

Научно-исследовательская работа

Английский язык

**Тема работы**

*What is language? Benefits of learning foreign languages and the possibilities they open up for us.*

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## 1. Introduction.

*“The limits of my language means the limits of world”* – Ludwig Wittgenstein. This beautiful quote represents the main aim of this project – to find out a reason why we should learn languages, which possibilities language opens up for us and why we have to pay more attention to the way we speak.

I have made a little quiz and asked some students in my school to answer it so I can analyze it and attach the answers to my project.

Throughout this work, I am going to rely on some Internet information and my own opinion.

I need to say that in my opinion the language each nation speaks is inestimable as it is one of the things that keeps the nation together. We all know that not only traditions, bearing a passing resemblance in appearance, living on the same territory are the factors that keep nation united. Its history and, of course, language – these are the main representatives of nation culture. The most interesting thing, that language always keeps pace with the times. Language never stops developing and every day there is a new word discovered.

For instance, Russian is a very rich language itself but we may use some loan words in our speaking, which cause no problems in understanding each other.

It goes without saying, that having an opportunity to talk with people from not only our country, but also from overseas is a huge privilege for anyone. We can be friends, work with other countries and just travel without worrying about troubles you may face when you do not know English for a start.

These are the advantages of speaking a foreign language - the ability to communicate with people from all over the world whether it is for your own life or for your work. Not only grammatically correct language, but also the richness of your vocabulary are the keys to successful and interesting conversation.

**I have decided to make my research about language** because I am very interested in learning foreign languages. I want to show others that it is not boring and useless at all and a language may give you such opportunities you have never thought about. I am personally planning to become a linguist one day and my goal is to improve my knowledge about English as far as I can. Personally, I believe every language is beautiful and useful to learn. It is impossible to guess what situation will come up in your life, so I would like to discuss the overall meaning of learning a foreign language in Russia whether it is English or Dutch.

## 2. What is language? Which languages are the most studied and why?

The Macmillan open Dictionary, which is a treasure chest for a language learner, gives us these **definitions of word “language”**:

- the method of human communication using spoken or written words
- the particular form of words and speech that is used by the people of a country, area, or social group.

As we can see, the Language always means something that unites an exact group of people by some factors (history, traditions). The history of the Language goes way back and it has been evolving together with the country. Each language has its own particular qualities, own grammar, phonetics and rules of punctuation. Sometimes it can be very difficult to learn a new language, but people are not scared giving it a try. So they take it as a challenge and start to learn a new language. The harder it is to study, the more interest it brings to a person to master it.

**According to the Internet recourses, the most studied languages are:**

1. English
2. French
3. Spanish
4. Italian
5. Chinese

It is not a surprise as the countries where these languages are spoken are one of the most developed counties in the world. English is known as an International language, so it is in your own interest to learn it. Mostly all of the work in the world is somehow connected to the English language. I cannot stand to mention that during journeys abroad you will definitely need English because it is an International language as I have already mentioned before.

No one could disagree that Italian, French and Spanish are in the top of the list of the most beautiful languages of the world. In addition, these three languages are alike so as you have learned one of them you can barely understand the other two. People often choose these languages to learn from their own preferences or because of the need on work.

Talking about Chinese, China itself is the nowadays capital of the innovations and the place where any employee can find a place to work on a good offer. It may be modelling or working in the IT-company, being a teacher and etc. Usually many young and enthusiastic workers go there in order to work for a while so that they can gain knowledge about the whole process of working in the area they are specialize in. It is a great opportunity to try yourself and see the advantages and

disadvantages of your job, where the fact of learned language will work in your favor.

### 3. Opportunities that provided to you if you know a foreign language.

I reckon that learning foreign languages gives you an opportunity to succeed in several aspects:

1. Career. Language skills can be a significant competitive advantage that sets you apart from your monolingual peers. They are among the top eight skills required of all occupations—no matter your sector or skill level—and the demand for bilingual professionals is rising exponentially. Employers are seeking professionals who can communicate seamlessly with customers in new and expanding overseas markets.

2. Travel. Traveling as a speaker of the local language can revolutionize a trip abroad. While monolingual travelers are capable of visiting the same places, travelers who know more than one language are more easily able to navigate outside the tourist bubble and to connect and interact with the place and its people in a way that is often inaccessible to those without the language.

3. Education. Nowadays youngsters are more and more interested in studying abroad as it seems to be more adventurous, interesting and respectful when the time comes to applying to a job. Most Universities overseas requires the knowledge of the language that is spoken in this country. Usually, it is very rare to find the English educational program in such countries as France, Germany, Italy, but it is still possible if you search carefully.

4. Culture. Language is the most direct connection to other cultures. Being able to communicate in another language exposes us to and fosters an appreciation for the traditions, religions, arts, and history of the people associated with that language. Greater understanding, in turn, promotes greater tolerance, empathy, and acceptance of others—with studies showing that children who have studied another language are more open toward and express more positive attitudes toward the culture associated with that language.

5. Broaden your mind. All things considered, learning languages is a huge advantage firstly to you. You will not face problems in understanding people or meet a language barrier. Your skills will be enough to communicate with people, work or even live abroad. In addition, citizens of the country will be pleased that people from overseas are interested in their culture and learning their language. Do not take this advantage from yourself away!

In my opinion, as a good quote says, “The more languages you know, the more personalities you have”. It is an absolute truth as a new language will open up a

new life for you. I admire people who know more than two or three languages as it is such kind of work which requires plenty of your time, your nerves and of course the desire. You have to put sufficient effort in it if you want to be fluent and accurate in the language you are learning. Many industries are very greedy about a good specialist who has worked hard and knows how to use his/her skills.

#### 4. Different ways to learn foreign languages.

I have been learning English for almost 6 years and I cannot say that I know it perfectly well. I consider that there always will be a room left to improve my skills and that is why I do not want to give up on the things I have already achieved. As you can guess, I have tried many ways of learning language and here are my tips of how you can enhance your language:

1. Try to pay more attention to the lyrics of the songs you listen to. It might sound a bit strange, but trust me sometimes songs can be as rich in the vocabulary as books are. However, do not use songs as an example of grammar. Sometimes songwriters do not use the correct tense in order to have a catchy rhyme.
2. Watch original movies with subtitles or not (if you are on that level when you are able to understand different accents or just native speakers talking). Nobody said that it would be easy, but the more you practice the better your skills are. Watching movies will help you to perceive oral speech. If you are not interested in films, you can listen to the audiobooks, which are a great way to improve your vocabulary and listening skills as well.
3. If you are attending a course or working with a private tutor, ask them to speak on the language you are learning. It will definitely improve your speaking skills and prevent you from facing a language barrier. Just make every effort to put yourself in the atmosphere where you can hear, talk, write and read on that language. I know it may be difficult when you live in Russia( or another country) but all the hard work that you have put into your studying is going pay off in the future. In addition, if you have the ability to go to a special summer camp, then try it! It is not only a good way of learning language but also to make new overseas friends with whom you can practice your language skills as well.
4. The most effective way to gain new words for your vocabulary is reading books. Not only classic ones but also modern ones as from them you may learn some slang and modern expressions. To improve my English I have read Harry Potter by J.K.Rowling. Along with it, I have read many tales, novels and poems. I can assure you, there is nothing richer in widening your

vocabulary than books!

Overall, try to work on every aspect of the language and in order to make this process more interesting, mix it with your daily routine. Watch TED talks and listen to podcasts, find yourself a blogger who speaks the language you learn and combine your pleasure with work.

Of course, do not forget that the teacher – is your best friend in learning a language. Feel free to ask your questions; do not be ashamed if you cannot get some difficult grammar right. Your teacher is a person who will go with you through this rough way and who will help you regardless. Of course, self-developing and working on your own is also worthy, but your teacher structures your knowledge properly so you understand everything.

## 5. Reasons that can inspire you to start study language.

It should be noted, that you have to find a motive why you want to learn a new language. For me, if I have a plan in my head, then I will try to do my best to make it real. It works the same with the language. The only thing you need is motivation. Right now, I have a goal to start speaking French and I hope that in the next year I will start attending a special course to learn it. Here are some other reasons why you may want to study new languages:

1. Creating a brighter future for you and your loved ones. Breaking down cultural barriers and creating an international identity for all people truly begins with learning another language.
2. To make travel more feasible and enjoyable. When traveling abroad often or not we have to speak a foreign language in order to get around. Sometimes however two different people from two different countries find a neutral language to express themselves. Usually this language is English.
3. To sharpen cognitive and life skills. “We have strong evidence today that studying a foreign language has a ripple effect, helping to improve student performance in other subjects.” – Richard Riley, U.S. Secretary of Education under Bill Clinton.
4. To improve employment potential. Learning to speak, read and write in a foreign language increases your employment opportunities and enriches your working experience, whether you chose to work abroad or in your native country.
5. To appreciate international literature, music, art and film. The satisfaction of being able to explore the fine arts and film in different languages enables us to truly appreciate the world around us.

Overall, you have to give yourself a try in learning a language. There are a great number of different methods of studying a foreign language. If your aim is to have a good level in a language, you need to try several of them to find the one that fits you the most. In addition, your teacher also has an influence on your studying success: a good teacher keeps pace with the times and is interested in your further development. Ask your tutor to give you a feedback every month so you can know on what things you need to work on. In addition to this, ask him questions if you do not understand some grammar or have problems with lexis. I convince you, the ability to be both fluent and accurate or to communicate with people without having a language barrier or feeling unconfident, are worthy enough to be the reason to start learning a foreign language.

## 6. Results of my poll.

I have interviewed some students in my school in order to find out answers to questions that worried me the most. All of the students were very kind to answer, which was a pleasant surprise for me. (Number of interviewed students – eleven)

Here is the analyzation of the results:

1. The first diagram ( 1 ) shows us that in our school there are more people who knows three or more foreign languages. I think that is a very great tendency of young generation towards learning languages. They are enthusiastic and they open up doors for their own future. What is more pleasant, there is no one who knows no foreign language at all. I am happy that people understand the importance of studying it and they do not deprive themselves of the abilities given by knowing a foreign language.
2. Having a look at the second one ( 2 ), we can understand that there are two main reasons why students study foreign language. They are: a) the willing to live abroad and the need for their further career  
b) They learn it for themselves. They want to be able to watch news and read books in their original, to travel without a thought of what they will do if someone tries to drag them into a conversation. I think that it is a good for their confidence. The more you know – the more confident you are.
3. The most interesting diagram is the third one (3). There I show you the most popular difficulties that appeared in the process of learning a foreign language. As we can see, most of the students are having difficulty with grammar and limited vocabulary. Undoubtedly, in order to get rid of these problems, you need to practice more, and only by doing it, you may overcome them. As for me, the most problematic thing is the pronunciation of the word. I keep trying to speak with the British accent even though I have been watching British TV-shows and listening to the BBC radio almost



every day. However, I can see my improvement so I am giving it up. In addition, this is the reason why every time you start learning a new language, your teacher starts by setting the phonetics correctly. Another problem is the lack of practice speaking the language. I suppose this is the problem that causes the most horrible thing that may happen to you - when you know all the rules, your vocabulary is wide and rich, but you cannot say a word. I hope that there will be a way for these people to get better and start speaking without any problems. To avoid it, try to talk to your friends or relatives, your tutor or use social media recourses.

We see that there are also difficulties with translating and spelling.

4. The last diagram ( 4 ) shows us the number of parents and friends of students who know foreign languages. Analyzing it, we can understand that parents who know foreign languages want their children to speak them too. I think that it is a good tendency of parents to provide their children with the very best education they have. In addition, the most common languages that students' parents and friends know are English, French, German and even Armenian. Students' friends are also studying foreign languages, which a great possibility to them to talk to each other in order to practice their speaking skills.

All things considered, this interview showed me that youngsters are interested in this area and they want to become only better and better. This is not a surprise because with the knowledge of a foreign language there is almost no doors, which are closed to you.

It is very valuable that nowadays we have the possibility to learn and understand other languages. What is more important, we are able to set ourselves a role model from whom we can take off his/her way of speaking. My role model is the Queen of Great Britain - Elizabeth The Second. It is pleasure for me to listen to her speeches and understand every word the Queen has said. If you watch a video recording of her Christmas Broadcast, you will definitely notice how beautiful, accurate, rich but at the same tome easy to understand, her speech is. Therefore, my goal is to start speaking as clean, compendious and poetic as the Queen does ( or at least try to do so).

## 7. Conclusion.

This research was aimed to convince you that studying languages is not only interesting, but also very needed for your future whether you want to become an architect or a fashion assistant in the Vogue magazine. The fact that a foreign language someday will help you is plain.

I think I have reached my goal and showed you my opinion about this popular topic, not only with information based on my thoughts and the Internet, but on the poll I have made.

As a result of this research I can tell you that learning different languages definitely has its own benefits. By improving your language skills you enhance your memory, try new ways of how you can remember something. What is more, older people nowadays are prescribed to learn a foreign language in order to make their memory better. Undoubtedly, the fact that we know a foreign language gives you a great advantage in any direction you want to succeed or express yourself. Developing new knowledge makes us able to show greater cognitive ability, that is, when we face an unexpected problem or an unknown situation we will have more tools to deal with it and resolve a conflict. Learning a language involves becoming confident and being aware of our mental processes, so that our brain capacity develops and creates new cognitive connections. Learning languages has opened a new world that never ceases to amaze me and has greatly improved my perception of reality.

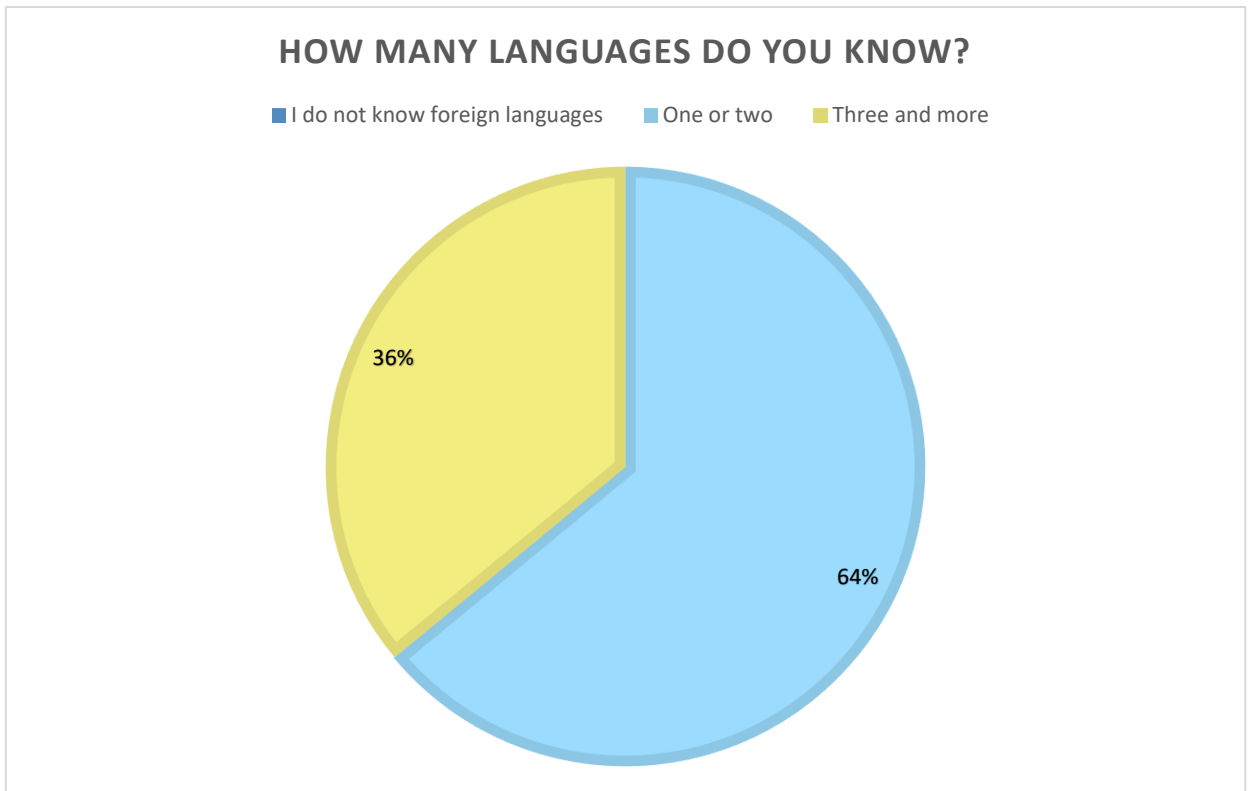
With an ability to communicate with others and if you know how to use your skill rightly, you make all your dreams come true.

Foreign languages are a treasure chest to get deeper into any culture, to understand the policy of it. I think that there is nothing more attractive and interesting in person when he/she knows more than three languages. It will be very interesting to speak to a person like that and ask whether it is hard or not, which methods did he/she use and the reason why he/she did it. Just imagine the ability to speak six languages and have no problem in travelling at all. Nevertheless, the process of studying the language never stops. You have to be up to date and always revise grammar, read books in order to remember the words; otherwise, your skill may get worse.

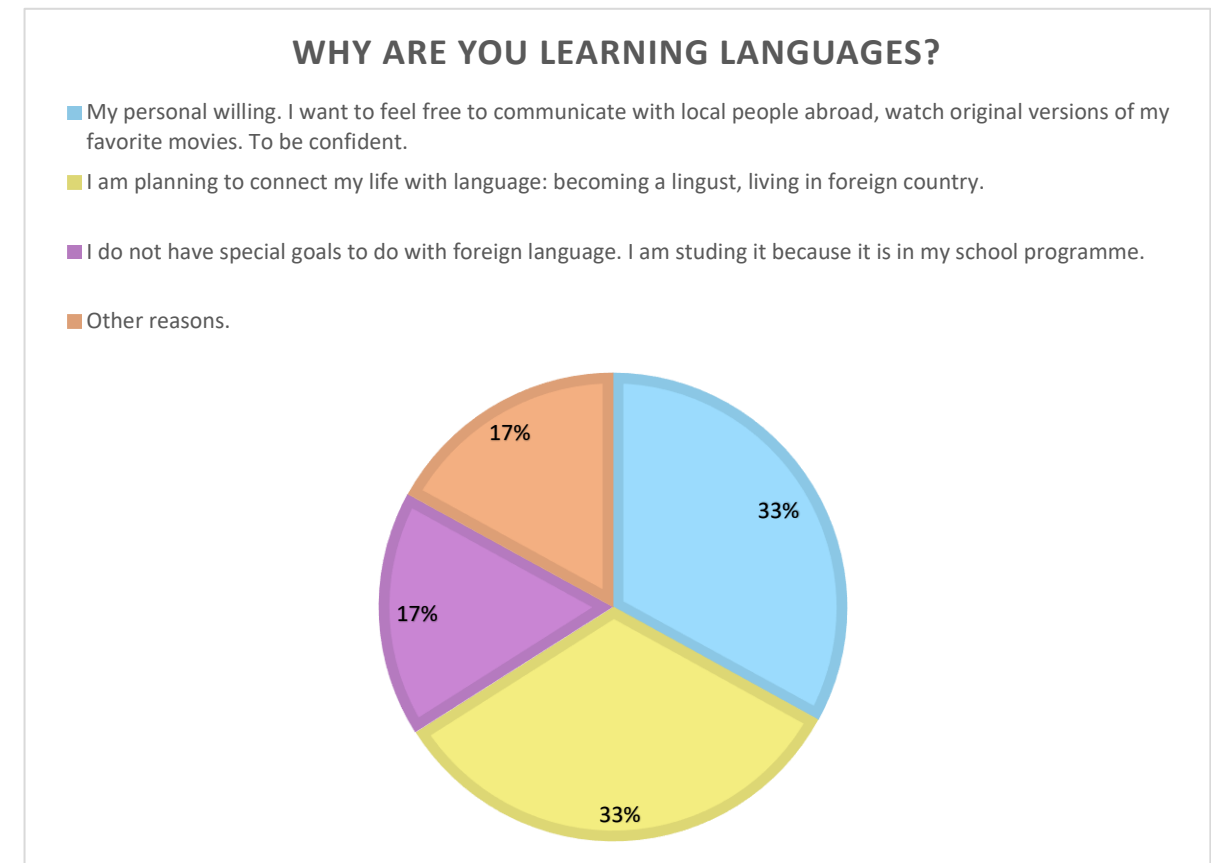
In conclusion, just be open to the new information and try to cover as many things as you can.

## 8. Appendix. Results of the interview. Diagrams.

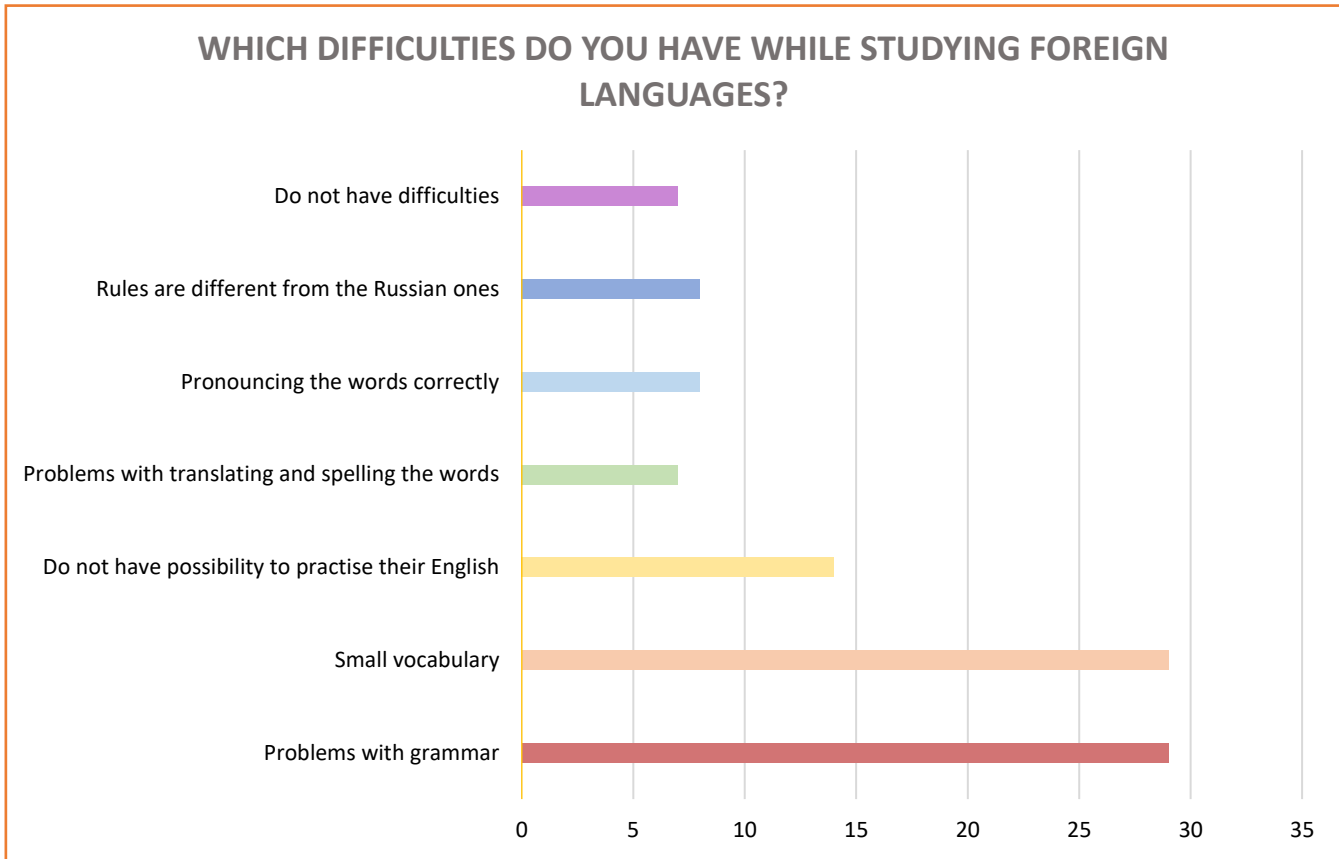
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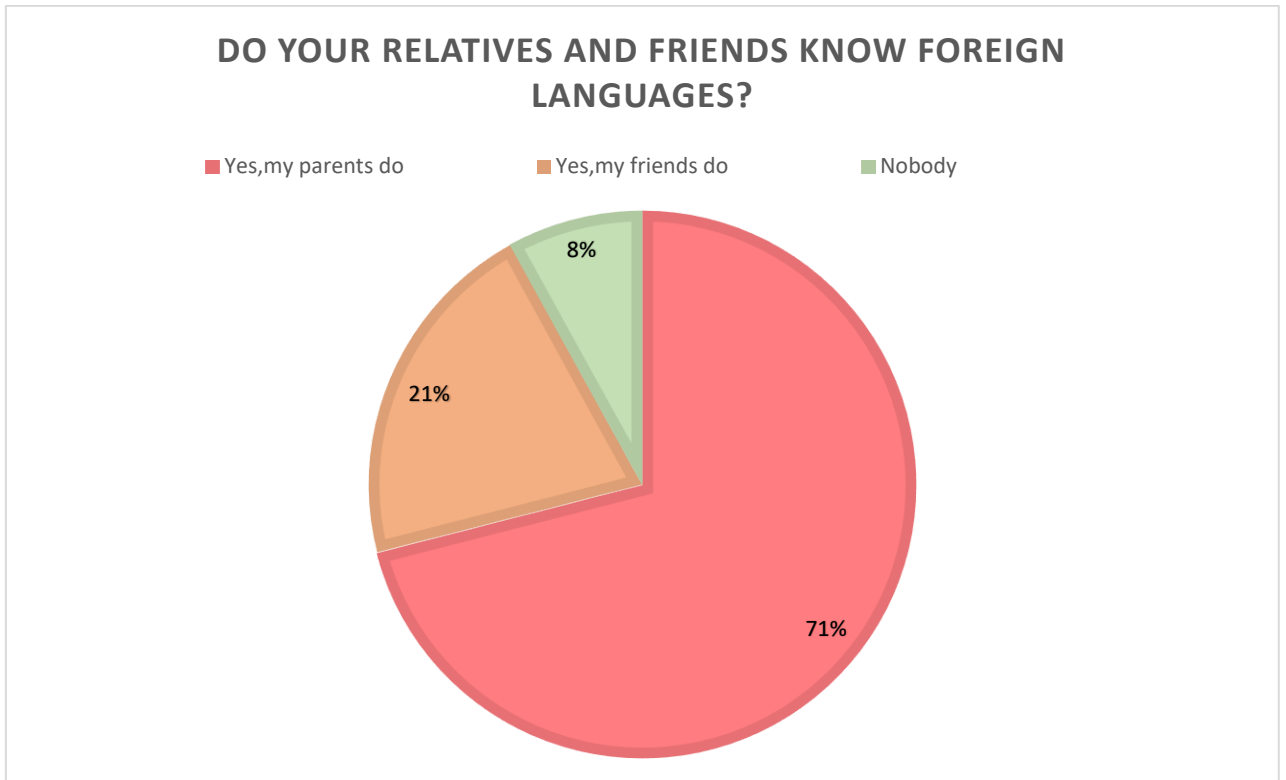
2.



3.



4.



## 9. Literature.

1. <https://www.bloomsbury-international.com/blog/2013/08/23/10-reasons-to-learn-a-foreign-language/> - Reasons to Learn a Foreign Language
2. <https://www.fluentu.com/blog/english/best-books-to-learn-english/> - 22 Popular Books to Learn English From
3. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Language#Language\\_families\\_of\\_the\\_world](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Language#Language_families_of_the_world) – Language
4. <https://www.mosalingua.com/en/most-studied-languages-in-the-world/> - What Are The Most Studied Languages in the World?
5. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/learn/> - Why learn a language?