



## **Social and Environmental Conditioning Influencing English Language Acquisition by Polish Residents in Poland and Great Britain**

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### **Abstract**

The unprecedented character and scale of the Polish emigration after 1st May 2004 entail political, economic as well as social consequences both in Great Britain and Poland. Moreover, Poland's accession to the European Union has resulted in heated discussion among journalists, academics and experts involved in a wide range of issues related to emigration in the context of micro and macro rationality of post-accession migrants, characteristics of migrants, position of Polish employees on selected labour markets, allocation of Poles in host countries, social and professional mobility of post-accession migrants, their deskilling, outdated, professional degrading, renouncing illegality, economic strategies, social migration capital, spacial concentration of Poles in host countries, foreign language acquisition by post-accession migrants, linguistic ghettos, migrant capital transfer as well as come-back strategies.

Research into social and environmental conditioning influencing English language acquisition by Polish residents in Poland and Great Britain is an issue of crucial importance. In Great Britain the phenomenon seems to be an effect of an intensified emigration process, whereas in Poland English language acquisition is connected with learning by means of participation in an education process. This paper, however, shall not be limited only to the analysis of recent years activity, showing instead that the emergence of the so-called post-accession emigration has much deeper roots. Poland's accession to the European Union has brought on a more vivid process of the emigration of Poles. The paper shall also participate in the discussion concerning the question of social, behavioural and culture clashes.

An ideal situation would involve living on the British Isles in two worlds at the same time – one Polish and the other one British. Even people visiting Great Britain, with prospects of returning back to Poland, will benefit from learning English and an attempt to learn about the discrepancies between Polish and British customs. Locking oneself up in the Polish circles brings on negative consequences in the sphere of culture, language and general outlook.