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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.

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)

()

(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

brehtaking beauty

quite pretty; unforgivably stupid misjudgement

not very clever; debilitating and painful chronic illness

a bit of a nuisance; «

» *(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].

« »

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.