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## **Superstitions**

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Despite the fact that scientist have investigated cells, the water on Mars, invented a variety of robots, and modern society enjoys all the benefits and achievements of science and technology: Internet, Wi-Fi, wireless telephones, smart phones and PC's, solar panels, people are still just as superstitious as they used to be, they continue to throw salt over the left shoulder and knock on the piece of wood, "so as not jinx it." Thus, today medieval superstitions and technological progress coexist harmoniously with each other. Many scientists explain this by the fact that from an early age man is waiting for a fairy tale and hopes for something extraordinary in his life.

Human's desire to defend against unknown forces or to secure good fortune led to thousands of superstitions around the world. And, according to the statistics particularly important are signs on luck or bad luck. However, we can't but mention the amazing feature: different peoples living thousands of miles away from each other, both have similar and different beliefs and superstitions. Thus, the relevance of this work is due to the fact that today, despite the level of developments of science and technology, the signs associated with the success/ failure, are paid a lot of attention to, many people still believe in them, follow them. The study of similar and opposite signs is of particular interests. And besides beliefs and superstitions in today's society aren't fully known are require further investigation.

The aim of this work is to study superstitions that promise success and failure that exist in the Republic of Belarus and the UK, comparing them and determining their significance in the life of modern man. The objects of the study are the signs as a manifestation of the people's culture. The subject of the research – the similarities and difference that promise success failure in the Republic of Belarus and UK. The hypothesis of the study: it's assumed that at the moment signs play significant role in the life of the British and Belarusian society.

Based on the objectives and hypotheses the tasks of the study were as follows: 1) to determine the characteristics of the concept of “sing” of the Slavs and the British classify signs; 2) to analyze the history of the beliefs and superstitions, as well as the reason for people's belief in omens and superstitions; 3) to identify the most common signs associated with success or failure, in the UK and the Republic of Belarus; 4) the compare the beliefs and in the UK and the Republic of Belarus; 5) to conduct a survey on the issue, to learn data and make conclusions.

Irish wedding tradition has its roots in ancient history, folklore and interesting superstitions! Even in these modern times, many couples try to include ancient customs in their wedding, in the hope that it will bring them luck and happiness. Here are some of the traditions that Irish people follow on their wedding day.

A treat for the groom! In the past, the groom was invited to the bride's house just before the wedding and a goose was cooked in his honor. Many Irish people believe that showing such generosity to the groom will make sure that he won't change his mind about the wedding at the last minute [1].

Bride, be beautiful! A traditional Irish bride doesn't spend a fortune on bouquets of exotic flowers. Instead, she usually wears a wreath of wild flowers in her hair, freshly

picked on the morning of her wedding. She carries more wild flowers in her hands, as well as a magic handkerchief and a horseshoe for luck. Part of the bride's wedding dress is usually used to make the christening robe for first-born child.

The icing on the cake! In the old days, an older female member of the family would take great pride in producing a traditional three-tier fruitcake for the reception. Nowadays, however, most Irish couples visit their local baker and order a cake which is decorated with Irish themes such as swans or fairies. According to tradition, the couple save the top layer of the cake. They often store it in a tin and use it as the christening cake for their first baby.

Rice. In certain primitive tribes the act of eating rice together was the way people got married. This was probably because eating together symbolized living together and rice happened to be the local food. In some cultures rice is thrown at wedding to protect the couple from evil spirits. It was believed that evil spirits appeared at wedding and had to be fed to keep them from doing harm to the newlyweds. Rice is also thrown at wedding because it represents fertility and is a symbolic way of wishing the couple many children.

It's evident that the knowledge of folklore, such as proverbs, signs, fairy tales, folklore songs and legend enlarges our knowledge of different countries, enriches our outlook helps to understand history and customs of the people. That's why, the study of beliefs and superstitions of our country and English speaking countries, existing for centuries is extremely important for anyone who learns the foreign language.

According to the research there're many beliefs and superstitions in the UK. The British sincerely believe in the importance of these signs, they play an important role in their lives, and even the British football teams have their own charms for good luck. During the investigation, we discovered signs and superstitions as completely identical both countries,

as well as those that differ dramatically in both cultures. For example, black cat on the way is considered to be sign of good luck and fortune in Britain. While Belarusian black cat rubbing across the road, predicts failure and misfortune.

In order to prove or disprove my hypothesis we've studied and compared the Belarussian and British signs foretelling success/ failure, and conducted a survey amount of students of different ages and teachers of "Belarusian National Technical University." The results of study showed that the majority of respondents believe in superstitions and they play important role in their daily life.

So we came to the following conclusion: that most beliefs, superstitions and omens originated from the past, even from the Middle Ages. Despite the fact that we're living in the age of information, technology and scientific revolutions our human nature, for some reasons, stubbornly refuses to part with the medieval superstitions and omens, whose scientific explanation doesn't exist. And despite all the new discoveries in the fields of nanotechnology, microbiology, etc., people in their thoughts honor the roots, traditions, customs and beliefs and superstitions of people. We continue to believe in fairy tales, in magic, regardless of our age, color, nationality or religion, and perhaps, this is something that unities as all, not only the Belarusians and British, but the whole world.

#### References:

1. [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: <http://hifivebelarus.com/blogvlog/superstitions/Luck%20Prodr%20omou>. – Date of access: 06.05.2020.