

## THE MOTIVATION AND EXPECTATIONS FOR LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE: THE ATTITUDE OF THE STUDENTS OF KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

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**Research purpose.** The aim of the research is to find out the motives and expectations of Kaunas University of Applied Sciences students who have chosen a Foreign Language studies as a Freely Elective Course (FEC). In the autumn semester of academic year 2020/2021, the Language Center added to the list of FEC the subjects of 9 foreign languages such as Russian, German, French, Spanish, Norwegian, Estonian, Japanese, Turkish, Arabic. It is important to know what reasons motivated the students to choose a particular language, whether the language studies have met their expectations, whether they are satisfied with the quality of the studies, what areas for improvement they identify.

**Keywords:** Foreign Language studies, Motivation, Quality of Studies

**Research Methodology.** The object of the research is the motives and opinion of Kaunas College students who chose in the autumn semester to study a foreign language as a FEC offered by the Language Center. An anonymous questionnaire was chosen for the research. The obtained data were processed by MS Excel program.

**Results.** During the research, the following results were obtained: 1) 90 percent of the respondents have chosen language studies consciously; 2) as the main reason of their choice to study a particular language, indicated by the respondents is their desire to travel, to make friends abroad. Only one third of the respondents are planning to use the chosen foreign language in their professional activities; 3) 70 percent of respondents are satisfied with their choice, others either had expected the studies to be easier or are dissatisfied with the quality of the lecturer's work; 4) three fourths of the respondents would recommend other students of Kaunas University of Applied Sciences to choose Foreign Language studies.

**Practical implications.** The obtained data are relevant to the Language Center in planning the list of FEC for academic year 2020/2021. The students' opinion highlighted the problem areas that need to be taken into account when improving both the organization of the study process and the quality of teachers' work. The fact that most students are happy with their choice leads to the conclusion that the direction chosen by the Language Center is the right one.