

The obtained data illustrates:

- differences — family members, editors, publishers are mentioned only in British/American course books; colleagues in Belarusian course books;
- similarities — students and book coaches.

**Conclusion.** Having analyzed the acknowledgements in British/American and Belarusian course books, we see that in Belarusian culture acknowledgements are not as much spread, as in British/American culture that favours individualism more. The study revealed high frequency of words in English culture, while Belarusian culture remains more modest. Frequency of pronouns “I” and “My” is higher in British/American course books due to individualism. While frequency of pronouns “We” and “Our” is higher in Belarusian course books that are examples of collectivist culture. The results show that Belarusian culture is quite different than British/American culture in the way of how they convey politeness and sincerity.

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### FRIENDSHIP IN THE USA AND BELARUS

**Introduction.** The subject of the study is cross-cultural aspects of friendship in the USA and Belarus. Friendship is a distinctively personal relationship that is grounded in a concern on the part of each friend for the welfare of the other. The necessity of this study is determined by the numerous cases of misunderstandings between people from two countries. The research is a useful source to develop cross-cultural competence of future foreign language teachers and can be applied in teaching the peculiarities of intercultural interactions.

**Main part.** The research is based on the theory of socialization. Socialization is the means by which human beings begin to acquire the skills that are necessary to perform as functioning members of their society. Also, our study is connected with the theory of intercultural communication, in particular, it is based on the idea of culture shock. Culture shock is a term coined by anthropologist K. Oberg to describe a state of anxiety and frustration resulting from the immersion in a culture distinctly different from one's own [1].

The purpose of this work is to analyze and compare aspects of friendship in two different cultures. The hypothesis of the research is that there are differences in friendship among American and Belarusian students that are connected with types of their culture which guide the variations.

The study was undertaken in March 2018 in two countries: the USA and Belarus. The methods that were applied to this study are survey and content analysis. The respondents were 25 people from Belarus and 25 people from the United States of America. They were from 18 to 25 years old. The survey was done by means of Internet technology: social network Facebook.

The research was organized in three stages. The goal of the first stage was to outline the main features of friendship among young people in the USA. The respondents answered the following questions. How many friends do you have? Do you differentiate friends according to the situation, hobbies, interests, etc.? Can you share your private problems with friends? Can you rely on friends in all circumstances? To whom you will go to talk your problems firstly? To friends or to relatives? How often do you ask friends for some help or advice? Is it easy for you to become friends with somebody? How much time do you need to know a person to decide that he/she is your friend? Will you help a friend of yours, even if it causes inconvenience? Is it possible for you to live without friends? Does it make you extremely uncomfortable to live without friendship? Write an association to the word "Friend". Write an association to the word "Friendship".

The obtained data was classified according to a range of criteria. The results are presented in table 1.

T a b l e 1 — The features of friendship among young people in the USA

Criteria	Affirmative answer (%)	Negative answer (%)
1. Differentiation of friendship	84	16
2. The degree of Intimacy of friends	72	28
3. Reliance	20	80
4. Ease in establishing new friendship	76	24
5. Willingness to help friends	72	28
6. Possibility of living without friendship	24	76
7. Average number of friends per person	72 people	
8. Average time for making friends (in months)	1.84	

In the second stage of this research, the goal was to state the characteristics of friendship among young people in Belarus. The results are presented in table 2.

T a b l e 2 — The features friendship among young people in Belarus.

Criteria	Affirmative answer (%)	Negative answer (%)
1. Differentiation of friends	48	52
2. The degree of Intimacy of friends	92	8
3. Reliance	60	40
4. Ease in establishing new friendship	32	68
5. Willingness to help friends	98	2
6. Possibility of living without friendship	12	88
7. Average number of friends per person	5 people	
8. Average time (in months)	9.12	

The third stage of this research was aimed to compare the obtained data, and to establish differences and similarities in the USA and Belarus. The comparison is reflected in figures 1, 2.

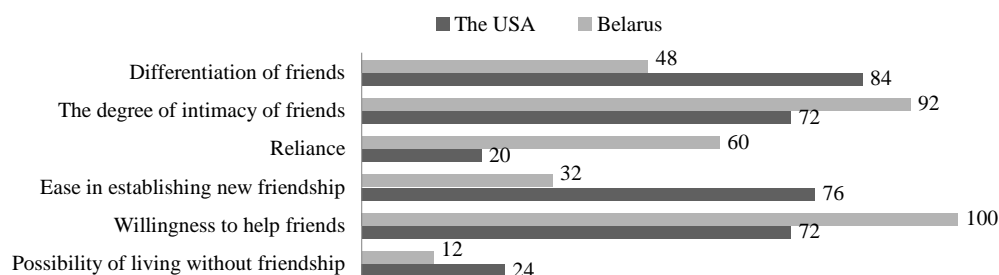


Figure 1 — Comparison of aspects of friendship in Belarus and the USA

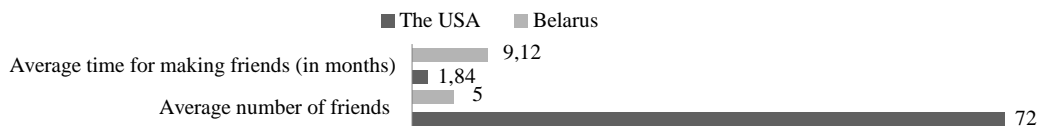


Figure 2 — Time and quantity

We found out that the difference between these cultures constitutes: 44 % (ease in establishing new friendship); 40 % (reliance); 36 % (differentiation of friends); 28 % (willingness to help friends; 20 % (the degree of intimacy of friends); 12 % (possibility of living without friendship).

The comparison of time to become friends and quantity of friends shows a considerable difference between the compared cultures. The Belarusian young people need more time to add a person to the list of their friends (9.12 months), while the Americans need only 1.84 months: difference is 7.28. The average number of friends per person in the USA (72) differs from the one in Belarus (5). The difference is high, to be precise, 67 people.

**Conclusion.** The present study shows that these two cultures have their own distinctive features of friendship, and that they differ in the ease of making new friends, reliance on friends and differentiation of friends. The differences are considerable, and they have to be taken into consideration in intercultural communication, especially in friendship. Understanding of these differences is able to minimize the risk of culture shock and conflicts. Moreover, the present research is a useful source of information for foreign language teachers, who prepare students for cross-cultural communication and provide them with peculiar features of the target culture.

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