**Секція**

**загального мовознавства та іноземних мов**

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**Why does Tolerance Matter?**

What is Tolerance? Tolerance is the appreciation of diversity and the ability to live and let others live. Herman Hesse said, “It is not for me to judge another man's life. I must judge, I must choose, I must spurn, purely for myself. For myself, alone” [2].

It is the ability to exercise a fair and objective attitude towards those whose opinions, practices, religion, nationality, and so on differ from one's own. As Maykel Verkuyten, Rachel Kollar note, “tolerance is not just agreeing with one another or remaining indifferent in the face of injustice, but rather showing respect for the essential humanity in every person” [4]. Intolerance is the failure to appreciate and respect the practices, opinions and beliefs of another group.

The Origins of Intolerance. In situations where conditions are economically depressed and politically charged, groups and individuals may find it hard to tolerate those that are different from them or have caused them harm. In such cases, discrimination, dehumanization, repression, and violence may occur [3].

Prejudice. Prejudice, or bigotry, is an affective feeling towards a person or group member based solely on that person's group membership [2]. The word is often used to refer to preconceived, usually unfavorable, feelings towards people or a person because of their sex, gender, beliefs, values, social class, age, disability, religion, sexuality, race/ethnicity, language, nationality, beauty, occupation, education, criminality, sport team affiliation or other personal characteristics. In this case, it refers to a positive or negative evaluation of another person based on that person's perceived group membership.

Religious tolerance. Jalal ad-Din Rumi claimed, “Christian, Jew, Muslim, shaman, Zoroastrian, stone, ground, mountain, river, each has a secret way of being with the mystery, unique and not to be judged” [3].

The mere statement on the part of a religion that its own beliefs and practices are correct and any contrary beliefs are incorrect does not in itself constitute intolerance. Religious intolerance, rather, is when a group specifically refuses to tolerate practices, persons or beliefs on religious grounds [2].

Why Does Tolerance Matter? Voltaire stated, “Think for yourself and let others enjoy the privilege of doing so too” [6]. At a post conference on multiculturalism in the United States, participants asked, "How can we be tolerant of those who are intolerant of us?" [5]. For many, tolerating intolerance is neither acceptable nor possible. As Helen Keller noted, “The highest result of education is tolerance” [1]. Though tolerance may seem an impossible exercise in certain situations being tolerant, nonetheless, remains key to easing hostile tensions between groups and to helping communities move past intractable conflict. That is because tolerance is integral to different groups relating to one another in a respectful and understanding way. In cases where communities have been deeply entrenched in violent conflict, being tolerant helps the affected groups endure the pain of the past and resolve their differences.

Tolerance is needed in all spheres of life, and on every level and on every stage, because it plays a vital role to establish peace and love, from the smallest unit up to the highest unit of society. Let it be clear that showing respect and tolerance to the opinions of others does not necessarily mean you have to compromise your principles or embrace or accept others’ ideas. It is simply a matter of fundamental human rights. The right of every human being that his sensibilities and sentiments shall not be violated and offended must be recognised. And every human person has the right to have an opinion and to express it.

***Література***

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