

Phenomenology of language barrier in various spheres of life

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Abstract . This article discusses the topic of the language barrier within the framework of communication and its impact on interaction and mutual understanding between people of different cultures and languages. We have analyzed various aspects of the language barrier phenomenon, highlighting the main causes and consequences of the phenomenon. As a result of understanding the problem, recommendations were developed for both sides of communication.

1 Introduction

Increasing globalization does not allow us to ignore such an aspect as interaction across language boundaries. People in any field of activity, be it business, science or communication, in order to achieve large-scale results, sooner or later are forced to enter the field of international interaction, which involves learning one or more foreign languages. This process is expectedly accompanied by a number of difficulties, one of which is the language barrier.

The conventional term “language barrier” refers to an obstacle that arises due to differences in linguistic communication between people who speak different languages or have different levels of language proficiency. Language barriers can make it difficult for people to communicate effectively, share information, and understand, which is especially important in healthcare, education, business, and other areas of life. In today's multilingual world, the language barrier is becoming an increasingly pressing problem affecting effective interaction.

Among the authors who studied the phenomenon of the language barrier are researchers such as Paul Dure and Shirley Brindl, who in their works paid attention to the influence of language differences on intercultural interaction and communication. It is also worth mentioning the works of José Luis Cortes and Emmy Swenson, who explored the issues of multilingualism and the influence of this factor on social relationships and personal development. In addition, John Gill and Anna Maria Schmidt examined the language barrier from the point of view of psychology and psycholinguistics.

2 Materials and methods

Each scholar approaches the concept of language barriers from a unique perspective, but there are some commonalities. Consider some of the author's definitions. According to Paul Dure, a language barrier is an obstacle that arises in the process of communication between people due

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to differences in the languages they speak. This barrier can lead to poor communication situations and make understanding difficult. John Gill defines a language barrier as an obstacle that arises from insufficient knowledge of the language for effective communication. It can be overcome through language learning and communication practice. Anna Maria Schmidt views the language barrier as a problem that arises when different language groups interact. This can lead to misunderstandings and conflicts. In general, scientists agree that the language barrier is an obstacle to communication that arises due to differences in the languages and cultures of the participants in communication.

3 Results and Discussion

A language barrier can arise at different levels of language learning and at each of them it has its own reasons and specifics. At the initial level of language learning, a language barrier can arise due to a lack of basic knowledge of the language, vocabulary and grammar skills. This can lead to difficulties in understanding and using the language in conversation. At an intermediate level of language learning, a barrier may arise due to limited proficiency, which may manifest itself in difficulties in understanding complex texts and expressing one's thoughts and ideas. At an advanced level of language learning, a barrier may arise due to insufficient practice in speaking, incomplete knowledge of the cultural characteristics of the language and stylistics. This can lead to misunderstandings and conflicts in communication.

There are a number of psychological reasons that can contribute to the emergence of a language barrier: - low self-esteem (people with low self-esteem may experience fear of communicating in a foreign language due to the fear of making a mistake or being the object of ridicule);

- social anxiety (people with social anxiety may have difficulty communicating in a foreign language due to fear of a negative reaction from others); - motive of avoiding failure (fear of failure or misinterpretations can lead to refusal to communicate in a foreign language);

- negative experience (negative experiences in the past associated with learning or using a foreign language can lead to negative associations and strengthen the language barrier);

- insufficient motivation (lack of or unclear motive for learning a language can cause a low incentive to master oral and written speech in a foreign language). Language barrier in different spheres of life and activity. Language barriers can have a significant impact on people's daily lives, especially in a multilingual society or when moving to another country. One of the main aspects of the impact of a language barrier is the stress and inconvenience associated with the inability to communicate freely. People may feel isolated and lonely if they cannot understand or be understood when communicating with others due to differences in language. This can create problems in everyday situations, such as buying groceries at the store, seeking medical care, or looking for a job. Language barriers can also affect social relationships and interactions with others. The presence of a language barrier can lead to cross-cultural misunderstandings and conflicts due to the inability to accurately convey one's thoughts and feelings in another language. This can contribute to the deterioration of relationships with family, friends, and neighbors. Moreover, the language barrier can serve as an obstacle to personal and professional development. People who do not speak well the language of the country where they are located or the country that holds the record for a person's professional interests may have limited opportunities for learning. A language barrier can have a serious impact on a person's professional development, especially if they work in an international environment or want to get a job in another country. The inability to communicate relatively fluently and effectively in a foreign language becomes a serious barrier to a successful career and advancement opportunities. A communication barrier also limits access to information, learning opportunities, and communication with colleagues and clients. This causes missed business opportunities and loss of competitive advantage. The lack of ability to express oneself

competently in a foreign language can negatively affect the perception of competence and professionalism by others. These factors lead to economic, social and personal exclusion.

One of the most important areas where people face language barriers is in healthcare. Due to communication problems, there is a risk of being misunderstood by medical personnel, the inability to explain one's condition, which can lead to misunderstandings, errors in diagnosis and, as a result, an incorrect treatment trajectory. Language barriers have a negative impact on the quality of and access to health care. For example, patients may not be able to explain their symptoms, previous medical history, or understand medication instructions. Fear or shame of not being able to speak another language can also stop patients from seeking medical help. Language barriers can also lead to cultural differences and misinterpretation of information. Understanding a patient's cultural background and beliefs may be difficult due to language problems, resulting in a loss of trust in the physician-patient alliance.

Another area in which people most often encounter a language barrier is science. There are only 1.35 billion native English speakers and of the 7.8 billion people on the planet - about 16% of the world's population. It is the mother tongue of only 360 million people worldwide. However, today 95% of all scientific papers are published in English. This dominance of English in peer-reviewed journals sterilizes science, exacerbates inequality, impacts careers in science and education, and creates stereotypes. As a result, scientists whose first language is not English face a number of barriers to advancement in science and access to knowledge. Publishing scientific articles in major scientific journals and other English-language publications requires a lot of time and effort. Editing and translation services are expensive. Although scientific journals are published in other languages, the majority and most prestigious of them are currently published only in English. Moreover, if you do not publish in English, your work will be less valued by universities and academic institutions. Even in countries where the official language is not English, peer-reviewed articles published in the local language are rated lower, reducing researchers' chances of advancing their careers. Finally, articles published in another language are less likely to be read and cited by other researchers, meaning that the work does not have wide coverage, which is further exacerbated by English language bias in search databases. Writing scientific papers is a repetitive and time-consuming process, even for many English-language authors. Researchers whose first language is not English often take longer to edit peer-reviewed research and write a paper or grant application due to the extensive translation effort that goes into it. Added to this enormous effort is self-prejudice and fear of rejection, leading to internal struggle, demoralization and inertia when trying to write in English. This struggle can often lead to giving up efforts and missing out on many opportunities.

Language barriers are a common problem in the situation of using a foreign language. Communication is a subject-subject process. Native speakers often do not understand that it is often not the accent of the interlocutor, but his own manner of speaking that creates the greatest barriers to effective communication. To achieve effective cross-cultural communication, the following tips can be given to native speakers:

- Speak slowly and clearly (focus on clear pronunciation and slowing down your speech. Don't rush the other person. This may result in you ending up spending extra time clearing up confusion) ;
- clarify (if you are not completely sure that you understand, politely ask for clarification);
- practice reflective listening;
- avoid idioms (as a rule, set expressions are closely related to the culture of a given area, which makes it difficult for a representative of another cultural group to understand them); - be more specific in your expressions (avoid using expressions that can be ambiguous);
- choose effective means of communication and present information through multiple channels (if possible); - be patient (cross-cultural communication takes more time. If not always, then certainly at the initial stage you do not expect that your communication will take place with the same speed and ease, as when communicating with a person from your own culture).

4 Conclusion

To a subject who is on the way to overcoming the language barrier, we give the following recommendations:

- working through the consequences of traumatic events, working with individual psychological characteristics that interfere with mastering a foreign language; - continuous language training. Systematic language teaching increases the effectiveness of communication. Studying grammar, expanding your vocabulary, communicating with native speakers - all this helps improve your language skills;

- constant practice. Spending time in a language environment, communicating with native speakers, watching films and listening to music with subsequent analysis helps in reducing the language barrier and mastering current language trends;

- use and combination of various methods and technologies; - assimilation of the cultural characteristics of the country whose language you are studying; - constant self-improvement. The language barrier can be overcome if you constantly work on yourself and improve your language skills. Constant practice, learning new words, phrases, grammatical structures, regular communication in a foreign language - all this will help speed up overcoming the language barrier.

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