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## **LINGUISTIC IMPACT OF BREXIT**

The United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union (Brexit) has cast doubt on the future status of the English language within the EU's linguistic landscape. It was anticipated that the loss of the Union's only native English-speaking member state could lead to a reduction in the official status of English and to its gradual displacement from use within European institutions [1]. It was assumed that English would evolve into "Euro-English" due to the influence of Eastern European countries, confirming its irreplaceability as a neutral instrument of European integration, despite political rhetoric [2]. Euro-English is the everyday, simplified (pidgin-like) variety of English used in EU institutions: a blend of British English foundations, typical non-native speaker features, professional jargon, and borrowings from the bloc's 23 other official languages [3].

The aim of this paper is to outline the impact of Brexit on the English language in the European Union.

According to Herbert [4], Brexit did not weaken, but paradoxically strengthened, the position of the English language in the European Union:

Legally, English remained the full 24th contractual, official and working language of the EU without any changes to the TEU or Regulation No. 1/1958. For the first time in the history of the EU, an official language does not have a "mother" member state that would nominate it. This makes English effectively neutral and deprives it of the "British" label.

After 2020, the share of English as a working language in the Commission, Council (working groups, trilogues), ECB, and informal contacts remained at 85–95%. There are no signs of "de-anglicization"; on the contrary, the last psychological barrier ("it's a British language") has disappeared.

There has been a transition to Euro-English as Europe's own language.

Brexit eliminated British normative influence. Euro-English (with calques, simplified grammar, and its own vocabulary such as "co-decision," "planification," "to foresee") finally ceased to be perceived as a foreign language and became a common European property – "the Europeans' own language" [4].

In summary, it can be concluded that Brexit, despite expectations of a decrease in the role of English in the EU, actually led to its further strengthening and transformation of status. Legally, English remained the official, contractual and working language of the EU, and its removal is possible only with a unanimous decision of all member states, which did not happen and is not expected. The absence of a "mother" state for English made it an almost neutral language, depriving it of British political influence and reducing the feeling of injustice among other EU countries. In fact, English retains absolute dominance in the internal and external communication of EU institutions. There are no signs of "de-anglicization", and the psychological barrier of perceiving English as a "British" language has disappeared. At the same time, Brexit has contributed to the autonomization of "Euro-English" — a simplified, mixed version of English, which is formed under the influence of the

multilingual environment of the EU and is no longer perceived as a foreign language, but as a common European property.

Thus, Brexit not only did not weaken but also strengthened the position of the English language in the EU, making it a universal and neutral tool of European integration.

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