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PECULIARITIES OF KAZAKH AND ENGLISH NATIONAL MENTALITIES

Eszhanova Tomiris

tomiriseszhanova@mail.ru

Student of L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan

Scientific supervisor – A. Mutali

Mentality (Latin word “mens”, “mentis” – spirit, thinking, reasonableness and a way of thinking) is a totality of socially psychological facilities, automatisms and habits of consciousness which forms a way of vision of the world and concept of people. As any other social phenomena the mentality is historically changeable but alteration occurs very slowly in them. Social historian considers that mentality is generalized way of perception of the world, the manner of thinking and feeling. From the point of view of linguistics it is important to emphasize the role of language in studying mentality.

The aim of the work is to single out the ethnic mentality of Kazakh and English peoples and to make their description with the help of phraseological units which are considered the mirror of national culture.

General characteristic feature of mentality is its openness, incompleteness, continuance, diffuse nature and ordinary consciousness. The subject of mentality is not individual but social medium. They are shown in verbal language (verbal culture of a society) and a sign language, in behavior, customs, traditions and beliefs.

The term “mentality” was introduced by French ethnologist and social anthropologist Lucien Levy-Bruhl studying the prelogical thinking. Philosophic understanding of notion “mentality” connects with the name of German thinker Ernst Cassirer [1]. What about “culture”? Culture is one of the most important components, which form every nation. It is one occurrence that distinguishes and unites all the people who live in the world. It's very important to know traditions and customs of different people. It will help you to know more about the history and life of different nations and countries. Knowing your culture, especially traditions and customs you will get to know yourself. Who are you? Who were your ancestors? How did they live? What do their life experiences give us? So on. Nowadays in globalization process a science and a technique's news is changing every day. The country which respects their culture and traditions and goes ahead for the future with great confidence will be winner from the word's competition. Kazakh famous writer M. Auesov said: «The man who does not know and respect his culture, it is not considered an intelligent man, in spite of his professionalism». That's why our generation must know their nation's value. How our ancestors protected their culture, religion, language from the different outside enemies. In this respect Kazakhstan enjoys a very rich cultural heritage. Kazakhstan is the ground of an ancient civilization of the Eurasian continent where during centuries powerful empires and countries arose, died and again rose from ashes. There were the major trading ways connecting the East and West. The historical and cultural associations of ancient tribes appear basis of development of the Kazakh ethnics. The mentality of a person is influenced with different factors like environment, climate, a geographical landscape, a society, religion, customs and traditions, nature as a whole. The geographical environment influence is the most essential. Kazakh people are Nomads and they moved from one place to another. During long history they have lived in steppes and their life was not easy. The man was a soldier, a herdsman and the head of the family at the same time.

One of the leading ethnic traditions of Kazakh people is the knowledge of the family tree. The family tree was always characteristic for nomads in their aspiration to continue a generation and to develop customs and traditions of the community. There are relics which have been passed from one generation to another, from the father to the son and etc. So reverence and respect for the ancestors and the origin was inspired the child from the early childhood. Kazakh proverbs say: "Ignorance of own family tree till seven generation is the sign of loneliness", "While known fathers are alive, memory about them is alive too".

The life of Nomad formed peculiar mentality, the features of which are intellect, philosophy and democracy. Ethnic mentality of the Kazakh nation is based on openness, friendliness, hospitality, forgiveness, etc. «Genetic features of Kazakh people is the openness and kindness of soul, readiness to warm, share that has, with requiring. Never and to anybody did not show feeling of hostility or the superiority, never is a source of interethnic conflicts» - writes Nazarbayev N.A. Respect for elders is formed since early childhood. Old people in family or clan are unquestionable authority. Address to old people allowed only to "You" but it did not separate the children from parents. Kazakh people who lived in what is now Kazakhstan absorbed and processed the ideas and achievement of various civilizations, in their turn making such contributions to the treasury of global culture as the yurt (portable home), saddle and stirrups for horses, the art of fighting on horseback, carpet pattern, and silver ornaments. Modern human culture is known to be rooted in ancient folk art traditions. In all Kazakh families, the birth of a child was accompanied by traditional celebrations such as shildekhana (date of birth celebration), besikke salu (laying the baby in its cradle), tusau kesu (the child's first steps), and sundet toi (circumcision). Kazakhs trace their family tree long the mail line, and only children who were born in the families of sons are to be considered to be grandson. The children of daughters, although they are treated with warmth and kindness by their parents and relatives, cannot expect to be regarded as liner descendant and transmitters of life. The creation of a family – the wedding – is an important milestone in the life of any person from any culture. For Kazakhs, this event – otau koteru – is also a special joy for the parents. The shanyrak (top of the yurt – traditional dwelling of the nomads) was a heirloom in each family, a symbol of happiness, and the sign of the continuation of the clan. Under Kazakh family law, the father allocated a share of his fortune to the elder sons, who made shanyraks for their own use, and the yurt was indispensable attribute of the parental gift at all times. But the youngest son has always occupied a privileged position in the family. He would inherit the main shanyrak of the clan, and he was also assigned the sacred duty of taking care of his parents in old age. This ancient tradition survives in all Kazakh families today.

Kazakh people are famous for its hospitality. Hospitality as characteristic feature is soaked with the milk of mother since childhood: "We say 'come' to the guest but we do not say 'go away' ". They will be welcomed as a guest of honor with the words "Torge shygynyzy". Tor is the place of honor on the house and the guest is invited to sit there. A guest is not allowed to leave without being offered food and drink – auyz tiyu, proof of the generosity and hospitality of the Kazakh people. Respect for elders is an important part of Kazakh morals and ethics. Grandparents are effectively the heads of families; they are loved and respected by family members. The life a family is often governed by the interests of older people. Kazakh people named the most respectful and knowledgeable individuals with an honorary title Bey (leader and counselor). From ancient times the poets-improviser akyns were also much respected among Kazakh people, they demonstrated their artistic talent in the musical and poetic contests called aitys, a glory of which is still alive today. No important celebration of gathering took place without akyn's involvement, which had the honor and responsibility to praise and glorify the importance of every event. When a person passed away, there were and still are traditional ceremonies that marked the event. A very important responsibility is borne by those who were asked to bring the tragic message to the relatives of the deceased. This was done in the form of a song of condolence called estirtu. Kazakh wisdom says that three things make honour to the person. They are: "draw-well which is digged in desert, bridge which is built across the river and tree which is planted on the road". According to the Conception of ethno cultural education of the country, July 15, 1996 by № 3058 "By knowing own culture,

language, traditions and customs, we recognize world's culture at the same time" [2]. Knowing other country's culture you can widen your scope.

It is very necessary to learn the English language as the English language is an international language. Our ex-president N.A.Nazarbayev mentioned that our generation must have a good command of Kazakh, Russian, English languages. That's why learning English language is a social order. One cannot speak about England without speaking about its traditions and customs. They are very important in the life of English people. Englishmen are proud of their traditions and carefully keep them up. The 4 parts of the UK represent 4 nations, which are distinct from each other in almost every aspect of life. The people of Ireland, Wales and Scotland belonged to the Celtic race. Those in England and Scotland were mainly of Germanic origin [3]. This difference was reflected in the languages they spoke, in their different economic, social and legal systems. England has always played the most important role in the history of the British Isles. That is why foreigners usually call all British people English. The English are mainly Anglo-Saxon in origin. Traditionally the English are thought to be reserved, shy of strangers, conservative, honest, responsible and believing that they are superior to any other people on Earth. The Scots have a strong sense of national identity of their own distinct, values and traditions. Scotland is a country with its dancers, its own songs, its poetry, national food and drink. To many foreigners, the image of Scotland is associated with kilts, tartans, bagpipes. The Welsh are proud of their culture, traditions and their language. They are gifted in the art of self-expression in words, they are not afraid of being poetic in speech. There is much literary, musical and dramatic activity in Wales. Special festivals are held to encourage Welsh literature and music. Wales is called "the land of song". The Irish have a rich literary heritage. Many great names of English literature were Irish (G. Swift, O. Wilde and G.B. Shaw). Britain is a country where a lot of immigrants live, they are people of different origin: they are from Commonwealth countries Asia, Africa, the West India, Pakistan, and Hong Kong. Mentality of English people includes tactfulness, politeness and reticence. Also English people are compliant and patient to other people: "Live and let live"; "One cannot run with the hare and hunt with the hounds"; "A cat may look at a king"; "Love me, love my dog. He that loves the tree, loves the branch" [4]. Englishmen show their politeness and respect during conversation. The following saying emphasizes the importance of etiquette for them: "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth"; "When in Rome, do as Romans do. Don't carry coals to New castle". They make fun of their imperturbability and sluggishness: "Nothing must be done hastily but killing of fleas"; "Haste makes waste"; "Easy does it". The proverb "Don't change horses in the middle of the stream" says about conservatism of English people. They always keep their tradition and they do not want to change their monarchy. They like to repeat: "An old dog will learn no new tricks. You cannot teach old dogs new tricks". "An old dog barks not in vain". There are six public holidays a year in G.B. Christmas day is one of their favorite holidays. It's celebrated on the 25th of December. There are some traditions connected with it. One of them is to give presents to each other. It is not only children and members of family. It's a tradition to give Christmas presents to the people you work with. Many families celebrate Christmas day in the open air near the Christmas tree in order to catch the spirit of Christmas. Children find Christmas presents in their stockings. The traditional English dinner on Christmas is turkey and pudding. Other great holidays are: Father's day, Mother's day, Halloween and other. The British have many traditions, manners and customs of which they can be proud. England has preserved its old ceremonies and traditions to a greater extent than any other country in the world. Most of these traditions have been kept up without interruption since the thirteenth century. Foreigners coming to England are impressed by a great number of ceremonies which seem to be incompatible with the modern traffic and technical conditions of a highly developed country. Some British customs and traditions are famous all over the world. Bowler hats, tea and talking about the weather, for example.

Do you believe in good luck and bad luck? Most people in the world have some superstitions. These are a few British superstitions with long traditions. Good luck: Black cats are lucky. Clover is a small plant. Usually it has three leaves, but a few have four. A clover with four leaves brings good luck. A horseshoe over the door of a new home brings good luck. But the

horseshoe must be the right way up. The luck runs out of a horseshoe if it's upside down. On the first day of the month it's lucky to say "White rabbits". It's good luck to see two magpies (large black and white birds). Catch falling leaves in autumn and you'll have good luck. Every leaf means a lucky month in the next year. Bad luck: Never open an umbrella in the house. That's very bad luck. Never break a mirror – that means seven years' bad luck. It's bad luck to see just one magpie. Don't walk under a ladder. Don't walk past so in chuddy on the stairs. The number thirteen is very unlucky. Here are five British "proverbs" or sayings:

1. Nothing ventured nothing gained. You have to try or you won't get anything.
2. The other man's grass is always greener. You always think that other people's lives are better than yours.
3. It's no use crying over spilt milk. Don't be too sad after a small accident.
4. Fools rush in where angels fear to tread. Stupid people do things that other people never do.
5. You can lead a horse to water but you cannot make it drink. You can give a person a chance, but you can't make him or her take it [5].

In a real English breakfast you have fried eggs, bacon, sausage, tomato and mushrooms. Then there's toast and marmalade. There's an interesting story about the word "marmalade". It may come from the French "Marie est malade", or "Mary is ill". That's because a seventeenth century Queen of Scotland, Mary Queen of Scots, liked it. She always asked for French orange jam when she was ill. Tea is Britain's favorite drink. It's also a meal in the afternoon. You can drink tea at home or in a hotel. Tea at the Ritz hotel in London is very good. You can drink Indian or Chinese tea.

Each country also has a national "emblem" or sign. The English emblem is a red rose. The Welsh emblem is a vegetable or flower – a leek or a daffodil. The Scottish emblem is a wild plant – a thistle. And the Irish emblem is another wild plant – a shamrock.

The British talk about the weather a lot. For example, "Isn't it a beautiful morning?" or "Very cold today, isn't it?" They talk about the weather because it changes so often. Wind, rain, sun, cloud, snow – they can all happen in a British winter or a British summer. British banks, shops, cinemas, theatres or bus stops you can always see people in queues. They stand in a line and wait quietly, often for a long time. Each new person stands at the end of the queue – sometimes in rain, wind or snow. Hundreds of years ago, soldiers began this custom. They shook hands to show that they didn't have a sword. Now, shaking hands is a custom in most countries. In Britain you don't shake hands with your friends and family. But you do shake hands when you meet a person for the first time. You also say "How are you?" This is not really a question, it's a tradition. The correct answer is exactly the same, "How are you?" [6]. But, in Kazakh they shake hands and shaking hands is a sign of respect from younger to older.

It's the custom to have a party to celebrate: A person's birthday, a new house, Christmas, an engagement, a wedding, New Year's Eve. Therefore culture of various peoples is reflected in actual world surrounding them, conditions of life, their mentality, national character, morals, vision of the world and language. Language has the function to comprise common human values transmitting and carrying peculiarities of ethnic mentality from one generation to another.

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