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KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH AS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT FOR THE CAREER OF FUTURE RAILWAY TRANSPORTATION SPECIALIST

It is not a secret that English is considered the language of international communication. The ways of using English in modern industries are constantly expanding. It is important to know English to establish business connections with other countries and exchange knowledge about every aspect of a nation's living, including railway transport. The state of railway transport in Ukraine is far from being acceptable by modern standards, as we can still see Soviet railway transportation management and execution technologies being used to date. That is why our railways are in utmost need of implementation of automated control systems, and we have a lot to learn from other countries with more developed railroads, such as Germany or Japan. Not only is it necessary to study different railway transportation systems existing through sharing knowledge with other countries' railroad industry representatives, it is also important to use obtained knowledge wisely when reorganizing a certain aspect of railway transportation with it. In addition, railway transport imports and exports most of the goods and materials used by other industries such as fuel, coal, building materials and much more, and the knowledge of English may gradually simplify the process of maintaining import and export routine management between countries.

Another important aspect as to why English is considered important in railway transport industry is the development and usage of management software that provides efficient transportation control and documentation of the process. In Ukraine, remote controllers do most of the railroad operating, yet some processes concerning rail transport such as train movement scheduling are done with the help of a computer. Most programming relies on different English lexical structures to be used accordingly, as well as knowledge of specific terms used only in a certain field that the program is developed for, so it should be obvious that any programmer working with an application to be used by railroad operators must have at least basic and field-specific English vocabulary memorized. However, programmers are not the only ones who should possess such knowledge. Railroad operators who work with railroad control software often use different means of management that have all the information provided in English, such as program interfaces or foreign documentation on different wagon types. This is especially important in international railroad business – operators need to have a strict knowledge of what and who are they working with and since international connections mainly rely on information presented in English, its knowledge becomes essential for operators to obtain and improve as the new railway transport technologies are constantly being developed and presented.

To sum it up, the knowledge of English can be thought of as an important criterion of efficient and productive railway transport management. The only question remaining is the quality of English education provided for future railroad controlling and software development specialists, as well as the availability of means and methods of improving the current situation with our railroads. And those two aspects are what seems to slow down the improvement process gradually.

In February of 2018 President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko successfully signed a deal with American General Electrics Transportation on 15-year-long cooperation in railway modernization process and import of a number of locomotives. Plus, a number of investments in the railroad electrification were made in some regions of our country. Still, despite all of the effort that went towards the improvement of the state of Ukrainian railroads, the question of outdated management equipment and software replacement remains to this day, and it is not clear when it will be solved.

The work conditions of most of our railway transport operators are not tailored to modern railroad operating standards, hence the massive railroad staff shortage trend observed throughout several years.

As we can clearly see, the state of our country as it is cannot provide the exact environment for applying modern railway transport technologies, and the knowledge of English is not enough to continue developing our railway industry. Still, the experience of the developed countries and increasing level of English learners among the representatives of our railway industry can have a great impact on further railroad improvement, which may also improve our economical situation and the development of our country overall.

Reference:

- 1). *"Railway Transport 101" practice lecture material*
- 2). *www.tsn.ua*
- 3). *www.ef.edu*