

ABSTRACT. Czerniejewska Izabela, Język jako brama do społeczeństwa polskiego. O zmaganiach edukacyjnych imigrantów [Language as the gate to the Polish society. The immigrants' educational struggles]. My i oni. Interdyscyplinarne obrazy wielokulturowości [We and They. Interdisciplinary pictures of multiculturalism] edited by H. Mamzer – „Człowiek i Społeczeństwo”, vol. XXX, Poznań 2010, pp. 99-115. Adam Mickiewicz University Press. ISBN 978-83-232-2120-3. ISSN 0239-3271.

Language plays a huge role in the communication. Lack of linguistic skills makes interaction of two persons complicated. The situation becomes abstruse when the person doesn't know the language of a new country s/he is living in. Immigrants living in any country, who want to participate in the society should know the language and the culture.

The text introduces the issue of integration of immigrants in Poland. The theoretical frame shows integration as a complex process between the immigrant, the society and the integration policy. Education and knowledge of language are one of the most important indicators of the immigrants' integration. The first part of the text describes the migrating populations living in Poland: the numbers, countries of origin, motivation of staying in Poland, and different strategies of adaptation. The second part focuses on availability of education for immigrants. The access of education for children under 18 years is not enough for a foreign child. What kind of support can a foreign person receive while learning Polish as a foreign language? How far does the society expect to know the language by a foreigner? The questions raised suggest how much work is needed in developing integration policy and its practice. The text was conceived on the basis of the author's field work conducted in 2006- 2008.

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