
KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT BORDERS AMONG IMMIGRANTS

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Abstract: Over the last two decades, economic and political influences have shifted towards emerging economies, with a huge number of developing countries intensively and effectively progressing, raising their share of global income, and thus becoming more interested in new migrations caused by economic change and technological development. In addition, there is a flow of money, investment and the exchange of ideas between these countries and the great world economic powers. Particularly significant migrations have been recorded in the countries of the Asian continent, but on the importance they receive new types of migration to the North American continent, in the USA and Canada. Modern middle-class migrations, especially those resulting from a bad economic or social situation in the countries of origin of emigrants, as well as those resulting from warfare, have become a global problem as some of them change the demographics of the countries of origin and affect the change regulation and transformation of institutional mechanisms of countries receiving emigrants. Although the first migrations were recorded tens of thousands of years ago, the first major economic migrations were recorded in the historical period that followed the discovery of America, to escalate in the late 19th and early 20th centuries when a large number of European citizens has emigrated to America, Canada, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. The basic characteristic of Canada, which makes it interesting for observing migration movements, is that almost 20% of the population is made up of a population born outside its territory. For this reason, Canada encourages programs related to the treatment of ethnic diversity, multiculturalism and tolerance, which largely reflects the immigration policies and statistics of this country. Foreign workers and emigrants have always looked to countries like the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia as attractive locations in search of a better life. Many of them were not aware of the consequences, and that is because, they did not ask themselves whether they will be able to adapt (and their families, too) to the new environment. Emigrants first need to learn the language of the host country, and then master other components of social life, such as, for example, respect for rules and laws, social security, education, and so on. Research shows the fact that emigrants often use social networks and other forms of the Internet to stay in touch with those who mean a lot to them because it is evident that the transition to a new state is not easy, and that there are nostalgia, loneliness, depression, fear and other forms of emotional stress. Second language acquisition, refers to language that is often learnt because it is needed for education or for full participation in a community and people learning it are often surrounded by the language all the time and can easily adopt it even without formal instructions.

Keywords: Immigrants, language learning, SLA, Canada, immigration.

1. INTRODUCTION

The middle class is a homogeneous social group with distinctive features such as a good workplace, quality education for children, social programs, and the data related to Serbia reveals a deviation in relation to global or European statistical data. The Serbian middle class on average has a university degree, knows a single world language, possesses basic knowledge in information technologies, and has a salary of about 800 /1000 € per family per month, which means that in Serbia only a few percent of the population belongs to the middle class. For this reason, migration of citizens to the countries of Europe, the USA and Canada is evident, and the regions in which migrants emigrate depend on both the level of education and skills that the citizens possess, as well as the area of their origin. Globally, the United Nations has defined world regions between and within which there are significant migrations (spiegel.de/M.A., 2016). North America and Europe remain the most important destinations for emigrants. The reasons for leaving their homeland Serbia in the last 30 years are primarily the standard of living, refugees and political factors. The standard of immigrants affects the assessment of the length of stay in the US and Canada, as well as events in the political scene and economic instability. The biggest problems in getting to the new environment are the lack of family and friends, work pressure, busy lifestyle, unfavorable climate, bad cultural life and things similar to these one. With the vast majority of immigrants in the United States and Canada, the chances of return are relatively small, so establishing links with the Diaspora is of great importance for those who find themselves in those two countries. The Diaspora supports cultural, ethnic, ethical and religious sense, and globalization allows Diaspora and the adoption of new methods to help emigrants adapt to the new environment.

2. PURPOSE OF STUDY

This paper has its aim to bring closer the idea of how do immigrants from Serbia gain their knowledge in the foreign countries and also how do they learn and completely adopt language of a target country. SLA refers to Second Language Acquisition (Internet resource), this term represents the process of language learning and it happens when for example person wants to go to a foreign country to study (at the USA university or at the university in Canada). Learning language includes a lot of practice and it can be gained by anyone who is to persistent to learn it. The status of people originating from Serbia in the world is, in general, a triad. One group consists of persons located in the border parts of the countries with which Serbia is bordering. The second group consists of persons who live and work abroad for a long time and have a temporary stay in the country of admission (a policy that emerged in Europe after the Second World War). The third group consists of emigrants in major immigration overseas countries, in accordance with the immigration policies of those countries whose common characteristic is the immigration control, which is determined by visa regimes in embassies and consulates of the countries of origin.

3. RESERACH QUESTIONS

Learning a foreign language can be a problem for emigrants, because it is necessary for them to speak language well enough in daily contact with the local population, but for many, this learning can take too long and cost them to have problems in adaptation to the new society. Otherwise, linguistic barriers may arise that can cause them a problem because they do not have enough knowledge even for everyday communication. Information technology (IT) today is, in many cases, the basis for communication between immigrants and family and friends living in Serbia, especially those who use Internet and social networks, e-mail, text messages and similar to everyday private life and professional environment. It is possible to prove that there is a direct link between the active use of the advantages of the Internet and faster adaptation to life in the receiving countries.

Principle 1: Correlation of language learning and the necessary time to adapt to the new environment

Hypothesis 1:

Through this principle we will understand how fast do the immigrants cross knowledge borders in a foreign country.

Principle 2: Correlation between the active use of the advantages of the Internet and faster adaptation to a life in a foreign country

Hypothesis 2:

This principle will help us figure out do the Internet and other social networks help immigrants to adopt to a life in a foreign country.

3. KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT BORDERS AMONG IMMIGRANTS

A group of 66 people who were interviewed, who filled out a questionnaire on a voluntary basis, and stayed anonymous 54% of the total number of respondents said they left their country because they needed a better job and they have learned language for that purposes on foreseen time and they have chosen Canada because they thought that it offers the best living conditions for emigrants and foreign workers. 37% of those emigrated to Canada have learned language in estimated time because they were seeking better living conditions and needed language in everyday communication, while 9% responded that Canada was offering better living conditions to emigrants and foreign workers with excellent English language knowledge than to its own citizens and so they needed more time to advance their level of language knowledge. In addition, 91% of people have learned language necessary to perform their daily activities in estimated time. And they believe that learning English is not a problem, especially because they speak it on a daily basis in contact with strangers, while only 9% answered that they needed more time to advanced their language knowledge and to find appropriate job even better paid to them as immigrants and foreign workers than to the citizens of Canada.

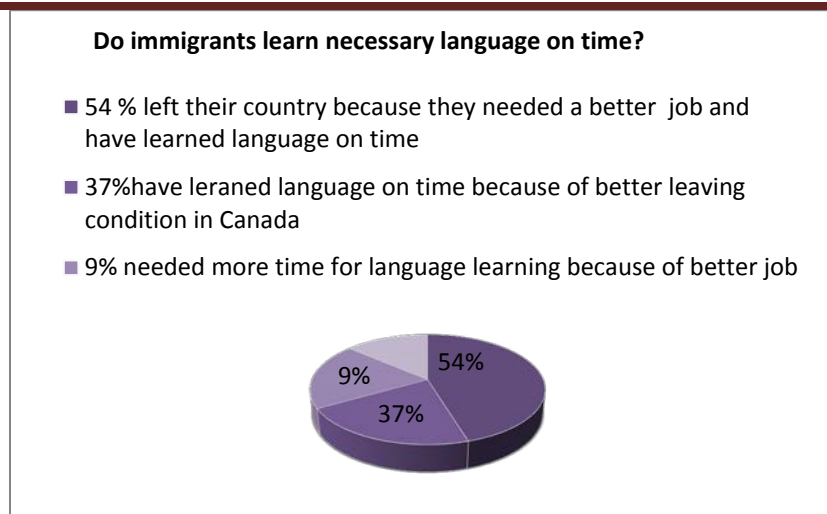


Figure 1. Correlation of language learning and the necessary time to adapt to the new environment

Research shows that emigrants can reach a high level of integration into new communities without interrupting relationships with people in their homeland. The important figures in the receiving countries are residence time in the receiving country, age, technological literacy and communication (Jovanović Kuprešanin, Lilić, Džodžo, 2014). The research was conducted on emigrants from Serbia to USA, Canada and European countries. In this survey we had 79 people who wanted to stay anonymous and it was on the voluntary basis, of which 49 were those who emigrated, and the rest were their relatives and friends from Serbia, with whom they maintain connections through electronic media. The fundamental questions were as to whether using modern technologies helps emigrants to communicate with families and all answers related to a positive relationship between how often people communicate with relatives and friends electronically and do they have good level of technological literacy.. Through this research we have analyzed social networks which include Skype, Facebook, Twiter, Viber.. It has been shown that the technological literacy of participants in the research (persons aged 18-50) is excellent in 23% in Diaspora and 22% in Serbia, very good knowledge have 47% in Diaspora and 46% in Serbia, good knowledge have the equal number of participants on both sides, which is in percentage 23%. The rest of participants in this survey had satisfactory results that are 7% in Diaspora and 9% in Serbia. The results are shown in Table 1.

Technological literacy assessments for people aged 18-50 (Diaspora)	Level of technological literacy for people aged 18-50 (Diaspora) (%)	Level of technological literacy for people aged 18-50 (Serbia) (%)
Excellent (5)	23	22
Very good (4)	47	46
Good (3)	23	23
Satisfactory (2)	7	9

Table 1. Level of technological literacy for respondents aged 18-50 years

4. CONCLUSION

In this research we have found a positive correlation between those immigrants who are able to gain knowledge without borders in foreign country and adopt English language vary fast no matter do they need it for education, work or everyday communication and time that they spend learning it. Second Language Acquisition (SLA) plays important role in language learning (Internet resource, Krashen). Immigrants from Serbia are fast in language learning and they usually learn it on time and it depends on type of work they are applying and only a small number need more time to learn some specific and technical vocabulary related to a better job's position. We may think about many things while learning a second language, for example how often we will be able to practice it, how we are motivated to learn it and is it our main goal to learn it for work and everyday life in foreign country or we need it for better employment or we want to study at some foreign university. Some different ways of

learning the second language are by speaker, by topic or by setting, depends on is one parent speaks Serbian and the other one French or maybe you will speak only Serbian during meals and only English at school, and maybe child or adult will speak Serbian at home but only English at school or at work. To sum up, we may say that nowadays technological literacy is necessary among all people but specially among immigrants. Immigrants are those who need to stay in everyday contact with their families so social networks are more than must-have tools for them. Besides the fact that our friends and family members are going abroad and they will start a new life, we need to stay in touch with them by using different types of social media and support them as much as we can and this research helps us to have clear picture about their IT knowledge and how they learn language when they need it in their daily life and work.

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