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**“Unity in Diversity: Russia and the English-Speaking World.
Time for Equal Opportunities”**

Исследовательская работа (эссе)

«Сходства и различия русского, английского и американского чувства юмора»

«The similarities and differences between the Russian, American and British senses of humour»

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Abstract

Traveling has become an integral part of our life and one of its most important characteristics. We believe that nowadays the phenomenon of travel shows the need for a deeper and, in some aspects, philosophical understanding. The idea is proved by the fact that travel contributes to the disclosure of the mechanisms of knowing oneself and one's culture. Travel becomes an opportunity to talk to yourself, to think, and in addition to find a way to your identity, knowledge and truth.

To begin with, there is an opinion that when one travels, one learns about oneself and the world. It seems to be true, as when we departure from something native and easy, it surely contributes to the activation of something like self-knowledge and self-reflection due to violation of everyday patterns of behavior we are used to.

To illustrate the statement above, we, firstly, can take a look at explorers who might get into various contingencies while travelling and they can succeed just by making much of an effort and moving forward. These brave people can find the true meaning of a journey while they are on the way. By overcoming troubles and pain, they can meet enormous challenges and reach the established goals. It's obvious, in extreme situations, everyone reacts differently, difficulties are almost always unexpected and significant, so one has to make a quick decision in order to survive.

If we want to see how this concept works in life, we should turn to the prominent personalities such as Fyodor Konyukhov and Ranulph Fiennes.

Fyodor Konyukhov is an outstanding Russian traveler and explorer, writer and artist. The life of this remarkable man is full of dangerous adventures and interesting encounters. Everest mounting, round-the-world solo voyages, balloon flights - this is not a complete list of all the expeditions of the daring traveler.

He loved to read, read books about the great travelers, naval commanders and dreamed of one day also go out into the open sea, to open up new shores, to visit distant countries. And over the years he was able to make his dreams come true.

Konyukhov's own recollection of one of the hardest moments of one of the voyages: "Once there was a 38-hour storm and the boat capsized and I had to lie tied up in the boat for all 38 hours in order to avoid hitting the ceiling of the boat and creating a

counterweight, otherwise it would roll backwards". (Iridium (2020)). Fedor Konyukhov spent most of the time travelling alone and had plenty of time to reflect on his life, he shared his feelings and emotions, how he lived it and what conclusions he came to: "It's difficult to describe in words what I felt in those moments when I sailed alone in the boat for 160 days. There is no way to explain it. It is like love - everyone feels it, but no one can define it. One has to go through everything oneself - and through the fear of loneliness too. But I know for a fact that in those moments there has always been someone there for me. Someone I know, love, ask for - the saints I pray to." (Iridium (2020))

Ranulph Fiennes is a world-renowned British explorer and adventurer whose epic feats have gone down in history forever. Ranulph Fiennes is credited with being the first man in the world to reach the North and South Poles, as well as conquering the highest mountain peak, Jomolungma.

Secondly, we can find examples of travel as a self-discovery in great works of literature. It seems that Pechorin's journey in Lermontov's novel 'A Hero of Our Time' is a striking manifestation of this idea. The author shows how, thanks to travel, a man finds use for his strengths, talents and mental faculties. Pechorin leaves St. Petersburg because of boredom. He wanders around the various towns and cities where different situations arise, where he not only shows his true identity, but also tries to find out more about himself and his feelings.

Travelling helps a person to look at himself in a new way, it helps him rethink lots of important moments in his life.

To sum up, there's no doubt that travelling has a special importance in today's society. In the XXI century it is impossible to imagine a person outside mobility: experiencing new cultures, exploring new places, learning languages. Even if you are not a well-known explorer or a great novel character travelling has steadily been infiltrating into everyday life, sometimes it may seem that it has always been so. We see that travel motives also varied. Sometimes travel is limited to external motivation: the development of territories, escaping poverty and even survival; sometimes may be driven by internal motives such as sacred, cognitive, scientific and educational, but we especially share the idea of travel as a way to self-knowledge and search for self-identity as it gives us the opportunity to understand the world by understanding who and what we are.

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