

Formation of new value orientations for the “third age” people in Ukraine in the process of their foreign language training

L. V. Viktorova*, V. A. Krupka

Department of Social Work and Information Technologies in Education, National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine

*Corresponding author. E-mail: viktorova17@ukr.net

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Abstract. The article deals with the problem of formation of new values for the elderly people, learning foreign languages in the “third age” universities. Understanding the population ageing problem and its consequences contributes to the research in the area of social work, social welfare and development of social pedagogical, economic and legal instruments of their solution due to continuous increase of elderly population in Ukraine and labor migration of employable population abroad. Research in the area of elderly people’s values sets forth one of the most important tasks for social pedagogy because age changes of elderly population, causing disruption of adaptation capabilities, are very significant for the Ukrainian society. Development of the elderly people’s system of social welfare is not considered only the achievement of intergenerational society tradition but also that of civilization progress. It also identifies prospects for the future development of the country. Increase of elderly people in Ukraine puts forward an important issue of the society responsibility for the formation of their values as well as for the formation and development of communicative qualities in the process of globalization.

Keywords: values of elderly population, adaptation, communicative competence, communication, foreign language training, social welfare.

Research problem. Contemporary Ukrainian society gradually moves towards the values of the European civilization making an attempt to solve problems caused by demographic and social changes as well as changes in personality strength of the elderly population. By defining personality change as the basic value, the Ukrainian society should solve personality problems of elderly people’s isolation. Often there occurs elderly people’s self-isolation, volunteer decrease of activeness. Attempts to find an equivalent replacement for the former activity are not always successful that leads to such negative emotions as loneliness, indifference, and skepticism about life. At the same time, an elderly person is not able to get rid of his or her social nature and need to realize his or her ego in the social activity and in the society, particularly, through the willingness to be valued by others. A controversy between willingness to continue realization of oneself and social practices, and limitation of human activity, comes to the forth. In their turn, modern youth should learn to live in “the society of the third age people”. Harmonic use of elderly people’s experience and professionalism in the society creation, uncontroversial intergenerational transmission of values and intercultural communication are the preconditions for the improvement of relations between representatives of different generations.

Analysis of latest researches and publications. Elderly people’s values as a subject of social pedagogical research look very promising. Changes in the age composition of population put a lot of social pedagogic issues at the society and pedagogy, in particularly, those of the value grounds for the social welfare of elderly people because without knowing the priority bases of social development one is not able to understand the place of this large group of citizens in the society, peculiarities of their roles in the families and society. Understanding value bases of social, professional and group dynamics of the elderly population is not less significant. It determines, in many cases, their active social life position. Moreover, understanding values of personality social development allows identifying peculiarities of socialization at the elderly age. In their studying of value orientations of elderly

people, scholars of the Taras Shevchenko National University identify the structure, psychological peculiarities and factors of their establishment by using psychological testing. The scholars have established controversies distinctive for the elderly age between activity motivation (represented by the significance of value orientations) and operations (indicating their availability). According to the theory of D. Elkonin, it leads to the personality crisis. Thus, an explanation for the “pension age crisis”, caused by cessation of professional activity has been found [Hiba! A hivatkozási forrás nem található.].

O. Piontkivska, researching elderly people involved in social activity, considers their participation in volunteer movements, charity and social projects in order to influence existing social relations or social situation etc. The scholar defines elderly people’s social activity as an indicator of their successful adaptation to the new status after retirement and as one of the ways of their self-realization [2].

Analyzing psychological peculiarities of elderly people’s values, M. Didora substantiates factors of their personality development or degrading, empirically singles out and characterizes three types of elderly people’s personalities: optimistic, harmonic-realistic, and pessimistic [3].

V. Kuzmich, analyzing age peculiarities of elderly people, notes that a person gets more vulnerable with age, requiring more delicate and respectful attitude. In his opinion, the tasks of social services must include not only support of emotional comfort but also assistance in developing positive strategy of emotional ageing. The scientist recommends influencing elderly people’s understanding their way of life, considers changes within the structure of elderly people’s self-consciousness: no claim for recognition and name, as well as vague sex identification [5].

Taking into consideration theoretical and experimental data from the research of elderly people’s values, Kh. Porseva introduces the program of social and psychological aid. Its use will contribute to the immortalization as a form social value personalization in the subsequent gen-

erations, further personality development of pensioners, formation of ego-integration, self-determination and self-improvement of their personality, increase of the life span [9].

The research object of O. Karpinska includes theoretical aspects of developing certain values hierarchy for elderly people, their connection with physiological, psychological, personality and sociocultural levels of life. The scholar considers that health as a value is a sufficiently significant criterion of their further development. Among significant instrumental values for the elderly people's values the dominating ones are such as honesty and personality development. It should be noted that the orientation for the future for elderly people is not less important than that for the youth. [4].

N. Khalins, the Russian scientist along with elderly people's value orientations studies their ideas and views on value orientations of other distinguished people. Making conclusions about similarity of one's own value orientations with those of the elderly people's, the researcher draws attention to the main differences in the ranks of the selected values. [11].

Aim of the publication (article). The aim of the article is to single out the role of social institutions in the formation of new value orientations for the elderly people in the process of foreign language training

Basic research material. Modern problems of social work include social isolation of elderly people that is particularly important in case of considerable increase of elderly and old people in the composition of Ukrainian society. For instance, in Ukraine the general number of pensioners grows. If we look back in 1959, the Ukrainians over 60 years old made in overall only 11%, while in 2001 they made 21%, and from 2036 they will make 28% by the estimates of the Institute of demographic research So, the number of pensioners increases and that of young people goes down. At the same rate, already from 2032 the number of Ukrainians aged from 20 to 60 will go down in comparison to those over 60 [10].

The problem of isolation of elderly individuals from active social life is connected with the limitation of his/her life space and scope of social activity. As the consequence, we can observe the deprivation of the Ukrainian society from socially active professional team members and actual elderly people's refusal from the implementation of their potential.

The problem of social isolation is particularly acute for the transitional society such as Ukrainian as the desire to get an access to the values of developed European countries is contrary to the trend in degrading Ukrainian economy.

Psychological perception of old age is usually associated with the considerable decrease in the welfare level and major social deprivation of elderly people's social group. However, in the opinion of O. Pionkovska it is not the right way to perceive elderly people as those passively waiting for the end of life and having no meaningful role in the society. This period can be a full-fledged stage of the personality development, time for the continuation of his/her social activeness [7]

The main factor provoking formation and support of elderly people's isolation is the problem of employment: in most cases the society does not regard an opportunity to use specialists' experience accumulated through life time, i.e. in Ukraine only 2.3 mln of pensioners out of 12 mln remain employed [1].

Recently, due to the increase of psychological age this is a very acute problem in the developed countries as it is very important for every individual if he/she remains within active life and be able to realize his/her personality potential in social activity.

In the conditions of Ukrainian deindustrialized society facing numerous changes in the system of values and norms, with actual dismantling of social state there takes place isolation of elderly people from active social life under the guise of conducting reforms. The solution of their problems consists in extremely minor increase of pension benefits, allocated by the government, actually not sufficient for the support of individual biological life while such problem as social isolation is not considered at all. In our opinion, here we have vivid disregard of supporting even basic human needs (according to the Maslow theory). In its turn, it leads to the fact that Ukrainian government is not able to provide needs of higher ranks: security, respect, self-expression.

At the social and cultural level, the loss of social need of the elderly people has spread all over various social classes of society. The pensioner receives status of "social ballast" whose interests are disregarded at the national level. Therefore, according to O. Pionkovska, elderly people highly value health and material welfare because they are essential for biological life ("survival"). In the view of the researchers, the essence, value and "colors" for life can be provided by the opportunity of self-realization, development and help to the others. Entertainments (pleasant, non-obtrusive time spending, no duties) rank last in the system of terminal values.

In his own turn, the researcher singles out elderly people's involvement into social activity instrumental values such as responsibility (sense of duty, ability to keep promises), tidiness (neatness, ability to keep things and words in order) good manners, an optimistic and cheerful disposition (sense of humor), honesty (truthfulness, sincerity), tolerance with views and thoughts of the others, ability to forgive their mistakes, sensitiveness (care). High demands (to life and achievements) rank last among the instrumental values [8].

Problems of elderly people's isolation lead to different nervous disorders (emotional, cognitive, identification), i.e. the reevaluation of former values and senses of life occurs. It considerably aggravates people's psychological state. D. Leontyev, a famous scholar, regards values as the unity of three forms of their existence: social ideals, objectively embodied and personal values [6]. Each of these forms can transform into others, however, objectively embodied (i. e. attitudes towards definite social government policy) and personal values.

Finally, elderly people's cognitive and communicative needs to some extent can be met in big cities with available cultural infrastructure. At the same time, we can observe elderly people's activeness in small towns. The uni-

versities of the “third age” introduced in Europe represent one of such methods of activity. As a part of higher educational establishments or public organizations, they provide lifelong education.

In 2009 a project of the Concept for development and Statue of the “third age” universities were developed with the support of the UN Population Fund in Ukraine. In 2017 a project of the Strategy for national action plan on ageing was developed with the aim of introducing an innovative model of providing socially pedagogical services called “Universities of the third age” [12].

In this case, the role of other personalities, significant for the pensioners, considerably increases. It has an impact on other people. The researcher divides existing definitions of personal meaningfulness into two basic paradigms. The first one defines significance of the other one through those changes that it made in the structure of the individual personality. The second one is aimed at correlation and certain coincidence of characteristics of other essentials and individual values and needs.

Therefore, the system of individual value orientations of the elderly people has a series of similar parameters with their ideas about significant value orientations. Here, we can establish basic values (health, friends, active social life), singled out by the respondents as significant for themselves. Thus, elderly people’s obtaining new life senses and personality goal setting through formation of value objects and new behavioral model, creation and support of interaction in a communicatively cultural environment requires inclusion of other significant people into intercultural communicative circle.

In our article we present the results of foreign language training exactly of the elderly people. The selection of this target audience was conducted by the New Life Public Youth Organization partnership organization. The training was conducted for 12419 people at 63 courses and seminars, based on the World of Unlimited Opportunities Program. 12419 people went through courses and seminars based on IDEA project, including 823 people who went through 63 Microsoft Unlimited Potential Program courses.

English language course for the elderly people was a distinctive area for the “third age” university. In overall, 250 applicants signed up for the course, 310 got to studies, 213 attended all classes. Most elderly people chose English courses in order to communicate with other people (65%), 25% – with the aim of personality development and 10% – in order to keep individual active life position.

Purposeful use of instrumental resource of social pedagogical technologies will allow meeting demands of elderly people in cognition, communication and self-realization. According to V. Kuzmych, elderly people’s value orientations reflect various needs characteristic for the peculiarities of this age: 1) connected with social needs (in meaningful activity, useful leisure, comfortable rest, good material and household conditions); 2) social and psychological needs (in interpersonal communication, reputation, independence, sensitive and careful attitude towards the environment); 3) need in keeping health. Therefore, the main psychological tasks of elderly people are the following: agreement with own identity requiring reference to the past as well as timely transformation of

ego-concept, behavioral style according to the life conditions that changed; finding life sense directly linked to the evaluation of one’s own past [12].

Establishment of the market economy model in Ukraine, based on rigid rivalry, struggle of financial and industrial groups deprived of social component leads to the dehumanization of relations between the youth and elderly people. Therefore, we need purposeful work, aimed at the development of new forms of value interaction between young people and elder generation.

Value transformation phenomenon can be understood in details only in the context of drastic transformations of the Ukrainian society, presenting certain “experimental environment” for the research. Modern social situation in Ukraine is characterized with destruction and crisis of social values and ideals of the society the elderly people grew up and worked, i.e. the society of the period of “developed socialism” and “development of socially-oriented market economy”. Today, the situation development in Ukraine leads towards reevaluation and change of the society values, reconsidering life by elderly people that in general has a peculiar impact on the nature of social adaptation.

At the same time, elderly people’s adaptation is accompanied with a number of controversies: naturally-evolutional, family and public, individual and family. According to O. Karpinska, if the value orientations are placed correctly, there comes an opportunity for certain development, and building plans for the future that is an indicator of developing positive time prospects. [5].

Speaking about their material status, pensioners confirmed an opinion about life beyond poverty. Therefore, an attempt to improve their own material status pushes elderly people to extra work because they have no aid from the state. Reliability on their own force is a more considerable adaptation fact for the life level support than that from social services. Real social practice shows the realization of such social activeness of the elderly people as studies at the “third age” universities, different foreign language courses, mastering new skills, participation in new projects etc.

Research conclusions. We can conclude the following issues. Contemporary Ukrainian society undergoes drastic transformation practically in all areas of life and human existence. Transformation of strategic goals of state development and chaotization of its political life considerably influence human psychology. New social norms and models of behavior have changed not only the structure, but also the nature of social and political values as well as those of a certain individual, creating some cognitive dissonance.

Modern social reality in Ukraine is characterized by introduction of a new system of society values which destroys existing peculiarities of social behavior, system of relations, produces crisis of social values and ideals of post-Soviet society where the elderly people’s personality values were formed.

These processes cause reevaluation of elderly people’s values, their adopting new market economy society values and formation significant people’s attitude towards values.

It is required to have elderly people's adaptation to provide psychological compatibility with life in the period of globalization and informatization, overcoming psychological trauma of life isolation at the transition to pension, formation of the sense of life satisfaction and development of stereotype of perception of ageing as a norm.

Elderly people's social activeness can solve their problems and partly provide conditions for the intensive way of life, and moral support.

The factors of successful formation of elderly people's new values include establishment of elderly people's pub-

lic organizations, charity organizations, "third age" universities, foreign language courses.

Certainly, foreign language as a subject at the "third age" university, has its peculiarities caused not only by age peculiarities of the students. There still remain open such issues as teaching staff training and retraining for the elderly people's foreign language courses as well as an introduction of informational and communicative technologies into the educational process of the "third age" universities.

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