
**REVIEW OF O.A. LEONTOVICH, E.V. YAKUSHEVA. 2014.
PONIMANIYE — NACHALO SOGLASIYA:
MEZHKUL'TURNAYA SEMEYNAYA KOMMUNIKACIYA
(UNDERSTANDING IS THE BEGINNING OF ACCORD:
INTERCULTURAL FAMILY COMMUNICATION).
Moscow: Gnosis, 224 pp.**

It is due to the current boost in international relations, politics, economy, culture, and sports that the theory of intercultural communication holds a well-deserved place on the cutting edge of today's social sciences research. Olga Leontovich is one of the eminent scholars who have made a contribution to the Russian version of intercultural communication theory and continue to develop it as both an academic and applied field of knowledge.

The new monograph "*Understanding is the Beginning of Accord*": *Intercultural Family Communication* by Olga Leontovich and Ekaterina Yakusheva focuses on an array of issues concerning multiethnic marriages and is another step forward in intercultural communication research.

Structurally, the monograph is composed of an Introduction, three Chapters, a Conclusion, a Bibliography, three Appendices, and an Alphabetical Index. Vital components of the monograph's formal structure are the epigraphs prefixing several sections of the monograph and giving the text a special poetic touch.

The research is centered on intercultural family communication, which involves a wide scope of subjects ranging from family psychology to semiotics. An attentive reader of the book will appreciate comprehensive answers to a great variety of questions dealing with the peculiarities of verbal and non-verbal communication in an intercultural family.

Chapter One offers a fundamental analysis of such notions as 'family', 'interethnic / interracial / multicultural marriage', as well as the way these notions are viewed in sociology, psychology, ethnology, culture studies, communication theory, linguistics, semiotics, and a variety of other fields. The authors point out that the idea of "family" has undergone certain changes at the turn of the 21st century.

Chapter Two deals with the social, territorial, temporal and functional dimensions of intercultural family communication, as well as its other constituent features.

Chapter Three describes the intercultural family's communication space, the peculiarities of verbal and non-verbal interactions between its members, touches upon the problem of bilingualism, looks into the causes of communication failure in social discourse and many other arguable points.

In the Conclusion the authors point out that the number of multicultural marriages is steadily growing. They focus on the essentials of successful intercultural family communication stressing that, first and foremost, "love is the most reliable basis for building a united and lasting family" (pp. 197—198).

The monograph by Olga Leontovich and Ekaterina Yakusheva will attract the reader's attention for a variety of important reasons. First, the findings of the research un-

der review will contribute to the information currently available in communication studies regarding the linguistic personality in general and in the contexts of an intercultural family in particular. Second, the facts collected by the authors and the manner in which they are presented may appeal to the scholars working in the adjacent research areas. Third, the study relies on an extensive practical material and provides a comprehensive analysis of interpersonal relations between spouses and other family members from an intercultural perspective.

We believe that this monograph will be appreciated by the reader of any profession, age, and social background seeking the ways to bridge the gap between different languages and cultures.

Elvira Sorokina and Eugenia Matveeva