

## **ENGLISH AS A TOOL OF A PERSON'S EDUCATIONAL SPACE FORMATION**

The system of higher education is undergoing considerable transformation. New social demands, globalization process, rapid economic changes, and moves towards European integration make such changes essential. New conditions require individuals equipped with necessary professional and socio-cultural skills, active, intelligent, able to react on socio-economic processes quickly and adequately.

The objective of our research is to reveal English language's potential as a tool of forming an individual's educational space.

Educational space is a system that presupposes interaction between social institutes and institutions, social environment and an individual in the society, which functions as a whole.

English should be seen as a powerful tool of forming a person's educational space due to some reasons. Firstly, the language is the most important factor of an individual's socialization that allows him to be accepted by the society, exist in it and have access to its culture. On the one hand, language is the system providing preservation of the valuable experience gathered by the nation for a long time of its existence. On the other hand, language is a dynamic system; it is sensitive to socio-cultural changes, transformations of value systems, institutional developments, etc. Language signs acquire new meanings, which can be institutionalized and become a norm or a rule. Thus, social changes can be analyzed by means of applying linguistic-semiotic methods.

Secondly, English being the language of international communication can promote a person's socialization in other socio-cultural environments.

Thirdly, proficiency in English expands and improves a person's educational space. An individual is able to find solutions of many problems using more sources of information, applying various methods, taking into account different socio-cultural experiences.

It should be emphasized that English should be perceived as a particular way of thinking rather than a set of vocabulary units, grammar structures and rules. Each culture has its own vision of the world reflected in its language known as the language picture of the world.

The only acceptable approach in teaching and learning English is the value-oriented one. It is the condition of proper formation of an individual's educational space.

English is a tool for better understanding of different cultures, as well as a person's own culture. Learning English gives the learner a chance to compare not only languages, but societies and cultures. As a result, he develops his ability to value uniqueness of each culture, compare their peculiarities and accept them.

Educational institutes in Ukraine become more and more oriented on the USA or Europe. But Ukrainians lack competence in evaluating appropriate and inappropriate solutions for our country. The problem can be solved by means of improving educational space of a person.

As a conclusion, teaching and learning English is an important factor of forming an individual's educational space.