part in the survey are generally familiar with the concept of multilingualism, since they themselves are bilinguals and multilinguals [5]. It became clear that multilingualism in many ways gives them advantages both in the academic and career perspective [6]. At the end, the respondents were asked to answer the question: *How does being multilingual benefit you personally?*

1. *As a multilingual I get higher scores at the university and I can communicate with representatives of other nationalities and cultural backgrounds.*

2. *Multilingualism allows me to access new information makes me more tolerant, open-minded and overall; it puts me in a better position anywhere.*

Various studies point out that speaking more than two languages greatly influences an individual's personality, health and success [7]. Individuals who know various languages are better at assessing their surroundings and identifying false information. Perhaps this is due to their better suppression abilities, which allow them to focus on pertinent information while filtering out everything else.

According to research, learning different languages improves communication abilities. In line with studies by Diaconu L., kids raised in multilingual households were better at comprehending other people's points of view, which is a driver of successful communication. Multilingualism can also increase sensitivity to cultural awareness [8].

Learning a foreign language challenges the brain to convey comparable concepts in various ways, which leads to increased cognitive flexibility in multilingual individuals. This results in enhanced creativity and problem-solving abilities, as well as the ability to interpret circumstances in novel ways [9]. After a learner has mastered a second language and can formally call oneself "bilingual," it's considerably simpler for that individual to study a third and the fourth language. Each extra language that a person learns fluently makes it way easier to begin speaking another language rapidly [10].

**Conclusion and recommendations.** In conclusion, this study was conducted to identify the impact of multilingualism on students' lives. For that purpose, the survey results were analyzed and interpreted in a way to expand on the benefits that come with being a multilingual and multicultural global citizen. Multilingualism has become a frequent phenomenon in a world where cultures mix with each other and coexist as a result and as a representation of diversity.

Identifying yourself as a multilingual person guarantees more opportunities for academic and career development and progress in society.

For further study of this issue, I would recommend conducting a more extensive and in-depth study of this topic for further familiarization with the concept of multilingualism.

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