

Students Conference

The department of Foreign Languages organized and conducted the second **International Scientific Multidisciplinary Conference of Students and Beginner Scientists «Modern Technologies: Improving the Present and Impacting the Future»** which was held at Dnipropetrovsk National University of Railway Transport named after Academician V. Lazarian on November 22. The conference had a wide representation – its participants were not only from the Ukrainian higher educational establishments, but also from Spain, France, China, Cameroon, Poland, Angola, and the USA. The aim of the conference was both to present students' research achievements, discuss them and communicate with them in English and German. The discussed problems were quite broad: Transport Technologies and Equipment, Modern Economy



Problems and Ways of Their Solving, Advancements, Perspectives, and Problems of Engineering, Ecological Safety, Modern Technologies in Building, Humanities as Integral Part of Professional Training etc. [The advantage of being an active researcher is an engagement with current tools and technology. The students graduating from the university today have available physical tools, and new software that was unheard much less a decade ago. In less than a decade such popular software may evolve through the several generations, changing the look, applications, and abilities. The advances in

technology will continue to reach far into every sector of our economy and society. The future jobs and the economic growth in industry, defense, transportation, agriculture, health care, and life sciences are directly related to the scientific advancement.



- **The advance of technology is based on making it fit in so that you don't really even notice it, so it's part of everyday life.** *Bill Gates*
- **Engineering is all about using the power of science to make life better for people, to reduce cost, to improve comfort, to improve productivity, etc.** *N. R. Narayana Murthy*
 - **Technology is just a tool. In terms of getting the kids working together and motivating them, the teacher is the most important.** *Bill Gates*
 - **Good, bad or indifferent, if you are not investing in new technology, you are going to be left behind.** *Philip Green*

Social network

The relative advantages and disadvantages of social media are a subject of frequent debate. Some of social media's advantages include the ability of users to conveniently stay in touch with friends and family who live far away, connect with like-minded people, and expand business contacts, usually for free. Social media has also been used to increase awareness of social and political issues and organize demonstrations. Frequently cited disadvantages of social media include a decrease in real-world, personal connections and the possibilities of cyberbullying, stalking, hacking, and other privacy concerns. Some students of our university share their points of view on the problem. You are welcome to join the discussion.

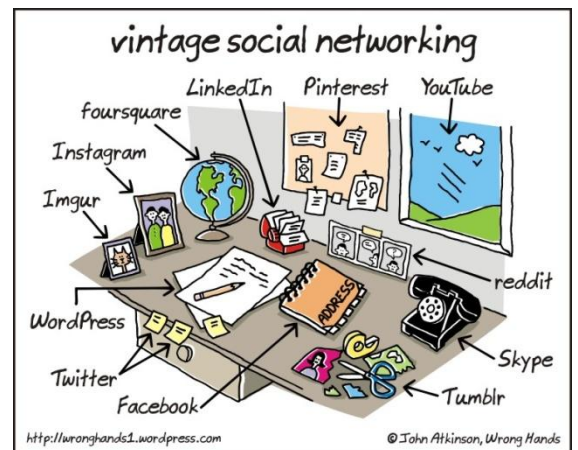


Turn off your email; turn off your phone; disconnect from the Internet; figure out a way to set limits so you can concentrate when you need to, and disengage when you need to. Technology is a good servant but a bad master.

Gretchen Rubin

In recent years, social networks have gained a great popularity both in Ukraine and in the whole world. Every day, more and more Internet users register and begin their active activities in all new social networks that are firmly on the list of the most visited. All this is due to the development of information and communication technologies, social networks have started to play an extremely important role in the life of any society. These networks involve a very large number of people. In the largest social networks, the number of users exceeds the population of countries. Social networks are united by millions of people who communicate with each other using them. This is due to the fact that the modern man does not imagine himself without the Internet, all the greater part of his life is virtual, this situation opens up a huge space for research, the introduction of new ideas, the search for new solutions for scientists.

A social network is a community of people who are united by the same interests, preferences, or those having other reasons for direct communication between themselves. Modern Internet services provide users with all possible tools for communication with each other - videos, chats, images, music, blogs, forums, etc.



How do social networks affect health? There are many different opinions about this. For example, scientists from the Stirling University from the UK, conducted a research according to which participation in such networks as Facebook, Vkontakte and Odnoklassniki increase human intelligence and actively train working memory. Using services such as Twitter, YouTube, ICQ worsens human memory. Scientists explain this by the fact that micro blogs on a person directed a stream of very concise messages, over which you do not need to think, which reduces the amount of attention. Intensive

communication reduces the level of human IQ, and long-term video views develops attention deficit hyperactivity disorder syndrome.

Most often the communicative process in social networks is maintained in a textual form. The value of the text component on the Internet comes to the fore. At the moment, it is already possible to speak about the emergence of an oral and written special third form - the electronic language.

For a long time finding on the Internet develops in humans primitive children's narcissism. Expressions My yahoo, My windows, my-email have become slogans of an individualistic network world. People change attitude to time and space, communication models, priorities. The tendency of individualism, as well as aggressiveness, is intensifying, as aggressive language tactics will be heard more readily on the Web.

Besides the availability of all kinds of text grammar checks, reduces the development of literacy skills in children, and reduces the overall level of knowledge of the written language culture.

Simplification of communication on the Internet leads to simplification of the linguistic, and eventually physical (real) personality, causing irreversible changes in the psyche. Visualization of communication leads to a decrease in the ability of verbal expression and perception, which affects the communication of different age generations, reducing its effectiveness and mutual understanding in general.

The impact of social networks on health and speech activity of a person is very strong. Unfortunately, this effect is negative, so do not be tempted to spend much time in social networks!

Vitaliy Kharkoviy, gr.412

In recent years social media has become deeply integrated in our everyday lives. The concept of social media itself includes several categories: blogs, live journals, forums, chats, dating sites and, of course, social networking sites or SNS. Essentially, they all are platforms for people's remote communication, i.e. exchange of different types of information: text messages, music, photo and video content. The most popular with the young people are social networking sites, such as Face book, Twitter, Instagram, Vkontakte and so on. On the one hand, a social network is a very convenient tool for a quick message exchange, searching for old friends and making new acquaintances, keeping important information and discussing pressing issues in groups, right in the comfort of one's home. On the other hand, psychologists and psychiatrists of the world ring alarm bells: social networking addiction too often becomes the cause of serious mental and nervous disorders, such as depression, social isolation, autism, and even suicide attempts of teenagers and young people. To my mind, social networking sites can be both useful and dangerous depending on who and how uses them. And I want to try to analyze their advantages and disadvantages.



Firstly, social networking sites are very convenient for those who need to connect with people living in different cities or different countries. Using such a site you can quickly create a group chat, send necessary files to several people, share photos and videos, or even launch a videoconference. And all this is absolutely free!

Social networks can become a great solution for people with disabilities or those who for some reason have to stay at home all the time. In some situations they can completely substitute a real-life communication and help such people not to feel lonely or socially isolated. Numerous special interest groups let them find friends and interesting dialogue partners.

Sometimes social networking sites help find really precious and useful information. In different groups people from all over the world discuss various issues, share their personal experiences, provide useful links, write comments and reviews for goods and services. You in turn can ask any question and get answers from different people. Also social networks give a great opportunity to distribute any information within the shortest possible time. Many people today learn news from SNS. If something really important happened, the best way to inform people of this is to post the information in some popular Facebook groups.



Finally, thanks to social networking sites, you will never lose information about your friends and other important people. You don't need to keep in mind their dates of birth and phone numbers any more. At any moment you can check up this information via your smart phone. You will never lose your favourite films or music as well, because you can save them on your personal page with a single click of a mouse.

This was one side of the coin. Unfortunately, there is another one, which is not so bright. For a great number of children and teenagers social networks today have almost completely substituted real life. Some of them spend so much time online that the distinction between life and virtual reality for them becomes blurred. As a result, children suffer from the lack of live communication, though they even don't realize it. It inevitably causes mental disorders, influences their health and spirits, and prevents their socialization.

Another major problem with social networking sites is leakage of information. Posting any personal information, you can never know for sure where it will reemerge. Anyone can use your personal photos, and in most cases you cannot prevent it. Even if you

think that your personal page is protected with a safe password, you are mistaken, because good hackers can break it at one stroke.

Moreover, apart from useful content, any social network contains tons of useless, hazardous and dangerous information, which is easily accessible to children. Violence, erotic, propaganda of drugs and other forbidden content is regularly deleted by moderators, but it appears again too quickly for them to cope with it.

So, summing it up, I'd like to say that social networking sites could be rather useful if people use them for their intended purpose – for communicating, searching for friends and sharing information with them. Also, to my mind, caring parents should limit their children's access to social media, and regularly check up their actions in the Internet. Otherwise, social networks can do a real harm to children's and teenagers' minds.

Max Kuznetsov, gr.412

First impressions of studying abroad

As you know some Ukrainians study abroad. The first year student of the group 611, Maxym Moskovtsev has put some questions to his former classmate Polina Litvin who studies in England in the Newcastle University. We represent their dialogue to your attention.

➤ *Hello, a few words about your university and specialty?*

-I am doing foundation (0 year) INTO course called Computer Sciences, which is a part of Physical Sciences and Engineering foundation. It's in Newcastle University, city Newcastle-upon-Thune. It is located a bit northern than London.

➤ *It is difficult to combine student's life with personal life?*

Isn't this question rhetorical? It is not just difficult, it's impossible. As you know, all the students of our age are dreaming to rush into some relationship and find people for the rest of life immediately. And probably the main reason why all these romances and friendships are so quick to finish is tough pressure of studies, extra classes and student societies. If you want to be both social-active and good at all your subjects, you have no time left for going out with your boy and friends.

➤ *Is the situation in England is similar as in Ukraine: are students working and studying at the same time?*

No, not at all. Here it is not acceptable to allow student to work, especially if he or she is doing 1st or 2nd year cause. They think it's not ok to tear into 2 parts. And naturally that's obvious that work interferes to study hard and affects your time and mental health badly.



➤ *How has your opinion about the Ukrainian education changed?*

-My opinion about the Ukrainian education hasn't changed at all. As I was studying and attending KPI for several months before coming to Newcastle, I have my own experience to compare with. And the most awkward is the fact that knowledge you get after finishing Ukrainian course like IASA is higher than skills you gain here. Nevertheless, in

England they reimburse it with opportunities. Here there are so many ways and chances to realize yourself, but in Ukraine it's almost impossible to do it.

➤ *Was it hard to you to adapt in a new country?*

-Yes, I had some difficulties at the very beginning. But I see that I am not an only one who faces this kind of problems. Here are loads of international students from different parts of the world and all of us are put in the same environment. So I have found out many facts about other cultures. And as I am white European and my English is not so bad it is easier for me to be accepted by local society than for Asians or others.

➤ *How does English society differ from ours (attitude to foreign students)?*

-They are the same human beings as we are. Just some customs and preferences differ. However, there are 3 facts I hate about English, in particular about Newcastle. First of all, they have too strict laws for people under-18s, they control each your step literally. And it's easy for them, as everything around works automatically so you have to swipe your student card everywhere and never miss the curfew (be at home till 12). Also they always smile insincerely and act as if they are willing to help you, but actually they are not. Also I cannot stand foreign attitude to girls. In Ukraine I was treated with respect. But here I feel as if I am a piece of flesh surrounded by tigers. Ukrainian girls are too popular and get too much sexual harassment.

English attitude to foreign students is not so awful as our to Arabic and black guys who study in Ukraine. They accept it. But not if you are stupid.

➤ *Do you follow news and events in Ukraine?*

-I haven't watched Ukrainian news since 2014 or even earlier. I don't have so much time in my life to throw it away especially watching something crazy.

Did you take an English exam when you entered?

Mine is B2. But I am taking EAP assessment this year so I have chance to improve it.

How different is the colloquial English in England and English that we are taught at schools / universities?

➤ -Colloquial English is also English. And you can learn English words and phrases at any part of our planet and it wouldn't differ from what you hear during classes. However geordie (Newcastle) accents are really difficult to understand. And speaking with mates during breaks can be amusing as from time to time they use some swearings or slangs. I have never heard it before. But let's tell each other the truth. We WERE NOT taught English. Call those lessons whatever you want, but you know nothing if you haven't taken extra English classes with a private teacher or a native speaker.

➤ *The interest in something new and a thirst for knowledge have already overcome the longing for homeland, have not they?*



-I always feel homesick here. I wish I had the same opportunities in Ukraine. But I don't want to come back right now. I am gaining priceless and unbelievable experience, with what I wasn't provided at home. But I am Ukrainian and I love it. And I will never change that strong stiff inside my soul. I think that my love to my culture was aroused while being here even more than ever.

Most of us are pleased that 2018 is passed following giving us inspiration and meet our fantasies, a sign of positivism, i.e. new year is all about to emerge and thousands of people can not just wait to observe that the night of 31 December. With a few colorful fireworks skies look super awesome about the first night of this year. Wishing someone makes the person happier. We hope you will enjoy Happy New Year 2019 wishes.



**“COUNTING MY BLESSINGS AND WISHING YOU MORE.
HAVE A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!”**

“Like birds, let us, leave behind what we don't need to carry, grudges sadness pain fear and regrets. life is beautiful, enjoy it. HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019”



“With this New Year I want that you've a lovely January, a beautiful February, a Peaceful March, a stress-free April, a fun-filled May, and Joy that lasts from June to November, and finally a joyful December. May your fantasies come true and may you've got a

charming and blessed New Year.”

Editorial staff: A. Muntian, T. Kuptsova, I. Koliieva