

VALUES OF POLES BY THE EYES OF LITHUANIAN STUDENTS

The results of sociological research, which was hold during the practice in the Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania are caring out in this article. As a result we found that Poles tolerate such values as «honesty», sociability (being «communicative»), «culture» and «politeness» and Lithuanian students - «education» and «hardworking».

***Keyworlds:** values, stereotypes, communication, Poland, Lithuania.*

Романенко О. В. Цінності поляків очима литовських студентів. У статті наведено результати дослідження, проведеного під час наукової практики в Університеті Вітовта Великого (Vytauto Didžiojo universitetas), м. Каунас (Литва). Внаслідок проведеного дослідження було з'ясовано, що поляки толерують такі цінності, як «чесність», «комунікабельність», «культура» і «ввічливість», а литовські студенти - «освіта», «розум».

***Ключові слова:** цінності, стереотипи, комунікація, Республіка Польща, Литва.*

The purpose of this article is to review the communications between Lithuanians and Poles, values that they are guided by and some other aspects of coexistence of two groups. Proper understanding of themselves and their community greatly affects the self-image of person, which has an impact on the perception of others. The globalization influences on this process not only in the local and regional but also to the global scale. The values have a particular importance in situations where groups get together for close and frequent contacts, for example, «have a common geographical space, social and political, which is shared by the state or a group of neighbors» [1, p. 112]. The same can be said about the students of different nationalities, who met in high school, for example, in the University. Of course, they are in the same group of common interests (like studying) with different experiences and background.

According to A. Jasińska-Kania, the goal of sociological research could be «a general empirical determination of the level of proliferation in the minds of members of the group specific ideas and / or opinions of the other groups, the degree of repeatability and uniformity of these ideas, as well as factors influencing their diversity and the possible modification» [2, p. 7].

For our study, the semantic differential method was selected [*like was used in the works from the books 3, 4, 5*]. The method is based on the fact that the content of the assessment of values is presented in the form of polarized characteristics [1, p. 134]. Realizing that such analysis «requires an interdisciplinary approach» and that they «can be studied in different ways, from different points of view from different perspectives» [1, p. 113], we are trying to determine values of Poles by the eyes of Lithuanian students. For this purpose, the author developed questionnaires (in English) and proposed them to students to fill out. The author made it during the practice in the Vytautas Magnus University (Kaunas, Lithuania) from November 20 till December 4, 2016. The cluster opposite pairs of characteristics (antonyms) have been proposed to the respondent, who had to specify a number from «1» (negative response) to «5» (positive characteristic), which, in their opinion, for the best reflects person's impression of a particular social group. All values were combine in some groups – by the respondents' attitude to other people, to their homeland, to material goods and to themselves.

Firstly, we asked Lithuanian students to answer the group of questions named in general «*How Poles are in relation to other people*». The group of questions includes such values traits: intolerant / tolerant, dishonest / honest, closed / open, unsociable / communicative, lack of culture / cultural, rude / polite, easy to be influenced / independent in their mind, opinion. According to the results we can see that the most attractive and necessary values in students' eyes are communicative skills (which is not a surprising in the era of globalization) and culture. According to the students' thoughts Poles are very patriotic and religious. One of their most important value is nationalism. In every nation, in every ethnic group you can meet many different character traits of good or bad. It is people with their weaknesses, peculiarities, so it is difficult to talk about one of the dominant value. According to M. Budyta-Budzyńska, «ordinary people automatically and involuntarily repeated opinions about others found in their environment» [1, p. 129].

For the consolidation or modification, the treatment of «others» affects such factors as the mood, the situational context of mutual relations. For Lithuanians, who are studying, living or have business together with Poles perception that nationality through the prism of their values can be «corrupted». Firstly, it is formed on basic sympathy or antysympathy in the small group, their family experience.

Lithuanian students think Poles are not as tolerant as Lithuanians are. Students admit, that Poles have such values as honesty: Lithuanians found

Poles «open» (32,5%), «very open» (2,5%), «communicative» (57,5%), cultural (60%) or «very cultural» (15%) and «polite» (40%). Students think about Poles as people, which are difficult to manipulate, which are neither aggressive nor quiet.

Speaking about values, based on features of character and mental abilities of Poles, Lithuanian student noticed that Poles are more emotional than emotionally neutral (2,5% – «very emotional», 40% – «emotional»). They are brave (50%), proud (55% for «proud» and 15% to «very proud») and cheerful (40%). We see that in student's eyes Poles is more «valuable nation». At the same time one of the main value for Poles is education (15% for «very educated» and 47,5% – as «educated») and being smart (57,5%), they like to work (52,5% – «hardworking»), are more rich and enterprising (47,5%) than Lithuanians. We confirm the fact (or the stereotype) that Poles are «very religious» (45%) or just «religious» (37,5%). This value for Lithuanians is not very essential. We also confirm that Poles has a value of patriotism and nationalism: according to students' opinion Poles are «very patriotic» (30%) or just «patriotic» (57,5%) in much more bigger degree than Lithuanians (20% and 30% appropriate). The same situation in the sphere of nationalism – Poles are more «nationalist» than Lithuanians (52,5 to 32,5%).

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