Faculté des lettres et langues

Département de langue et de littérature Françaises

Université de Bejaia

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'Everyone speaks English' - is that what British people think?

The UK is not the most enthusiastic country about learning languages. Most of the population - around two-thirds - only speak English and many say they do not need to learn another language. There is a common perception that 'English is enough' as it's a global 'lingua franca'. Why spend time learning Dutch when many Germans already speak perfect English, right?

Meanwhile, nearly a quarter believe it is more important than ever for people in the UK to learn a language other than English. As Australian professor, Joe Lo Bianco said: "There are two disadvantages in global language arrangements: one is not knowing English, and the other is knowing only English.

More than 1.5 million British children are growing up bilingual

Many people in the UK do speak languages other than English due to their heritage and upbringing. The potential of these heritage language speakers needs to be recognized. More than 1.5 million British children are growing up bilingual, yet most do not enter for a GCSE or A Level in the language they speak at home. This means they do not develop the academic skills to use their language professionally. This is a missed opportunity.

To change the face of language learning in the UK, we need to focus on young people. They are the leaders, diplomats, businesspeople and change-makers of the future. Our survey found the biggest enthusiasm for language learning was among the youngest cohort of respondents. Thirty-seven percent of 18–24-year-olds said they have always wanted to learn another language. To capitalize on this enthusiasm, the answer is to focus on language learning in schools. We need to ensure that the next generation do not leave school wishing they had a second language.

Currently, only around half of pupils in England are taking a language at GCSE level. The Department for Education wants to raise that figure to 90% by 2025. It is investing millions in an initiative to boost the take-up of languages. However, it is also vital for parents and teachers in the UK to encourage young people to take up languages.

Barème:

La traduction du texte :

- * 0,25 point pour chaque faux sens, erreur de conjugaison, erreur d'accord, omission, ajout, expression mal formulée, mot non traduit, mot traduit alors qu' il doit rester en français ,inversion des mots, pour la non-traduction du titre et pour la traduction des mots contenus dans le lien URL qui fait office de source.
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- * 1 point pour une erreur d'orthographe.
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