

NATIONAL IDENTITIES OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

Supervisor: **Kodirova Holida Khayriddinovna**, *teacher at BSU*

Toshmamatova Feruza, *1st year student at BSU*

Rjabova Mehrangiz, *1st year student at BSU*

Abstract. Someone's national identity is a self-determined assessment of their own identity; it could be the country or countries where they feel they belong or think of as home. It is not dependent on ethnic group or citizenship. People from different cultures have different values. In this article the researcher focuses on the different national identities of English speaking countries.

Key words: national identity, citizenship, language, traditions, customs, and cultures.

The original country which caused English become worldwide is The United Kingdom. The United Kingdom is made up of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Each of these countries has its own distinct national identity, with different traditions, customs, and cultures.

England is the largest and most populous country in the UK, and its national identity is closely identified with the English language, literature, and history. England is often seen as a land of tradition and stability, with a strong sense of pride in its heritage and traditions.

Scotland has its own distinct cultural identity, shaped by its history, geography, and language. Scottish culture is characterized by its strong traditions of music, dance, poetry, and storytelling, as well as its distinctive cuisine and sporting traditions.

Wales is a small nation with a rich cultural heritage, steeped in tradition and folklore. The Welsh language is an integral part of Welsh identity, and the country is known for its music, literature, and art.

Northern Ireland is a complex and diverse country, with a complex history of political and cultural identity. Its national identity is often defined by its relationship with the rest of the UK, as well as with Ireland.

The UK as a whole also has a strong national identity, centered on its history as a global power, its traditions of democracy and free speech, and its thriving arts and cultural scenes. Despite its many diverse cultures and traditions, the UK is united by a shared sense of identity and common values.

A comparative study of languages and culture is an urgent task for modern scholars. In U.S., many say speaking English is important for being 'truly American'. In the United States, about half of all immigrants were proficient in English as of 2014.

Europeans see language as a strong requisite of national identity. In some European countries, the ability to speak the official language is more important to people ages 50 and older than to those ages 18 to 34. Although majorities agree on the link between language and national identity, older Europeans and those on the political right often feel more strongly about the importance of native language facility. [1]

"Language of the nation... reflects its culture, psyche and ways of thinking "
[2 : 320]

National customs and traditions – the holidays people celebrate, the foods they eat, the clothes they wear and the folk tales they tell their children – have long been associated with national identity.

In Britain, people often eat cereals such as cornflakes with milk for breakfast. Some people like to have toast with marmalade or jam, and they drink a cup of coffee or tea, or a glass of orange juice. Porridge used to be eaten mostly in Scotland, but it is now popular in all parts of the UK.

In the US, most people eat serials such as cornflakes with milk for breakfast and they drink a cup of coffee or a glass of juice. People in the US also eat eggs,

bacon, and sausages with pancakes or waffles that are covered with butter and maple syrup and served on the same plate as the meat and eggs [3. 20, 85, 158].

National symbols depicted in national identity of some countries.

National symbols of English-speaking countries New Zealand. Sometimes you can see a living national symbol. For example, the kiwi is the symbol of New Zealand. The kiwi lives only in this country, it is a bird but it does not have a tail, no wings.

Australia Kangaroo is the national symbol of Australia where it lives. The flower symbol of Australia is Golden wattle. In 1912 Prime-minister, Andrew Fisher, recommended to include Golden wattle into the decoration of National emblem of Australia.

The United States of America The national symbol of the United States of America is the eagle. The Americans say that this bird is a symbol of courage and power.

The Statue of Liberty is the symbol of American democracy. It stands on Liberty Island in New York. It is one of the first things people see when they arrive in New York by sea. This National Monument was a present from France to the USA. France gave the statue to America in 1884 as a symbol of friendship. Liberty carries the torch of freedom - in her right hand. In her left hand she is holding a tablet with the inscription "July 4, 1776" - American Independence Day.

Canada A red maple leaf is the symbol of Canada. During her visit to Canada in 1860 the Queen Victoria wore the maple leaf as a symbol of this country. The song The Maple Leaf Forever became Canada's national song. During World Wars the maple leaf was on the badges of Canadian soldiers.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland England. The national symbol of England is the rose. In the XV century two rich families- the Lancasters and the Yorks quarreled about who must be the king of England. Their armies fought a long war. The Yorks used a white rose as their symbol and the Lancasters used a red rose. The war ended when the member of the House of

Lancaster married a woman from the House of York and became the King Henry VII. He made a red rose with white pedal the symbol of England. Now you can see this rose on all British coins. The Lion is a national animal of England. Lion was the nickname of England's medieval warrior rulers with a reputation for bravery, such as Richard I of England, known as Richard the Lionheart. The oak is the national tree of England, representing strength and endurance [4].

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