

Королева Карина, РК-11:

The process of globalization has brought us to the point where many boundaries both factual and cultural are dismissing. Nowadays a lot of us tend to see the world as some kind of a 'global village' populated by 'global citizens'. The spread of the Internet and especially social media is what mostly make people believe in a world of common ground. This phenomenon is specifically up-to-date among younger population and active users of the global network. We make friends with people from the other countries and think we belong to the same world of values and perceptions. Here the question arises: how much of it is actually true? What are the new challenges we are facing in this new model of the world? Would it be fair to apply this vision to the entire world where people still see it as 'we and they' as it was described in a poem of Rudyard Kipling decades ago?

No matter how much this process is on I still see how people react to foreigners in small towns. It is especially explicit when they not only speak another language but look different like Africans or Indians. In this situation we might turn biased towards the stereotypes imposed by mass media. We might even think they lack manners or can act inappropriately. That is when the issue of multicultural misunderstanding comes.

The same is fair when representatives of one culture are going for a trip abroad. They need to keep in mind that each destination has its special customs no matter whether they are going to a country next door or to the other continent. For example, many people mistakenly believe that Europe is all the same. My sister went for an exchange semester to the Netherlands and often travelled to Germany. What she noticed was groundbreaking for her: Dutch people tend to be straightforward and say what they think both in life and mass media. They are openly accepting homosexuality or criticism towards government. However, since Germany is legally protective about privacy, Germans would never discuss such controversial topics on television or radio. Moreover, chances that they are going to argue someone else's actions without solid arguments are low. That explicitly displays how big a cultural gap can be even in neighboring countries and supports Kipling's idea of "us and them". Since such mundane examples are proving the importance of finding a way for effective multi-cultural communication, I insist on giving this issue more focus on an interpersonal, media and governmental level.

Analyzing it all, I truly believe that it is fundamental to teach people that no matter how much we differ, we share such things as a desire to live in a peaceful world, having friends and family and taking care about the ones we love. I propose it might be done by giving multi-cultural classes at schools and universities. Mass media should launching more educational platforms that spread an idea that all people aim at having more positivity and interaction in order to improve the lives for all of us. If we learn to accept and respect each other, give the others more compassion and care about real people not politics, there surely will be fewer reasons to start a war and play power games.

Потанина Радмила, 11 класс:

There are more than 7 billion people living on our planet and there is not anybody looking like another person. We all have differences in our appearances and manners, our cultures and traditions, in our views and interests. So, there is a problem of the communicative relationship. However, is this problem a reason to hate someone who differs from us or to draw the line between us and them, as it is said in R. Kipling`s poem? The author calls people who don`t look like “we” as the “impudent heathen” because they “live up the tree”, “drink milk or blood” and do different things. Rudyard Kipling speaks ironically and it is funny to read the poem, but there is a true thought in it. We consider somebody like a “savage” while they believe we are such people because of our life differing from their one. Therefore, from my point of view, all people are the same.

Most importantly, we are alike inwardly. Everyone thoughts and feels, laughs and cries, everybody needs the same simple things: water and food, communication, feeling healthy and protected. Moreover, every of us don`t want to make war or to be dependent on anyone. Love and friendship unite us. Everybody likes something and someone. Two people of different nations may adore the same music, for example. They don`t matter what happens between their countries or what feature of their mentality annoys them at each other they are just enjoying their favorite singer or musical group. I have a real example of good nation relationship. My cousin and her boyfriend who is from Turkey have fallen in love for 5 years in spite of the fact their living in different countries. They have sundry culture, traditions and religion but they are going to get married. Unfortunately, all people have also felt disappointed at least once. We face failures, distrust, betrayal, anger, but we try to go through them. All this unites us, too.

It was proved by history scientists that people had originated from some species of primates. Developing and interacting with each other humans were moving to better places where they could give themselves and their children any necessary things. They were forming their unique features, traditions, languages, lifestyles fighting against environmental conditions. If you look at any society, it doesn`t matter whether it is modern or ancient, you will find out the great spiritual wealth: the works of art and music, history, famous inventions, literature, huge monuments – all of these are the world heritage. We must appreciate it.

So, you may ask the question: “Why is there too much violence and lack of understanding in our world if we are the same? Why does any nation fight against another one?” People have just forgotten who they are. Many of us make their purposes, achieve them and then, feeling self-satisfied, are very proud of ourselves. We begin thinking that we are the best. It is normal, but we also should be proud of success of other people and should help them to overcome other difficulties. We all are the huge family. We make conditions of our life ourselves: countries, cities, ecological environment and production and then try to survive there. People together make some problems and they should be solved with sharing efforts. We don`t have to separate from each other. It is impossible to hate someone who differs from you in our modern society. Be tolerant to everyone. Imagine, what would you feel if you were in the same conditions?

Новгородская Наталья, Ларх-11:

God tells us to love all the people, but... do we?

I live in the world where adults teach their children to beware of people of other nationalities. No matter if you are Asian or, for example, African, you are already an enemy, an alien. "Don't make friends with such people, communicate with **normal** ones. It's much more safer."

A few years ago I, probably, could agree that there are "We" and "They" in this world. But so happened that I met four awesome girls, and only one of them was Russian, like me. All of us shared the same interests. I never thinking of they were not Russians. There just was no problem with that. Though we all were different people and had different views I had fun talking to them. Day by day I chatted with them and gradually I understood that I communicate with all the people as equals. These four girls taught me. Thanks to them I don't draw the line between people. Later I started noticing that some people dislike others because of nationality difference. One day one man (A) said something bad about another man (B), without even knowing him. A did it only because of B skin's colour. I felt bad for this situation, I felt that A was not right. If I were B, I would even cry. There are no "We" and "They". There are people, equal people, who live in different places of our world. That is how I feel now.

I can't say that in our today world any nation has really big problems with other nations. But back to the past... I like Remarque. From his novels "The Night in Lisbon" and "Love Thy Neighbour" I learned some information about the persecution of Jews. What was their fault? What is the fault of a little Jewish baby? Oh, yes. His parents are Jews. So he is guilty of all the world sins for sure. People, I mean **so called civilized** people, made these shameless things, killed other people and thought that what they did was right. Shame on them. Shame on us for not stopping them. It is one of the black pages of our world history.

There is no reason to divide people into groups. And there is no excuse for those who do it. All the people need oxygen, water, food, clothes, etc. We all deserve love and respect, we are worth friendship. The world is changeable. Maybe tomorrow you will become a "stranger" for everyone you like, for "Us". Who knows... Then today you should know more about "strangers" or "they". Getting closer to them, you may see that they are people, too. That they may be more humane to you than you to them. We must think about it. I have never met people who'd said: "You are Russian, so I don't want to have any contact with you". And I don't want other people to meet Russians who'd say such things to them. That is rude, intolerant. That is awful. We are people first of all.

To my mind, it is better to finish on a good note. I want to say that there is a lot of people fighting with this problem by their efforts. We may just do what we can, what we have strength for. Unindifference is our main weapon.

Мамедов Фуад Тур(м)-21:

The topic of intercultural communication directly relates to me. I am a citizen of this amazing country Azerbaijan. And my home is «city of winds» Baku. And here destiny had disposed that I ended up here in Russia, in this wonderful «Mariy Moscow» and in university which have become for me my second home. And since that moment in my life begins my cognition of new culture (or even cultures, because in Yoshkar-ola it is possible to get to know with Mariy culture, tatarian, russian and with many others, this opportunity was given to me by «Bridge of Friendship», which takes place annually in the walls of Volga State University of Technology) and affiliation of communications with its represents.

In this essay i will try to formulate basic obstacles, or «stones of hindrances», which impede effective intercultural communication, which I faced on my personal experience. Firstly, it is linguistic difference. I know this «stone quite well». I do not know Russian perfectly and initially thought that the phrase I said can only have one meaning and how deeply I was mistaken. Since then I understood that there is no need to ignore other sources of signals and messages during conversation (such as jests, mimics, intonation). You know, it works. Secondly, they are prejudices and stereotypes. Unnecessary base on stereotypes may impede us to look objectively at other people and find tips, which can help us to interpret these messages in the way we intended to transmit them. In order to destroy this system there must be exchange of cultures, of course it is essential to preserve cultural traditions, however nobody prohibit us to contribute something new or just get to know with another culture. Third «stone» is urge to evaluate. Different values can engender negative thoughts at certain group of people, envy at other group and admiration at third group of people. I am still amazed how in Jerusalem in one city, almost on one square, three global religions became neighbours. Can we just call it communication with big letter?

The verse Rudyard Kipling: We and They is another confirmation of that until you do not to know other culture, you do not smash with it «face to face», you will not understand how we were different when we begin to comprehend another culture, that our goals are the same.

In conclusion I would like to add that all the obstacles we face on our road of cognition, do not must stop us, we should overcome them. Swim over the sea, not just cross a path. The road of intercultural communication is not easy, but how much you can be happy, when you meet different people in foreign country, it turns out that you have the same interests, activities, they wonder about your country and you try to understand how their lives are settled. Different cultures should not impede us to remain the same persons and affiliate communications. Preserve and love your culture and respect others, it is what we should achieve. We are just like them!

Якимова Ольга Тур(м)-21:

Das Gedicht von Rudyard Kipling «We and They» betrachtet das Problem der interkulturellen Kommunikation.

Gegenwärtig reisen die Menschen oft, der internationale Handel entwickelt sich, viele internationale Konferenzen finden statt, deren Teilnehmer die Personen verschiedener Nationalitäten, die Vertreter der verschiedenen Kulturen sind. Außerdem führten die entstandenen politischen, sozialen und ökonomischen Veränderungen zu der umfassenden Migration. Die schnelle Zunahme der Migration im Weltmaßstab wurde zu einem der prägenden Merkmale der letzten Jahrzehnte des 20. Jahrhunderts. Deswegen entstand die Situation, wenn die Menschen zur Aneignung der anderen Kultur bereit sind, gleichzeitig sind sie fertig die eigene kulturelle Erfahrung zu teilen. So geht der Prozess der interkulturellen Kommunikation, der eine Gesamtheit von verschiedenen Beziehungsformen und Kommunikation zwischen den Vertretern der verschiedenen Kulturen darstellt. Interkulturelle Kommunikation hat durch zunehmende [Globalisierung](#) als Teil von dieser eine zunehmende Bedeutung. Außerdem kommt es durch Phänomene wie etwa der globalen Arbeitsteilung und Mobilität, zunehmender Reisefreiheit und Massentourismus sowie der Entwicklung neuer Kommunikationstechnologien (E-Mail etc.) zu immer mehr Kontakten zwischen Personen unterschiedlicher Kulturen.

Man muss bemerken, dass interkulturelle Kommunikation viele Probleme verursacht, die mit dem Kampf der Kulturen zusammenhängen. [Zweifellos](#) tritt der Kampf der Kulturen am meisten in Erscheinung nur beim realen Umgang mit Ausländern sowohl in ihrem Land als auch daheim, und das ruft viele Kuriositäten, Witze, Ungelegenheiten, Dramen und sogar Tragödien hervor. Es gab einen Fall, wann der Konflikt der Kulturen, nach einer Version, Katastrophe des kasachischen Flugzeugs verursachte: bei der Landung in Delhi stellten indische Fluglotsen die Höhe nicht in Meter sondern in Fuß zur Verfügung, wie es in englischer Kultur und englischer Sprache üblich ist.

Doch der Hauptgedanke des Autors in diesem Gedicht ist die Manifestation der Toleranz zu den Vertretern der anderen Kulturen. Die Toleranz liegt der interkulturellen Kommunikation zugrunde. Sie äußert sich in Geltenlassen des Fremden so, wie er ist, in Respekt der Ansichten der anderen Menschen, der Traditionen, Sitten, Werte und Kultur anderer Nationalitäten und Glaubensrichtungen. Der Dialog der Kulturen, der in den Bedingungen der Globalisierung so notwendig ist, kommt nur dann zustande, wenn man die Menschen der anderen Nationen, Religionen und Kulturen wie sich selbst aufnimmt. Leider gab es immer der Geist der Intoleranz und Feindseligkeit gegenüber anderer Kultur, Lebensweise, Glaubensvorstellungen, Überzeugungen, Gewohnheiten, und in der modernen Gesellschaft existiert er auch. Um diese Worte zu bestätigen kann man sich an den Konflikt zwischen Russland, der Ukraine, den USA und der Europäischen Union im Jahre 2014 erinnern, der zeigt, dass der Appell an die gesamteuropäischen Werte als universell in der modernen Welt aussichtslos ist.

So leben wir heutzutage in der Welt, wo verschiedene nationale Kulturen, Völker und Religionen intensiv zusammenwirken. Das erfordert den Aufbau von offenen Beziehungen zwischen den Menschen verschiedener Kulturen. Gleichzeitig hat jedes Volk vor sich das Ziel der Erhaltung der nationalen, religiösen und kulturellen Identität. Interkulturelle Kommunikation kann bei der Einhaltung des Toleranzprinzips erfolgreich sein. Man muss Toleranz gegenüber den Vertretern von anderen Kulturen, Glaubensrichtungen und Ländern üben. Sie sind nicht schlechter, aber auch nicht besser als wir, sie sind wir, und wir sind sie.