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**«ДИАЛОГ КУЛЬТУР: ИСКУССТВО КАК ИНСТРУМЕНТ
ЕДИНЕНИЯ НАРОДОВ»**



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Individual essay contest

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

Research work (essay)

**“DIALOGUE OF CULTURES: ART AS AN INSTRUMENT OF
NATIONS’ UNITY”**



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Thesis plan

Globalization refers to the transmission of ideas, meanings and values around the world in such a way as to expand and intensify social relations. This process is characterized by the general consumption of cultures actively imposed through the Internet, mass media and international travel.

Art is a figurative representation of reality; the process and outcome of the expression of the inner and outer world. Consequently, art is a creative activity that reflects the interests of not only the author, but also other people.

The dialogue of cultures is the interaction, mutual influence, interpenetration of cultures of different countries and peoples, the formation of common cultural zones and universal spiritual values.

Integration is a process of rapprochement and unification of peoples, expansion of ties between ethnic groups, internationalization of public life, mutual influence and mutual enrichment of national cultures.

Main text

The modern world is rapidly entering the era of globalization, gradually turning into a single information and cultural space. A person constantly interacts with the outside world while comprehending it. Art is one of the ways of understanding the world in an artistic and figurative form. For a person, art is an opportunity to become a creator, combining reality and fiction.

Nowadays the role of art in bringing peoples closer together is becoming more and more significant. In the XXI century, it is gradually becoming one of the main "engines" of international integration. Humanity is many-faced and diverse. The interpenetration of traditions, customs, and lifestyles manifests itself at all stages of the development of world civilization. In the context of globalization, the problem of mutual understanding, openness, and dialogue of East–West cultures seems important and necessary from all points of view, including in terms of mutual enrichment of cultures and peoples. Globalization, on the one hand, allows peoples to better understand each other by offering a single language for this, and on the other hand, leads to cases of misunderstanding, because this single language and uniform culture can be understood differently by the participants of the intercultural dialogue. The process of globalization has brought about the problem of preserving national identity in a new intercultural space. The study of the problem of cultural differences and the basics of intercultural communication is becoming relevant. This determines the dialogue of cultures.

The whole history of mankind is a dialogue. Dialogue permeates our whole life. Being a means of implementing communication links, it creates condition for mutual understanding of people. The interaction of cultures and their dialogue are the most favorable basis for the development of interethnic relations. Conversely, when there is an interethnic tension in society, moreover, interethnic conflicts, the dialogue between cultures becomes difficult, the interaction of people, carriers of these cultures, may be limited. The processes of interaction between cultures are

more complex than one may naively believe. We may observe a simple “pumping” of the achievements of a highly developed culture into a less developed one, which in turn logically leads to conclusions about the interaction of cultures as a source of progress.

M. M. Bakhtin spoke about dialogue as a form of communication of individuals and a way of interaction of a person with objects of different cultures. The scientist stated: "Life is dialogical in its nature. To live means to participate in a dialogue: to ask, to listen, to respond, to agree, etc. In this dialogue, a person participates all and his or her whole life. He or she puts all of themselves into the word, and this word enters into the dialogical fabric of human life, into the world society." Bakhtin M. M., (1996, p. 337)

The role of art in society is difficult to overestimate. This form of culture has long been the force that united the people, rallied them around a common goal, idea or experience. Music, painting, poetry supported people, helped to find common language in cases when other ways of communication were impossible. So, the matryoshka or Khokhloma painting is known all over the world as a symbol of Russia, and the sounds of bagpipes immediately make you think of Scotland.

Such an important role of art in bringing the peoples of different countries closer together can be explained by the fact that it is a unique system of symbols transmitting information. Without it, it would be impossible to transmit knowledge about such an aspect of human life as feelings, experiences, impulses of the soul. The historical chronicle is able to describe in detail the events of an important event for society. But they are not able to convey the mood, the general emotional mood of the people.

The role of art in bringing peoples closer together is also constantly increasing due to the increasing amount of information that falls on a person during the day. A scientific text makes sense only if it is received in its entirety

and without distortion. Art doesn't need that. A fragment of a song or several episodes from a movie often have the same impact as the whole work.

Art, in its essence, is symbolic, which means it is understandable on an intuitive level. Each genre and direction have their own artistic and expressive means that allow the viewer or listener to best convey what the author was trying to say. This "language of art" is perceived unconsciously and directly affects a person's feelings.

A vivid example of how art contributes to the rapprochement of people can be: books and films translated into dozens of languages, foreign tours of famous musical groups, famous paintings that appeal to universal values and are known to almost anyone, regardless of nationality, songs and instrumental compositions that are gaining popularity not only in their native country, but also abroad and much more.

It is especially noteworthy that many examples of art not only resonate in the hearts of people of different cultures, but also become an impetus for a deeper study of a foreign language, traditions, religion.

The role of music in national integration:

Musical art has long been famous for its ability to unite people, both representatives of the same culture and people of completely different nationalities.

A poem, however brilliant, is unlikely to be appreciated by a person who does not know the language. A picture filled with deep meaning and symbolism can leave a person of a different nationality indifferent – after all, it has long been proven that different peoples put different meanings into the same signs and "cultural codes".

But musical art has no such limitations: unlike all other genres, it appeals to those deep feelings that are the same for all people. Music directly affects emotions, causes people of completely different nationalities to have similar thoughts and feelings.

An excellent illustration of the unifying power of music can be presented with the famous "Marseillaise", which for a long time was perceived as a song of revolutionaries. It was performed by the French – residents of the country where this melody was born – and freedom fighters in Italy, Spain, tsarist Russia and other countries. For all who heard it, it was a symbol of revolution; and for many, it was also a call to resistance.

In conclusion, the role of art in bringing peoples closer together, promoting their friendship and cooperation is enormous. In different countries, we can touch and feel the objects of art located at various exhibitions, in museums, attend art festivals where people exchange opinions about creativity, discuss existing problems related to this area. Within the framework of globalization, the international dialogue of cultures is increasing. International cultural dialogue strengthens mutual understanding between peoples, gives an opportunity to better understand their own national image.

Awareness of oneself as heirs of great art helps a person grow up spiritually, while contact with other cultures fosters tolerance and respect for other traditions thus contributing to openness and readiness for creative dialogue. In order to be fruitful, such a dialogue of cultures should be a basic factor in the formation of universal cultural relativity and tolerance.

Annex (Illustrations)



Art not only reflects the interests of the author, but also those of others.

Artworks unite nationalities.



Each genre and direction have their own artistic and expressive means that allow the viewer or listener to best convey what the author was trying to say.

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