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“Единство в различии”

Исследовательская работа (эссе)

«Диалог культур: искусство как инструмент единения народов»

«Dialog of cultures: art as an instrument of nations' unity»



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Theses

1. Dialogue of cultures - is a means of communication, that connects not only people, but also nations and helps to save, respect and share own national identity and accept other's cultures.
2. *“Dialogue is a two-way communication between persons who hold significantly differing views on a subject, with the purpose of learning more truth about the subject from the other. In a dialogue, foreign perspectives — or realities — do not mean danger to one's own reality, but extend it and are welcomed”* [3]
3. Music reflects national culture, feelings and worries. *“Words sometimes need music, but music doesn't need anything,”* - said Edvard Grieg.
4. Sergey Diaghilev created his famous “Russian seasons”.
5. I would like to tell you more about Tamara Karsavina, who was a clever and intelligent ballerina and became one of the founders of the British Modern Ballet.
6. I live in Nizhniy Novgorod and our city is open for different cultures. Our universities organize a lot of events devoted to different cultures that open the veil of the mystery of the culture of another country and help us get rid of stereotypes.

Dialogue of cultures... This phrase has become increasingly popular, but still has not got its definition. I personally think that dialogue of cultures - is a means of communication, that connects not only people, but also nations and helps to save, respect and share own national identity and accept other's cultures. In our essay we would like to tell you about this phenomenon and about the ways of organizing such a dialogue on the example of our city.

Once, my grandmother told me a story about her friend. She was spending her holydays in Italy, but she didn't know Italian. Unfortunately, the bag with her ID card and other things was stolen and she went to the police. As you can remember, she didn't know Italian and that was extremely difficult to her to explain what had happened.

Luckily, she was an opera singer and knew some lyrics of Italian national operas, because Italy is known to be the capital of Opera and a lot of operas are composed in Italian. So she decided to talk to the policemen using phrases from classical operas and they understood her! The story had a happy end and the woman got her possessions back. According to this story, we can say that Art can help us to communicate, even when it seems to be impossible.

But what is communication itself? Communication is a fundamental part of human interaction and is essential for functioning of any society. A human without communication can't develop in a normal way and can't even learn how to think. These facts prove that communication is vital nation's function that can be achieved with the help of a dialog.

«Dialogue is a two-way communication between persons who hold significantly differing views on a subject, with the purpose of learning more truth about the subject from the other» [3]. According to this definition we can say that dialogue is something that expands our horizons and lets us understand, that there are countless viewpoints about everything.

There is an opinion that *“In a dialogue, foreign perspectives — or realities — do not mean danger to one’s own reality, but extend it and are welcomed”* [3]. Therefore a dialogue does not aim at antagonizing and proving that only your opinion is right, but also enables people to understand and accept other’s points of view.

Music is a reflection of a nation’s culture, feelings and worries. *“Words sometimes need music, but music doesn't need anything”* said Edvard Grieg. This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of Sergei Rachmaninoff, so in my essay I wanted to focus specifically on the musical aspect of art. I am a musician and definitely can realize the significance of art and particularly music. And now I invite you to plunge into the musical universe and to learn more about it.

I will start by saying that music appeared in Russia much later than in Europe. The first famous composer and founder of the Russian national music school Mikhail Ivanovich Glinka went to Germany, France and Italy to learn how to compose and about Bel Canto – a special technique of singing, then he returned to Russia and started to compose. In his music he united classical genres and unique Russian flavor.

Later two brothers - Anton and Nikolai Rubinstein founded the first conservatories. Before that, famous Russian musicians had been studying abroad. But only rich nobles could study there. That is why a famous society called “Moguchaya kuchka” under the leadership of Miliy Balakirev appeared. They created a school for poor people, who wanted to study music. Then the rapid development of music in Russia began. This era gave us many outstanding composers, for example Borodin, Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov.

Russian composers not only caught up with the Europeans, but in some ways even surpassed them. Russian music had been developing for 2

centuries, but despite the fact that Russian composers had a strong connection with their foreign colleagues national music wasn't so famous abroad.

Everything changed when one, how we would call him today, "art manager" Sergey Diaghilev created his famous "Russian seasons". He started his art project with an exhibition of Russian painting in 1906 that was amazingly successful. Later he organized "Historical Russian concerts" in Paris, where foreign listeners got acquainted with the Russian culture.

But I have to say, that the most recognizable part of "Russian seasons" is Ballet. Those famous performances showed not only the beauty of the Russian ballet, but also the wealth of national artists and modern composers such as Igor Stravinsky, who made a successful career abroad some time later.

In Diaghilev's ballets, from the very beginning, there was a desire to synthesize music, singing, dance and fine art into one whole, subordinated to a common concept: the feature which was revolutionary for that time and it was precisely thanks to it, that Diaghilev's performances of Russian Ballet caused storms of applause, then squalls of criticism.

The best ballet dancers from Moscow and St. Petersburg - V. Nijinsky, A. Pavlova, I. Rubinstein, M. Kshesinskaya, T. Karsavina and others – formed the core of the ballet troupe. Later some of them founded ballet schools abroad.

For example, Tamara Karsavina was a clever and intelligent ballerina, that was rare at that time. In Diaghilev's ballets choreographed by the reformer Fokin, she became a 'Star' of his performances. Her

movements were mesmerizing and pliable and her nature was opened in Fokin's ballets.

In 1929 Tamara Karsavina moved to London and became a part of Ballet Rambert troupe, but she ended her dance career and her teacher career started. She became one of the founders of the British Modern Ballet. Moreover Tamara starred in silent films and became vice-president of the Royal Academy of Dance. She did a lot for the English Ballet development.

Tamara Karsavina was not the only ballerina, who affected the world's Ballet. There were a lot of Russian people abroad such as Rachmaninoff or Nabokov and foreign artists in Russia, who became a part of the World's Art History.

But why are we talking about «Russian seasons»? So, I would like to say that this project was a unique phenomenon that had not existed before.

We can definitely say that the period from the 19th to the 20th centuries was a dialog of cultures. At first, Russian composers and musicians adopted the basis of classical music from Europeans. Then the national style was isolated and was developing ~~itself~~ independently. After some time Russian music reappeared in Europe again. To my mind that seems as a real dialogue: first phrase from Europe, particularly from Italy and German, then an answer from Russia. Russia became a part of the World Music Culture.

I got interested in the issue of the interest of teenagers in the culture of Russia and other countries and conducted a survey among 50 students of grades 9-11. According to the survey results 100 per cent of people answered that art is significant. Also 50 per cent of the interviewees said that they know nothing about «Russian seasons». Moreover there was a

question about the country «Russian seasons» could take place in. The third place is occupied by the UK (39,2%), the second – by France (43,1%), because this country is the historical place of «Russian seasons» Most of people chose China (52,9%), their choice they justified by the fact that nowadays China has good relationship with Russia and because they are interested in Chinese culture.

In conclusion I would like to say that nowadays dialogue of cultures is one of the greatest ways of modern communication all around the world. I live in Nizhniy Novgorod and our city is open for different cultures. Here you can join Irish and Scottish dance clubs, attend Goethe Center or go to «Chinese Corner» – special Chinese lessons with teachers from China, who tell us about the culture of their country.

I was doing Irish dance when I was younger and can definitely say that in spite of the fact that I'm not doing dancing now, I am still in love with beautiful and melodic Irish music and I am really into learning something new about this country and about the UK in general.

This year I have attended a Chinese New year party organized by Nizhny Novgorod Linguistic University. There I got interested in the culture and started visiting «Chinese Corner».

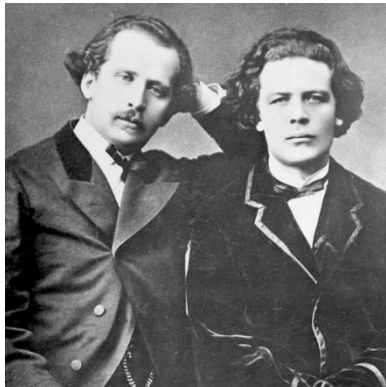
These events open the veil of the mystery of another country's culture and help us get rid of stereotypes. In Russia there are a lot of binational families like mine, where children grow with relatives of different nationalities. It makes people more flexible to understand and accept mentality and characteristics of people from different nationalities.

But in general, to draw the line, I must say that we need to hold more festivals of Russian culture. Their positive influence on the communication with other countries was proven by the history and supported in my survey.

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Attachment 1. Photo illustrations to the text



Pic. 1. Anton and Nikolai Rubinstein



Pic. 2. Posters of Russian seasons



Pic.3. Sergey Diaghilev

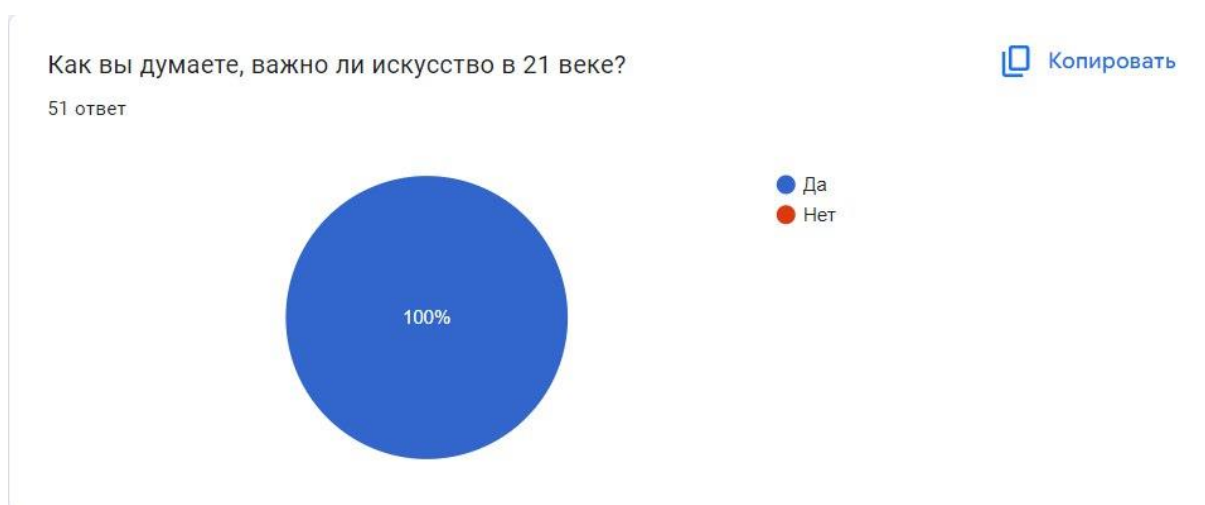


Pic. 4. Tamara Karsavina



Pic. 5. Chinese New Year at Nizhny Novgorod Linguistic University

Attachment 2. Illustrations of survey results



Pic. 1.

Знаете ли вы, что такое "Русские сезоны"?

[Копировать](#)

51 ответ

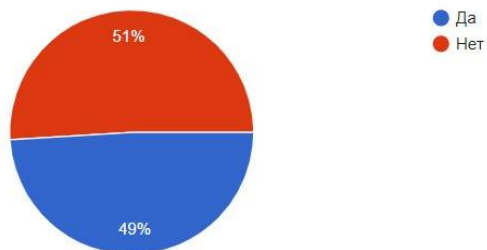


Рис. 2.

Представьте "Новые Русские сезоны", в какой стране вы бы предложили их провести?

[Копировать](#)

51 ответ

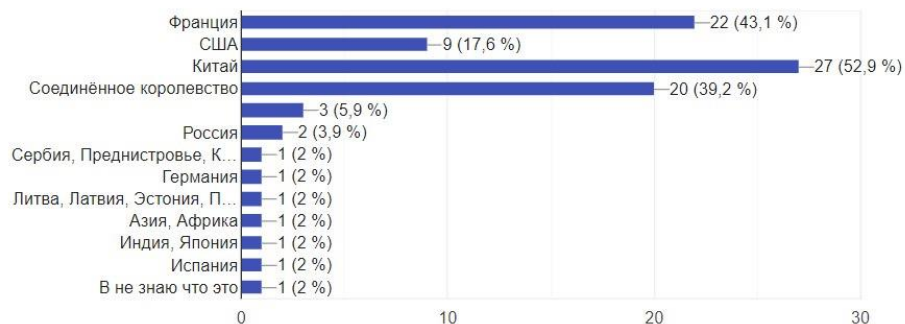


Рис. 3.

Фестиваль культуры какой страны вы хотели бы посетить в России?

[Копировать](#)

51 ответ

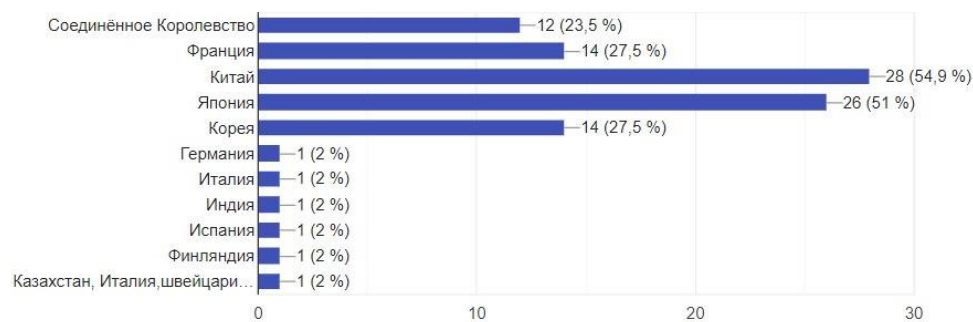


Рис.4.