

Sapfirova Vitaliya: Is there any life after University?

(Or the story about my “English” life)

It is a good and not so easy question I must confess. When you are a student you do not think about it seriously. You get up every morning with a charming smile and evergreen hope and go to University. You enjoy your English while talking to teachers and mates, at conferences during making interesting reports and even on your way home, because your brains are the repositories of English words, rules, poems, jokes and words of wisdom at that time. But after you have finished the Alma Mater you realize how serious and impotent this question is. It was hard. But the question is not rhetorical I must admit and I know the answer today. But... step-by-step.

After final examinations the door of University closes. But the other one is open. It is the door of the real adult independent life. There can be several doors and you are to make choice which one to enter. But after a while u notice the lack of English practicing. And the question “what shall I do?” like an earworm is following you. You feel that you are at bay but you seem to be intense and self-conscious and you are repeating all the time “do not be down in the mouth!”. And you buy books and read in original. You try to look for different genres and authors. And you are in your ground again as you look happy. But, frankly speaking, you are a little sad and disappointed soon because reading the books by Somerset Maugham and Agatha Christie in original is great but it is not enough for you. You have to speak English. So you dial phone numbers of your ex-mates desperately but without hesitating. You recommend them the books you have already read and propose to meet somehow somewhere and at your expense of course to discuss the main ideas of the novel, the vocabulary and actions of the characters, the style and the role of the author in the novel as you used to do it at University. But they answer in the negative because they have entered the other door on contrary to you when they made their choice after getting the Certificate of Competency. So nothing came of this attempt. And that earworm comes back. But one day when you have me time and you think all over. You cannot stop thinking of leaving for capital because there are much more opportunities to show your foreign languages abilities in the big city. But you cannot do it, as you love your little pupils. And you decide to search for “English” on the Internet...

Yes, it was a breakthrough idea of mine. I was crowned with success if I can say so. First I was a participant at an international teachers online conference, then I made some friends from English and German speaking countries and I am competing now again. While a man is not giving up he is stronger than a destiny, I can say it for sure. Yes, there is a life after University but it depends only on you how creative and saturated by “English” it is. Leave and learn!