



# FOREIGN LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AS A TOOL FOR GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

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## Abstract

Nowadays, some languages such as English and Chinese are used as a lingua franca. Not only a tool to communicate, but also as the key quality of leaders. This paper discusses how acquiring foreign languages can boost leadership skills of the individuals. It also examines why children brought up in bilingual environments are more likely to become leaders and how different family backgrounds affect them. Last but not least, some advices are provided on how teachers can help their students to become effective leaders.

**Keywords:** Languages, English and Chinese, lingua franca, key quality of leaders, acquiring foreign languages, leadership skills, bilingual environments, family backgrounds, effective leaders.

## Introduction

### Аннотация:

В настоящее время, некоторые языки, такие как английский и китайский, используются как лингва франка. Они используются не только как средство для коммуникации, но и как одно из ключевых качеств лидеров. В данной статье рассматривается, каким образом изучение иностранных языков



способствует развитию лидерских навыков у личности. Также анализируется, почему дети, выросшие в билингвальной среде, с большей вероятностью становятся лидерами и как различная семейная среда влияет на их развитие. Кроме того, представлены рекомендации о том, как учителя могут помочь своим ученикам стать эффективными лидерами.

**Ключевые слова:** языки, английский и китайский языки, лингва франка, ключевое качество лидеров, изучение иностранных языков, лидерские навыки, билингвальная среда, семейная среда, эффективные лидеры

### **Annotatsiya:**

Hozirgi kunda, Ingliz va Xitoy tillari kabi ayrim tillar lingua franka sifatida qo'llanilmoqda. Ular nafaqat muloqot vositasi, balki yetakchilarning muhim sifatlaridan biri deb ham sanaladi. Ushbu maqolada chet tillarini o'zlashtirish shaxslarning yetakchilik ko'nikmalarini qanday rivojlantirishi muhokama qilinadi. Shu bilan birga, nega ko'p tilda muloqot qiladigan oilalardagi bolalarning yetakchi bo'lish ehtimoli kattaligi va qanday qilib harxil oilaviy muhitlar bunga ta'sir qilishi tahlil etiladi. Nihoyat, o'qituvchilarning o'z o'quvchilarini samarali yetakchi bo'lib shakllanishiga qanday yordam berishi mumkinligi bo'yicha tavsiyalar keltiriladi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** tillar, Ingliz va Xitoy tillari, lingua franka, yetakchilarning muhim sifatleri, chet tillarni o'zlashtirish, yetakchilik ko'nikmalari, oilaviy muhitlar, samarali yetakchi

Learning foreign languages, especially English, has been considered to be essential for negotiation among different nations for the last few decades. However nowadays, it is not only vital for communication, but is now one of the most important requirements to become a global leader. "Learning a language, especially in the globalized world, provides individuals with the communication skills needed to lead effectively" (Isakulova B., 2024). To be more precise, one should be fluent in several languages to succeed as a leader. As said by Bakhtigul Isakulova, language learning cultivates communication, critical thinking and collaboration, which are vital qualities to become a successful leader. This paper



examines: (1) how can learning foreign languages improve the individuals' leadership skills, (2) how children raised in multilingual environment may have higher chances to become global leaders and how parents affect the leadership perspectives of their children, and (3) how university instructors can train and grow real leaders by implementing different class activities and navigating them into accurate fields.

“The impact of language learning in leadership is multifaceted” (Isakulova B., 2024). It can improve some very vital aspects of leadership such as communication skills, critical thinking, collaboration and teamwork, and cultural sensitivity. According to Bakhtigul Isakulova, being able to communicate effectively is one of the core competencies of leadership. By acquiring different languages, individuals first of all can more clearly organize their thoughts. To be more precise, inasmuch as they have actively learnt the grammar and different terms of the other language, they can easily communicate with their international colleagues and express their ideas fluently and accurately. At the same time, they become active listeners, which is the other essential quality of leaders. Because they should carefully listen to their instructor to understand the tone, accents and contexts, they will practice being an active listener, which is the main communication skill the leaders must have. Secondly, language acquisition improves critical thinking of the students, which is so important for global leaders as communication skills. The reason why critical thinking is increased when students attend foreign language classes is that, there they should analyze lots of different topics, most of which are connected to globalization, discuss some global changes and problems, and even give suggestions to those issues. In IELTS courses, for instance, students have to cover lots of topics, starting from why online education is important, to why tourism has been the reason of increased unemployment rates, they ought to provide their own opinions on those topics and suggest ideas to overcome those issues, they should read many articles and during speaking discuss different topics, which boosts their logical and critical thinkings. Other vital skills in our current interconnected world are collaboration and teamwork. Of course, almost all of the foreign language courses require students to work in groups, which may improve their ability to work with a team. For example, Pre-IELTS and IELTS students are mostly told to make presentations on different topics, and at that time, students start to be more



familiar with teamwork. Likewise, some of them might show and understand their potential to be leaders and might further work on themselves to be a real leader someday. Last but not least, by learning different languages, individuals can also learn about different cultures and cultural backgrounds, which is one of the best qualities of leaders, especially those who work with people of different cultures. This is because, those leaders who know about different cultures and the behaviors of the people of those cultures do know how to communicate with them accurately, and to guide them effectively.

Children grown up in bilingual environment, and those who are able to communicate in two or more foreign languages, show enhanced perspectives, problem-solving abilities and collaboration capabilities (UNESCO, 2011). As said by Ang & Van Dyne, early social interactions significantly influence the development of successful leadership abilities across various cultures. Likewise, children's language development is greatly affected by their parents' educational background (Hart and Risley, 1995). That is because, if the parents are educated, they will also encourage their children to gain more knowledge and can foster their reading and language skills. Likewise, children whose parents work in communicative, diverse contexts will have better social and leadership abilities (Fidan A., 2025). Because, those who work with communicative people get to know different cultural backgrounds and might share their knowledge with their children, which might later help those children to be able to accurately communicate in other languages with people of other international countries, which is considered to be one of the best and mostly required qualities of global leaders. Last but not least, the size of the family plays a huge role in children's development as leaders. "Single-parent and two-parent homes affect significantly the children's language acquisition" states Hoff-Ginsberg. While single parents might spend most of their time at work and other important tasks as a parent, they might not have adequate amount of time to communicate with their children. Two-parent families on the other hand, support and help each other to complete their parental tasks and also succeed to interact with their children and pay enough attention on how their children are acquiring knowledge, which may also affect the children's success in future leadership.

As was mentioned before, attending in different language courses may foster and improve one's leadership abilities, and instructors also play a key role in assisting



students build leadership abilities and proficiency in the target language (Isakulova B., 2024). There are several ways how teachers can help their students. First of all, group projects and oral presentations might be required from students. In order to become an effective leader, one should be fluent and confident in speech, and the aforementioned activities might be effective to gain those qualities. Because, in order to make a good presentation, students should work with the group, and at that time students show and improve their leadership potentials. By the same token, students work on their speech, their tone, their grammatical accuracy and body language, in order to present their work effectively, which might also be beneficial for the future leaders. Having found the students with a high potential of leadership after the oral presentations and team works, the instructors might further work with those students. Students might get career advice and may be told about the importance of bilingualism in today's globalized world. After such sessions, some students might be highly encouraged and continue working on them until they become one of the most effective leaders.

To sum up, nowadays, being a polyglot is one of the main qualities of effective leadership and there are some reasons for this. Firstly, by attending foreign classes, students might improve their communications skills, critical thinking and cooperation with different teams, which are some of the qualities of a good leader. However, not only attending such courses, but also their family background might affect them. Whether their parents are educated, are enough well-off and they live in a big, two-parent family can also have some effects on the children's development as a leader. Last but not least, instructors in higher education can also encourage and help students to become a good leader in the future, by offering them advices and different activities that boosts their perspectives.

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