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Секція – Філологія

VOA LEARN ENGLISH PROGRAM AS AN INFORMATION BASE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

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This message has three peculiarities. Firstly, it is a collective work and has, as you can see from the title, three authors. Secondly, the subject of the authors' scientific research is a non-scientific, but rather sociopolitical series of publications and speeches by VOA Learning English, which we tried to comprehend and analyze from a scientific point of view, applying purely-scientific methods and approaches. Thirdly, a variety of topics of VOA Learn English Program has pushed us to search for new topics and problems for research.

We have identified three sections of speeches and publications that are related to our scientific, educational and pedagogical, political, social and spiritual interests. Conditionally, we divided them into three thematic groups. The most extensive group is articles and speeches on education. The second group is materials about health and a healthy lifestyle. The third group contains research on social and political, spiritual and moral topics. We analyzed a total of 85 articles. I would like to dwell on the most interesting problems and explain why they became the subject of our scientific study and what kind of scientific research they prompted. In the articles devoted to education («Facing Shortage of Teachers, US States Ease Requirements», «Few US schools take further COVID measures» «2021: Schools debate pandemic restrictions, race», «Report: online education services gathered, shared data on children», «Teachers get mental health training, help students»), global world problems are raised: the decrease in the level of education as a result of online education during the quarantine period associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, the growth of the number of students remaining for the second term of education («Professors: students unprepared for math after pandemic», «Study: young people worried about education, democracy», «US schools struggle with behavior, but see opportunity»), the shortage

of teaching staff forced to provide work to teachers without a diploma («After-school programs face labor shortage», the growth of aggressiveness and delinquency among American schoolchildren («Teachers on school shootings: none of us are built for this»)).

In the article «Teachers on school shootings: none of us are built for this» the author approves: «For any teacher, the job seems to ask the impossible. Teachers are already expected to be guidance counselors, social workers, parental models and more to their students. Now, they are increasingly being called upon to be protectors of students, too» [1]. This conclusion indicates that the problem of teacher overload concerns not only American teachers, but also has a universal character. Moreover, Ukrainian teachers faced the difficulties of online learning not only during the quarantine period, but also during wartime. A material factor is added here: the salary of a Ukrainian teacher is lower than the salary of a doctor, a driver, or a grocery store seller and is as close as possible to the minimum. Of course, in wartime, questions about salary are unethical. Now the thoughts and feelings of every Ukrainian are focused on one thing – Victory. However, it is difficult to imagine what consequences this social injustice can lead to. More and more Ukrainian teachers are leaving the place of their favorite work – school, university – in search of a higher-paying job. But Ukrainian teachers are among the best in the world.

The problem of teacher shortage is becoming global. In the article «Few US schools take further COVID measures» the director of AASA, the school superintendents association said: «Teacher shortages remain a major concern, even bigger than COVID-19 itself» [1]. The author of speech «Facing Shortage of Teachers, US States Ease Requirements» states that «some schools in the United States are dealing with severe teacher shortages. Many of these schools are turning to teaching candidates without teaching certificates or official training. In 2019, Alabama legislators passed laws easing teacher requirements and permitting emergency certificates» [3]. Educators are afraid that in a few years there will be no one to teach their children, if the attitude towards the teacher at the state level does not change. First of all, it is necessary to revise the salary of teachers. This conclusion of American researchers is relevant for the education system of many countries.

Sarah Potpinka, a drawing teacher in a high school in Connecticut in the speech «US schools struggle with behavior, but see opportunity» said: «Despite behavioral problems among students after returning to in-person classes... the change has been better for the students» [2]. She said that it is easier to keep students **engaged** in schoolwork face-to-face. It is also easier to seek help for them when there is trouble [2]. But the drawing teacher made a universal conclusion and outlined all the complexities of the post-covid period: the students abandoned the «good habits» that the school and parents had cultivated in them for years, stopped obeying school rules, unlearned to learn: «Coming back into the building a lot of kids fell out of the good **habits** they had built up in previous years... Some refused to wear the required face coverings. Other students broke school rules by leaving in the middle of class to meet up with friends» [2]. All this can and should become the subject of a special scientific study. Moreover, the problem of «fell out of the good

habits» is twofold: on the one hand, it is necessary to strengthen and make the educational process in universities and schools more productive, developing new forms of organizing lectures and practical classes, especially if they are held online. We must not lose our students. On the other hand, it is necessary to remember that the situation often gets out of control and students become mentally unstable due to prolonged online education. He scientifically proved this in his article «Teachers Get Mental Health Training, Help Students» U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, who emphasized the need to solve the problem «the nation's youth mental health crisis» [3].

A professor of genetics at the University of Texas Kristin Patterson in her report «Professors: students unprepared for math after pandemic» expressed concern that «in past years, only two to four percent of students did not get through her class. But last year, about 20 percent did not pass... university does not fully understand how the pandemic changed learning for students when they were in high school. When students are able to work with a teacher in the classroom, she said, the teacher can judge a student's progress. When they are at home, that information is limited. In addition, some high schools permitted students to move on in their studies even with poor grades» [4]. Professor Kristin Patterson focuses attention on the difficulties of teaching students in an online audience. And although she does not talk about the global negative results to which this form of education can lead, her reasoning contains a hidden call to deeply analyze the current situation and think over a strategy for getting out of the indicated crisis. Moreover, graduates of schools and universities must have a wide range of knowledge.

Scientific discoveries and achievements often occur at the intersection of sciences and specialties. In this regard, there is a very interesting message «Study: Nobel prize often goes to creative thinkers, not specialists, the author of which analyzing the phenomenon of this year's Nobel-prize winner in Chemistry Danish scientist Morten Meldal, suggests that wider interests are important: «Having many interests, the Michele Root-Bernstein and Robert Root-Bernstein wrote, permits scientists to look for creative ways to solve problems. In fact, one important part of science is not discovering answers, but recognizing problems that need to be solved» [5]. These thoughts are extremely important for teaching activities, they require further study and implementation in the educational process.

Public and political popular VOA Learn English Program, where important issues of education, health care, environmental protection, world political events, violence and aggressiveness, art, etc. are raised, can become the foundation for further scientific research. We analyzed only some aspects of this program, highlighted several topics being advantageous for us: education in the covid and post-covid period (for our country – in the war and post-war period), the «phenomenon» of the Nobel-prize winner – the need to involve a wide range of sciences and subjects in the education process, to educate erudites, not narrow specialists, the «deficit» of the teaching profession and the consequences to which this can lead. It is believed that the indicated prospects for further scientific research will be interesting and fruitful.

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