



THE POWER OF LANGUAGES

Nowadays, when the situation on the job market is unstable, everyone is looking for things that can boost their chances of getting a well-paid job. What is the biggest advantage on the job market apart from an academic degree? Languages! If you do not speak a Computer Programming Language, which is the only one that you do not have to worry about your accent, here are some pieces of advice what you should do to enlarge your range of possibilities on your job-hunt.

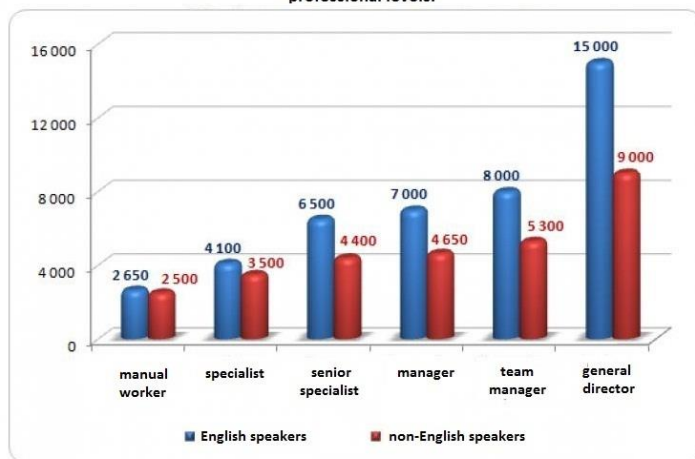
Language – your way to earn more!

Some people say that nowadays speaking English is not enough, but is it true? According to 2013 Sedlak & Sedlak's study, employees who know English earn more on each and every professional level (see Figure 1). However, if you want to get a job in any business-related company, the knowledge of English language is essential. It does not matter that you work in Poland, if the official language of the Company is English.

It is worth mentioning that the salaries of people who know foreign languages in at least advanced level, were higher than the overall median in Poland, which in 2014 was approximately

4 000 PLN. Figure 1 shows how salaries differ when it comes to English language, but knowing different European languages is also profitable. People fluent in French earned an average of 5 645 PLN. What is more, in 2014 German speakers earned an average of 5 500 PLN. Half of people speaking at least one foreign language earned approximately from 3 500 PLN to 10 000 PLN per month.

Figure 1. The comparison of salaries of people speaking and not speaking English - on different professional levels.



Source: Ogólnopolskie Badanie Wynagrodzeń (OBW) przeprowadzone przez Sedlak & Sedlak



The obvious conclusion is that you will “earn more in languages”. One might say that everybody speaks English now, and speaking it is not an advantage. Even if you believe that it is true, there is one thing that can help you to stand out of the crowd of English speaking candidates, and convince the employer that you are the one that should be hired, and this is a Language Certificate.

Language Certificate – isn’t it a useless paper?

Language Certificates confirm your knowledge of a language. Moreover, the employer deems it as an unquestionable proof of your language skills. Since there are a lot of certificates available to obtain, the knowledge which one is recognizable and valuable for your future is essential.

Nowadays, English is considered not only as an international language, but also as a language of business. Therefore, English certificates are far and away the most valuable for the widely understood business sector. Besides well-known and recognizable around the world Cambridge Proficiency, Advanced and First Certificates of English, and at least few similar proving only your level of proficiency, there is one that might serve a better use for you, and this is Business English Certificate – BEC. As Cambridge English Language Assessment says, BECs are a suite of three English language qualifications for international business. Each exam provides you with the certificate proving different level of proficiency: BEC Preliminary – Level B1; BEC Vantage – Level B2; BEC Higher – Level C1. In fact, passing BEC Higher with the highest grade means that you are at level C2 – the highest possible level of language proficiency. The greatest advantage from the employer’s perspective is that BEC proves not only your level of proficiency, but also your knowledge of English for practical use in business. Moreover, you can obtain a certificate that proves your knowledge in different areas. For example, sTANDEM – Standardized Language Certificate for Medical Purposes – tests your knowledge of medical English; ILEC – International Legal English Certificate – is designed for lawyers, notaries and judges.

If you speak a language other than English, there are also certificates that can prove your language skills. Apart from TELC – the European Language Certificates, the most valuable certificates of commonly known in Poland languages are, as follows: French – DELF, DALF; German – ZD, ZDfB; Spanish – DELE; CELA; Italian – CILS, CELI. Further information about them can be easily found online.

I’m better than that!

Employers from branches like management, project management, outsourcing, consulting, transport, research & development, public relations, marketing and finance are even keen on hiring candidates without professional education in a particular direction, if they know foreign languages. Why? The answer is



obvious when you think it over. An employee with a foreign language gives the company opportunities of creating and developing the business relations with investors from abroad which, as a result, creates higher financial profits. Therefore, speaking Mandarin, Arabic, Japanese or Scandinavian languages makes you a precious employee. There are not many people speaking these languages, after all.

Why these languages? China with almost one billion of native speakers and constantly growing economy creates numerous possibilities for a Mandarin speaker, so as Arabic with more than 300 million speakers. Japan, with the lasting history of innovative electronics, cars and business strategies makes almost endless possibilities for engineers. In Poland, more and more companies do business with Scandinavia, and that creates a range of possibilities if you speak Norwegian or Swedish.

To the stars through languages!

There is one thing in this world that you cannot take back – your time. Before you commit yourself to learning a language make sure that it will pay you back. Make sure that the language that you are going to speak opens career paths that are of your interest. If working abroad is an option for you, firstly, you should establish where the best place for you is. If it is not an English speaking country, you should learn the official language of a particular region. Thinking that knowing English is enough will lead you astray.

Be smart, evaluate your options. Remember that speaking foreign languages should be an additional skill in your resume.

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