

XIII. STRESZCZENIE W JĘZYKU ANGIELSKIM

ATTITUDES OF STUDENTS OF THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF BIAŁYSTOK TOWARDS OTHER NATIONS AND MINORITIES

In recent years, due to the fact that immigrants, refugees, migrant workers, as well as foreign students are perceived as a threat to jobs, living conditions and cultural identity. The phenomenon of stereotyping and xenophobia is gaining in importance. The above information is particularly significant due to the fact that in the academic year 2020/21, 2,495 more students studied in Poland than in the previous one. Moreover, the number of foreign students increased by 3%, which constituted 6.95% of all the student in our country.

The main aim of the work was to analyze the attitudes of students of the Medical University of Białystok towards other nations and minorities, as well as students of other nationalities. It was also examined how the perception of the Polish students differs from the foreign one in relation to other nationalities undergraduates, depending on the field of study. In addition, the above factors are influenced by the represented empathic abilities and the level of satisfaction with life.

There were also 14 research questions and 11 research hypotheses, of which 4 were fully confirmed, six were partially confirmed and one was not confirmed.

The study was approved by the Bioethics Committee of the Medical University of Białystok; R-I-002/255/2013. The main research was preceded by pilot research in a group of 50 people in order to check the clarity of the questions contained in the questionnaire. Major research was carried out in a group of 1950 Polish students, including 150 the foreign from various medical faculties of the UMB. The selection of the sample was intentional - Polish and foreign students of all fields of study at the Medical University of Białystok.

The study used the diagnostic survey method with the use of a proprietary questionnaire for Polish and foreign students. The standardized *Kwestionariusz Rozumienia Empatycznego Innych Ludzi (KRE)* according to Węgliński and a standardized *Scale of Satisfaction with Life (SWLS - The Satisfaction with Life Scale)*, Diener, Emmons, Larsen, Griffin, in Polish Juczyński.

Based on the obtained results, the following conclusions were formulated: In general, the largest group of students considered themselves tolerant. However, in the opinion of the largest group of Polish scholars, the tolerance of Poles depends on the various existing situation. Furthermore, according to foreign students, the Polish are completely intolerant.

Most students were indifferent to the fact that they had a member of national minorities, a member of an ethnic group, a representative of a different race or an immigrant, as a neighbor, fellow student, partner/spouse, lecturer/assistant and boss. Majority of the Polish students would always help a person of a different skin color if needed. Additionally, they unanimously stated that it is good that foreigners study at UMB. Most foreign students declared that they were satisfied with studying in Poland and studying at UMB. They chose UMB because it is a good university and would recommend studying here to their friends. The most frequently surveyed were foreign students, positively evaluating universities for good contacts with Polish students, lecturers and administration. Moreover, they had never heard insults from the Polish. Last but not least, their bodily integrity was not violated and they did not feel any degrading behavior towards them. Statistically significant correlations between the preferred opinions of students regarding the studied problems and the field of study were found only in the Polish group. Students from Poland and abroad were generally people with low life satisfaction and low level of empathy. In the group of Polish students, a relationship was shown between the presented behavior of empathy and testimony from life and the study that Poles are the nation where their tolerance increases.

The obtained results allowed to conclude that actions should be taken to increase the tolerance of Polish students of the Medical University of Bialystok towards foreign students and to increase their level of empathy. Evidently, guidelines have been developed to support these issues.