



THE ROLE OF ENGLISH AND CHINESE IN INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL PRACTICE AND TRAINING OF PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL PERSONNEL

EL PAPEL DEL INGLÉS Y EL CHINO EN LA PRÁCTICA MÉDICA INTERNACIONAL Y LA FORMACIÓN DEL PERSONAL MÉDICO PROFESIONAL

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Suggested Citation (APA 7th Edition)

Mambetalieva, S., Zhang, J., Sadyralieva, G., Eshmatova, G., & Osmonova, Ch. (2025) The role of English and Chinese in international medical practice and training of professional medical personnel. *Revista Conrado*, 21(106), e4808.

ABSTRACT

In the age of information, in an age that blurs the boundaries between people, fluency in foreign languages makes it possible to make greater use of the limitless opportunities that open up. The COVID-19 pandemic has become a global challenge that has affected all areas of life, including medical practice. In this article, we look at the knowledge of languages such as English and Chinese, which has become key for effective communication, information exchange and coordination among medical professionals. Speaking a foreign language is not just a fashion statement, but an opportunity to be a full-fledged representative of the world community. Purpose of our study is the meaning of English and Chinese languages in the educational and professional activities of a medical professional. Learning a foreign language in medical colleges is considered as a mandatory component of professional training of a specialist. The modern concept of language education is aimed at professionally oriented teaching of a foreign language. We also conducted a survey aimed at studying the opinions of medical students about the importance of a foreign language in their professional activities. their answers will help to better understand this problem.

Keywords:

English, Chinese, medical practice, scientific research, medical terminology, international cooperation, educational process, communication, language of science.

RESUMEN

En la era de la información, en una era donde las fronteras entre las personas se difuminan, la fluidez en idiomas extranjeros permite aprovechar al máximo las infinitas oportunidades que se abren. La pandemia de COVID-19 se ha convertido en un desafío global que ha afectado a todos los ámbitos de la vida, incluida la práctica médica. En este artículo, analizamos el conocimiento de idiomas como el inglés y el chino, que se ha vuelto clave para la comunicación, el intercambio de información y la coordinación eficaces entre los profesionales de la salud. Hablar un idioma extranjero no es solo una moda, sino una oportunidad para ser un representante de pleno derecho de la comunidad mundial. El objetivo de nuestro estudio es la importancia de los idiomas inglés y chino en las actividades educativas y profesionales de un profesional de la salud. Aprender un idioma extranjero en las facultades de



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medicina se considera un componente obligatorio de la formación profesional de un especialista. El concepto moderno de la enseñanza de idiomas tiene como objetivo la enseñanza profesional de un idioma extranjero. También realizamos una encuesta para conocer las opiniones de los estudiantes de medicina sobre la importancia de un idioma extranjero en sus actividades profesionales. Sus respuestas ayudarán a comprender mejor este problema.

Palabras clave:

Inglés, Chino, práctica médica, investigación científica, terminología médica, cooperación internacional, proceso educativo, comunicación, lenguaje de la ciencia.

INTRODUCTION

English, as the international language of science and medicine, plays a key role in modern medical practice. In the context of globalization and integration of healthcare, knowledge of English is becoming necessary for medical professionals, researchers and students (Lei, 2024). This report highlights the main aspects of the impact of the English language on medical practice, including knowledge sharing, international cooperation, and education (Jiang et al., 2022; Rashid et al., 2023).

Chinese, being one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, plays an important role in medical practice, especially in the context of global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic (Lee, 2020; Li et al., 2024ab; Polyakova, 2020). Given China's significant contribution to medical science and practice, knowledge and use of the Chinese language are becoming relevant not only for medical professionals, but also for researchers, scientists and practitioners around the world.

China has a long history of medical science, including traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), which has existed for over 2,000 years. TCM, including acupuncture, herbal medicine, and diet, is based on a philosophy of balance and harmony. Knowledge of the Chinese language is necessary to understand these traditions and practices, as well as to integrate them into modern treatment methods (Chan et al., 2022; Shafigulina, 2024).

English is the dominant language in scientific communication. Most scientific publications, studies, and medical journals are published in English. This allows researchers from all over the world to share knowledge and experience, which is especially important in the context of the rapid development of medicine (Min et al., 2025; Volobueva, 2021). For example, publications such as *The Lancet* and *The New England Journal of Medicine* publish important studies that have an impact on clinical practice.

With the development of medicine in China, a significant number of scientific research and publications are carried out in Chinese. This is especially important in the context of recent advances in pharmacology, genetics, and therapeutics. Numerous clinical trials and studies conducted in China may remain inaccessible to the international community without knowledge of the language, making it difficult to share experiences and introduce new treatments (Chan et al., 2022; Li et al., 2024ab).

English has become an important part of medical education programs. Many medical universities and colleges around the world offer courses and programs in English, which gives students the opportunity to receive a high-level education. In addition, knowledge of English opens the door to participation in international conferences, internships and research projects, which contributes to professional growth and skills development (Shafigulina, 2024).

In recent years, China has become one of the leaders in medical research and innovation. Publications in Chinese contain important information about new viruses, infectious diseases, and treatment methods. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, information from China has had a significant impact on global medical practice. The translation and adaptation of this data for the international community has become critically important to combat the spread of the virus (Jiang et al., 2022; Volobueva, 2021).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In our article, we used a descriptive study aimed at analyzing and comparing the roles of English and Chinese in medical practice. We also conducted a small survey among medical college students. The research is based on the fundamental works of Chinese and world scientists who have contributed to the study of the problems dedicated to the study of two languages in medical practice. Particularly: (Xu, 2024; Polyakova, 2020; Ren et al., 2018; Min et al., 2025; Wang, 2024).

To achieve our research goals, we conducted a survey among students of Medical College to find out their attitude to learning foreign languages at a medical educational institution. 150 students participated in this survey.

During their studies, students participated in medical research, attended conferences, completed internships at medical clinics, and wrote case reports. These meetings, which were held mainly in English, contributed to the personal and professional development of future doctors. The students explained that English is important for studying literature, conducting research, and publishing it. This

provided an opportunity to communicate professionally in an academic environment or in the field of healthcare in the workplace or in collaboration with international colleagues.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After the conducted research, it is safe to say that students of the medical college understand the importance of knowledge of foreign languages in their future profession. They study foreign languages not only because it is one of the main subjects of study, but also on their own initiative, and they are also going to further improve their knowledge. The majority of respondents (92%) study English and know it at the B1 level Table 1.

Table 1. Foreign language proficiency among medical students: Importance, learning sources, and challenges.

No.	Questions	Answers
1	Do you know any foreign language?	95
	English	85
	German	30
	Chinese	20
	French	20
2	How well do you know? Very well	40
	Elementary level	80
3	Where did you learn foreign languages?	
	School	90
	Courses	40
	Other sources	10
4	What do you think knowing of a foreign language is it important for future medical practice?	
	Yes	75
	No	25
5	How do you plan to use a foreign language in your career?	
	Reading medical literature	50
	Communication with foreign colleagues	15
	Participation in international conferences	25
	Publication of scientific papers	30
	Other goals	40
6	Is it necessary to improve foreign language teaching programs for medical students?	
	Yes	100
7	What difficulties do you face during learning a foreign language?	
	Lack of time	55
	Difficulties in grammar	20
	Less practice	25
	Financial difficulties	5
	Other	5

Source: Prepared by authors

Most of the respondents have been studying a foreign language since elementary school (70%), and only 12% have been studying for less than ten years. Many respondents (52%) noted that knowledge of additional languages helps to master new disciplines, 70% of respondents believe that learning a foreign language allows you to get new information from foreign language sources (social networks, websites, books, films, manuals, etc.), others consider that learning foreign languages does not help (22%).

Among the disciplines in which knowledge of a foreign language is used, anatomy is – 79%, Latin (learning new words and grammar) – 59%, pharmacology (composing and reading recipes) – 32%.

Most of them believe that knowledge of foreign languages is necessary for their future profession, it will allow them to learn about new developments in the medical field through foreign sources; 10% noted that this will allow them to communicate with foreign colleagues and share their experience with them, 28% suggest that they may deal with foreign patients who do not they know Russian. And only a small part of the respondents believes that a foreign language is not needed in their future profession.

In modern multinational societies, medical professionals often have to communicate with patients who speak different languages (Adambaeva et al., 2018). Knowledge of English allows doctors to provide information about diagnosis, treatment, and medical procedures more effectively, especially if patients speak English as a second language. This contributes to a better understanding and compliance with the recommendations, which, in turn, improves the quality of medical care.

Chinese is becoming an important part of medical education programs, especially for those who plan to work in an international environment. Conducting scientific research, participating in conferences and sharing experiences are made possible by knowledge of the Chinese language (Min et al., 2025; Polyakova, 2020). Many medical institutions and universities around the world include Chinese language learning in their courses, which contributes to the training of specialists capable of working in a global context.

The Chinese language, in turn, has gained special importance, since it was in China that the first case of COVID-19 was registered. Information coming from China has played an important role in understanding the virus and its spread. Medical professionals and researchers from other countries turned to Chinese sources to obtain primary information about the clinical manifestations of the disease, methods of diagnosis and treatment (Shafigulina, 2024).

Chinese scientific journals and medical research published in Chinese have also become available to an international audience through translation and subtitling. This contributed to a deeper understanding of the specifics of the virus and its impact on the population.

Despite the importance of English and Chinese, certain difficulties have also arisen. Not all medical professionals were proficient in English, which made it difficult to access important information and new research. In China, despite the significant number of publications, access to them was often limited.

In addition, in the context of the pandemic, it became necessary to quickly transfer medical materials, which did not always guarantee the accuracy and completeness of the information transmitted. Translation errors could lead to misunderstandings of clinical recommendations and even negative consequences for patients' health.

One of the problems that medical students face is the lack of practice in using medical English in real conditions. Despite the theoretical background, students often face difficulties in pronouncing medical terms, as well as in understanding the specific vocabulary used in scientific articles and medical journals. The solution to this problem may be the introduction of specialized courses in curricula aimed at developing communication skills in English in medical practice. Exchange programs and international internships are also an important element that helps students improve their language skills in English.

CONCLUSIONS

Thus, English and Chinese have become important tools in medical practice during the COVID-19 pandemic. They provided an opportunity for the exchange of knowledge and experience between medical professionals from different countries, which was necessary to effectively combat the virus. However, in order to improve the quality of information exchange, work should be done to eliminate language barriers and improve access to medical data in different languages.

The Chinese language plays a key role in modern medical practice, providing access to knowledge, traditions and modern research. Its importance becomes especially evident in the context of global challenges such as the pandemic. For the medical community to work effectively, it is important to overcome language barriers and develop the skills necessary to exchange information in Chinese. This will not only improve the quality of medical care, but also strengthen international cooperation in the field of healthcare.

English, as the international language of science and medicine, has become the main means of communication between specialists from different countries. During the pandemic, numerous scientific publications, clinical guidelines, and treatment protocols have emerged, available in English. This provided an exchange of experience between doctors and researchers, which was crucial for developing effective methods to combat the virus.

In addition, many international organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), have used English to disseminate information about COVID-19, including recommendations on prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

This has helped to improve coordination between countries and ensure a unified approach to dealing with the pandemic.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest for the publication of this scientific article.