

Уважаемые участники образовательной акции Total English!

Диктант 2018 года уже пятый, юбилейный. В день тотального диктанта каждый из нас становится немножко лингвистом. И чтобы отметить такую действительно праздничную для всех любителей английского языка дату – пятилетие акции- мы обратились к Дмитрию Юрьевичу Петрову, российскому полиглоту, лингвисту-профессионалу, телеведущему программы «Полиглот» на канале «Культура». Он поделится с вами редкими и интересными фактами из истории языка и собственным взглядом на его природу и роль в нашей жизни.

Everyone knows the story about the tower of Babel. There is a much less known legend about the origin of language diversity. It is a Hindu myth of the Tree of Knowledge. The tree was growing very fast wishing to reach the heaven and become big and tall so that all humans could come and stay together in the shadow of its wide branches. God Brahma didn't like the idea. He tore off all the branches and scattered them across the world. Each branch became a tree, people followed them and grouped around each new tree seeking shelter and forming a separate language. What I like about this myth is the idea that the language is a living and growing organism, all languages grow from the same root, and that people can be protected by the power of their language.

Languages are living creatures. They also mix a lot. The Gypsy language started as an Indian dialect, then rolled over Eurasia absorbing elements of Persian, Greek and Slavic tongues. Even Modern English is a mixture of Anglo-Saxon and French. Some of the mixed languages have disappeared, like Russenorsk, the hybrid of Russian and Norwegian. Some new ones are emerging. For example, RunGLISH –, the language that is wide-spread in the outer space, since it is used by the residents of the International Space Station.

Learning languages is probably the best mental exercise. Instruments and machines are now doing what our muscles used to do in the past. According to the statistics, an average person studies foreign languages in various academic environments for 16 years! A vast number of people believe that the results they get are not worth the tremendous time capital spent on them.

Shouldn't we do something about it? Learning languages seems to be a wonderful way to stay mentally fit! Linguistic work-out is for everyone to enjoy. So, let's take pleasure in communication with all nations around us!