

МУНИЦИПАЛЬНОЕ АВТОНОМНОЕ ОБЩЕОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОЕ
УЧРЕЖДЕНИЕ СРЕДНЯЯ ОБЩЕОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНАЯ ШКОЛА №16
ГОРОДСКОГО ОКРУГА ЩЁЛКОВО
МОСКОВСКОЙ ОБЛАСТИ

Индивидуальный конкурс эссе
«Единство в различии»

Исследовательская работа (эссе)
«Образы и традиции русской и британской народной культуры
в пословицах и поговорках»

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Individual essay contest

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

Research work (essay)

«Russian and British folk culture images and traditions in proverbs and sayings»

Written by: Pokrovskaya Selena

9 grade

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Proverbs and sayings are an integral attribute of national folklore and, in turn, a reflection of the life, thoughts, character and a philosophy of a nation. The correct and pertinent use of proverbs and sayings adds a special expressiveness and uniqueness to the speech, conveying life principles and philosophical thoughts.

Proverbs and sayings are always filled with assonances and alliterations, and moreover, typically rhymed. In most cases they are being created and designed by rhetorical devices as epithets, metaphors, comparisons, parallelism, repetitions and hyperboles.

As it is known, culture and language are closely interrelated, as language is one of the most important parts and its components. Cultural activities cannot be separated from language because language is a crucial foundation of its development and heritage. Language is a mirror of culture. Proverbs and sayings, just like a language, are connected to culture, representing the accumulation of history.

Proverbs and sayings provide a rich source of information for studying the characteristics of national character, since they're embodying the uniqueness of its language system. A detail study of the world's proverbs and sayings will contribute to a successful understanding of the worldview and mentality of native speakers.

Proverbs and sayings reflect the wisdom of a nation. These expressions have served as moral laws for many years, influencing the formation of society and the nation's spirituality. They embody historical beliefs, daily life, experience and culture of the people of ancient times.

In every language culture there are key words, and in case of Russian it is duality. The Russian culture combines opposites. As N. Berdyaev wrote: «One can be enchanted and disillusioned by them, one can expect surprises from them; they are highly capable of inspiring both strong love and strong hatred».

The character of Russian nation finds its expression in the fact that Russian people, like everyone else, can be both kind and evil, showing not only devotion to

religion but God itself. This is particularly evident in the following proverbs:

«Кто к Богу, к тому и Бог» (Whoever is with God, God is with them)

«Злой человек не проживет в добре век» (An evil person cannot live a good life)

«На свете не без добрых людей» (There are good people in the world)

«Или всё, или ничего» (It's either all or nothing) this proverb perfectly illustrates the Russian character.

Russian people, including their self-opposition, also have other traits. It is famous for their unity, help and kindness towards each other. It was easier to survive together than alone. These proverbs and sayings illustrate this characteristic:

«Один за всех и все за одного» (one for all and all for one)

«Не имей сто рублей, а имей сто друзей» (don't have a hundred rubles but have hundred friends)

«Один в поле не воин». (one man is not a warrior in a field)

Despite stereotypes and jokes among other nations, russians are famous for their hospitality. For example, the Russian tradition of welcoming guests with bread and salt has been preserved since ancient times.

«В гости едет, а из гостей - ни со двора» (when someone comes as guest, they leave as a friend)

«В этом доме и вода что мёд» (in this house, even water is like honey)

«Встречай не с лестью, а с честью» (welcome with honor, not flattery)

Russian nation is very hardworking and value the concept of labor. It is impossible to list even a small part of what Russians have enriched the world with:

«Без труда не вынешь и рыбку из пруда» (without a work, you cannot even catch a fish from pond)

«Кто рано встаёт, тому Бог подаёт» (God helps those who wake up early)

However, Russians contradict themselves and be lazy. As V. Zubkov wrote: «Unfortunately, laziness towards intellectual work is more widespread among

people than physical work. And this has very serious negative consequences, primarily in the widespread ignorance of people». Here are some examples of proverbs and sayings:

«От работы не будешь богат, а будешь горбат» (you won't get rich from the work but hunchbacked)

«Работа не волк - в лес не убежит» (work is not a wolf - it won't run away in the forest)

Another visible characteristic of Russian people is patience. They have been able to endure a tremendous amount of difficulties, having a vast reserve of patience. In Russian culture and literature, the ability to endure sufferings and hardships is seen as a means of existence. These reflections can be found in sayings and proverbs as:

«Утро вечера мудренее» (morning is wiser than the evening)

«Терпение и труд всё перетрут» (patience and hardwork can overcome everything)

«Час терпеть, а век жить» (endure for an hour, live for a century)

The analysis of British proverbs and sayings reveals a certain characteristics of their folk culture, such as: prudence, industriousness, composure and restraint, perfectionism, fore sign, pride, love for family, tender treatment to domestic animals and strictness.

The British share some similarities in their national character with Russians, particularly in their industriousness. This is reflected in expressions that convey similar meanings, such as:

«No pains - no gains»

«Feather by feather a goose is plucked»

«No sweat without sweat»

English-Saxon culture as a whole has both distinct national characteristics and similarities with the Russian nationality. British are known to be reserved with guests, they do not tolerate an overflow of emotions in words, and overall, they

tend to be quite closed off. They strive to think first and then tell their thoughts:

«First think, then speak»

«In a calm sea, every man is a pilot»

«Least said, soonest mended»

In British culture and English language itself, there is a significant trait in phrase formation that sets this nation apart from others: caution. Intertwined with restraint and composure, the British will not risk their well-being and will express maximum caution, avoiding creating problems for themselves. There are many proverbs and sayings that speak of this particular trait:

«Put not your hand between the bark and the tree»

«Caution is the parent of safety»

«Discretion is the better part of valor»

«Score twice before you cut once»

«Still waters run deep»

«It is ill to waken sleeping dogs. »

A true British person is very visible in a crowd. They don't rush anywhere, don't try to skip the line, are patient and deliberate. They can even create a line with just one person if possible. They appreciate and value strict orders and follow a plan.

«Failing to plan is planning to fail»

«First come, first served»

«Everything must have a beginning»

In British folk culture, there is also an interesting and particular trait that has been observed, namely a strong love for domestic animals. In many proverbs and sayings are mentioned either cats or dogs, even in expressions related to other topics mentioned above.

«Raining cats and dogs»

«Love me, love my dog»

«Live under the cat's foot»

«Take a dog for a companion and a stick in your hand»

The British seek profit in everything. They are intelligent and resourceful entrepreneurs, capable of starting a business from scratch and finding ways to become wealthy.

«A golden key can open any door»

«Debt is the worst poverty»

«Strike while the iron is hot»

Another national characteristic is arrogance. It would be incorrect to say that all British are self-centered, but due historical and geographical reasons, over the years, British people have indeed started to place themselves above other nations. Nowadays, it is rare to find expressions about such a character in proverbs and sayings, and the notion of arrogance is not generally conveyed:

«Better to reign in hell, than serve in heaven»

«Self-praise is no recommendation»

«A cock is valiant on his own dunghill»

Summing up and considering the proverbs and sayings of two different nations, it can be stated that national character is a combination of physical, social and spiritual qualities, norms of activity, behavior and society that are characteristic of representatives of different races and nations, arising during historical events and changes.

Proverbs and sayings stem from language, which is an important means of constructing national character.

By studying the similarities and differences in the characters of two nationalities, one can observe numerous common factors and principles of behavior that stem from antiquity. Understanding these can help in comprehending other nationalities and establishing better communication with them.

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