Unfortunately, currently older people are faced with disrespectful attitude towards themselves. This is stated by 48% of respondents, almost half. Most often, elderly people meet such a negative attitude on public transport.

Checking the emotional state, the question was asked: "How do you look to the future?". Here opinions were divided into "optimistic" and "I find it difficult to answer." None of the respondents chose the third option "with pessimism".

**Conclusion.** Thus, I conducted a survey to identify problems and sociopsychological well-being in old age. The study confirmed that retirement is a difficult period when work activity ceases, the circle of communication narrows to the closest relatives, neighbors and is limited to a few friends. A large number of social connections are being lost. The family and its values acquire the greatest importance [4].

Almost half of elderly citizens have experienced negative, disrespectful attitude towards themselves in public places.

Despite all the difficulties experienced by the elderly, they look with optimism at their lives, help their children and grandchildren.

Elderly people as an object of social work are not only numerous, but also very complex. The aging process is associated with changes occurring in the body, leading to a weakening of human social functions. Any aging person is characterized by changes in the central nervous system, which leads to depression, memory loss and loss of some skills. Modern work in the social sphere is multidisciplinary in nature, requiring social workers to perform a variety of tasks, have professional skills and the ability to scientifically substantiate social practices.

- Ermolaeva, M.V. On the problem of periodization of personality development throughout life / M.V. Ermolaeva // World of Psychology. – 2012. – No. 2. – pp. 119–128.
- 2. Basov, N.F. Social work with various groups of the population / N.F. Basov. M.: KnoRus, 2016. 528 p.
- 3. Website of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus. Access mode: <u>http://minzdrav.gov.by/ru/static/numbers</u>. Access date: 14.10.2021
- 4. Minnigaleeva, G. A. Socio-pedagogical work with the elderly / G. A. Minnigaleeva: diss. ... Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences. M., 2004. 310 p.

## PECULIARITIES OF NONVERBAL MEANS OF COMMUNICATION IN THE COVID PANDEMIC

## Olga Tserakh

VSU named after P.M. Masherov, Vitebsk, Belarus

Keywords: nonverbal communication, pandemic aftereffects, facial expressions, distance, gestures, paralinguistics.

The use of nonverbal means of communication has changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In terms of the process of education, we unavoidably observe the change in majority of branched of nonverbal communication. While verbal communication has not suffered visible changes, gestures and facial ex-

pressions as an intrinsic part of each class have significantly deteriorated. Nevertheless, it refers to the other branches of nonverbal communication to the same extent. Thus, we aimed at shedding light on potential consequences of the pandemic on the students' process of foreign language speech perception during classes.

**Material and methods.** The objective of the research is to define the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on nonverbal signals in the perception of foreign language speech among nonnative speakers. Research methods: method of comparative analysis, analysis and generalization of psycholinguistic literature, observation.

**Findings and their discussion.** The first cases of the Coronavirus disease, which led to the COVID-19 pandemic, appeared on December 31, 2019 [3]. Eventually it led to the lockdown, isolation and confinement. In many countries people were deprived of real live communication, which influenced relationships between them and affected the way we communicate nonverbally.

The process of education was transferred into online format. Classes in Zoom, Microsoft Teams [2] and other chat-based collaboration platforms deprived the process of communication of major part of our nonverbal signals. At the same time as majority institutions have resumed offline classes and students got back to their habitual routine, the process of education has changed.

We define nonverbal communication as the transmission of messages or signals through a nonverbal platform. We tend to differentiate the following branches of NVC (non-verbal communication): gestures, facial expressions, body signs, paralinguistics (tone of voice, loudness, inflections and pitch), haptics (interaction via the sense of touch) and proxemics (distance) and others.

During offline classes teachers tend to use all kinds of nonverbal signs in order to convey information. According to the researchers, moderate use of nonverbal signals in majority cases positively influences the process of memorization and processing of information. While excessive use of those, only confuses the students and distracts theirs attention. It was proved that active facial expressions, moderate gesticulation, clear emphasis, intonation, speech pauses and moderate loudness of voice helped to process information in a more successful way. Teacher use to moving their hand to emphasize ideas and most important moments, they use paralinguistics changing loudness and intonation to convey their thoughts clearly, they use proxemics and haptics to make students feel more involved in the process. The problem is that the use of these means of communication has undergone some changes. And our aim is to determine those.

Due to the urgency and importance of this problem the following objectives have been set: 1) determine the impact of the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 pandemic; 2) clarify the students' expectations to change their communication habits.

As it has been suggested we obtained the following results: due to obligation to wear masks while classes, both students and teachers had to adjust their verbal and nonverbal means behavior. Having a mask on conceals the half of face thus the half of facial expressions. As a result, both students and teachers have to give nonverbal sign mostly with the help of the upper part of the face. Which makes it more difficult to differentiate between some facial expressions. At the same time, mask makes it more difficult to pronounce the words and perceived them. The teacher has to increase the loudness of their voice and use many repetitions, which distracts the students.

Meanwhile the students noted that classes with masks on help them feel more relaxed due to absence of excessive use of facial expressions by teachers that distracted their attention earlier.

We can also note that such nonverbal means of communication as proxemics and haptics suffered the most due to social distancing [1]. Which results in decrease in students' involvement into the process of education.

**Conclusion**. Therefore, we can conclude that restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic changed our nonverbal communication habits. Though we are in process of changing we can say that majority of nonverbal signs has deteriorated.

The relevance of this topic is high as we have just begun to conform to the current conditions and find solutions to the problems we face during after pandemic time. All the participants of the process of education put all their efforts to adapt to new conditions. It is important for all of us to take into consideration current situation and work on solution together.

- 1. Aubrey, A. No-Touch Greetings Take Off: People Are Getting Creative About Saying 'Hi'. National Public Radio. 2020. Available online: <u>https://www</u>.npr.org/sections/healthshots/2020/03/15/814540484/no-touch-greetings-take-off-people-are-gettingcreative-aboutsaying-hi (accessed on 1 August 2021).
- 2. The 7 Best Video Conferencing Software Platforms for 2021. Available online: <u>https://www</u>.dgicommunications.com/videoconferencing-software/ (accessed on 27 July 2021).
- 3. World Health Organization. WHO Director-General's Opening Remarks at the Media Briefing on COVID-19. 11 March 2020. Available online: <u>https://www</u>.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-themedia-briefing-on-covid-19–11-march-2020 (accessed on 1 August 2021).

## TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGE MONOLOGUE ON THE BASIS OF CONTENTS SUPPORTS

## Ksenia Ugorenko

VSU named after P.M. Masherov, Vitebsk, Belarus

Keywords: contents support, monologue, teaching methodology, foreign language.

The underlying idea of the concept of foreign language teaching at the present stage is mastering it as a means of intercultural and interpersonal communication. It becomes important to model communicative speech \_killful in the learning process. Thus, the relevance of this study is determined by the need to