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CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT ELEMENTS OF THE LANGUAGE STRUCTURE AND TEACHING ESP

Abstract: The paper deals with the major components of the language structure primarily reflecting the culture of English as compared to Russian. A number of lexical and grammatical (modality) features of English which are culturally significant are contrasted with Russian. Some speech etiquette norms (down-toning, understatement, self-disclosure) are also touched upon.

Keywords: culturally specific language elements, ethno-specific structures, speech etiquette, down-toning, self-disclosure, ESP teaching.

[The body of the text is extremely faint and illegible due to low contrast. It appears to contain several paragraphs of text, possibly including numbered points or references. Some faint characters like '(1)', '(2)', '(3)', and '(4)' are visible, suggesting a list or structured text. There are also some symbols like '<<' and '>>' that might be part of a quote or specific terminology. The text is too light to transcribe accurately beyond these fragments.]

morning/night,

« »

good day,

()

« »

*counties
counties,*

« »,

believe,

argue,

Down-toning

« »

I see something (I can see), I don't hear (I can't hear), I think you are not right (I don't think you are right), I don't understand (I can't understand)

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(In other cultures, there is 'a time and a place' for humour; In English conversation there is always an undercurrent of humour (teasing, irony, self-deprecation, mocking, etc); Humour is a default mode — the English do not have to switch it on deliberately, and they cannot switch it off) [2; 61–62].

understatement, down-toning

quite pretty; breathtaking beauty

not very clever; unforgivably stupid misjudgement

a bit of a nuisance; debilitating and painful chronic illness

« »

» *(the Antarctic is rather cold)*; —
« » *(the Sahara is too hot for my taste)* [2; 61–75].

» *(self-disclosure)*. « —
» «any information exchange that refers to the self. It can be defined as any verbal message about the self (in particular — the one that formally begins with I)» [1; 38–39].

(do not disclose intimate information);
(do not disclose negatively-valued information); —
(do not disclose excessively) [1; 38–39].

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1. Dayter, Daria. Discursive Self in Microblogging. John Benjamins Publishing House: Amsterdam/Philadelphia, 2016.

2. Fox, Kate. Watching the English. The Hidden Rules of English Behaviour. Hodder & Stoughton, 2004.