

THE PROBLEMS AND PECULIARITIES OF DIGITAL NATIVES

Vdovenko T.O.

Candidate of Philological Sciences, Associate Professor
Izmail State Humanitarian University, Izmail, Ukraine

The term “*digital natives*” is used to describe generation, representatives of which were born after 2001. The term was first used by American writer Mark Prensky, who asserts that children of the new millennium have special abilities as they are surrounded by innovative technology from their childhood [1]. Representatives of *digital natives* have the ability to receive and process information faster than Millennials who were born in the 1980s-1990s of the last century. Digital natives don't understand Millennials. They have a completely different view of the world and their place in this world. The childhood of modern children born in the digital era is very different from our childhood. Communication of «digital» children with the media available today is limited by parents, inability to read and other factors.

Generation Z is the first truly digital generation: modern children from the age of one master tablets and smartphones. They are also called *Homelanders* (homebodies), because they draw information mainly from the Network, play games online, prefer to communicate in social networks or using messengers. The children of generation Z are different. They grow up faster and easily navigate the Web. They are experienced consumers, they know what they want and how to get it. Representatives of this generation Z value time and try to spend it as efficiently as possible. From them grow qualified specialists who will be able to deal with IT-technologies, computer graphics, etc. If previous generations were brought up on books, maximum that generation Z can read is short article or mini-news. They love the format of short tweets and social media statuses. This in turn has led to the fact that their thinking is fragmented and superficial. Generation Z is more closed, there are many introverts among them. Family values crumble as many of the children grew up in single-parent families. In addition, they abandon the usual education. They do not see any sense in it, explaining the lack of practical application of knowledge obtained in educational institutions. But it is impossible to call them «stupid». Many of them are self-educated without leaving home, learn foreign languages, they are fully immersed in their topics of interest with the help of information on the Network. It is noted that many children, while still in school, begin to earn more than their parents through remote earnings. By the way, free schedule, lack of attachment to the office is the desire of many growing children of generation Z. They appreciate personal freedom and their time.

Children of generation Z are almost all the time under the supervision of adults, who take care of them too much and plan their development in detail. That is why it is necessary to listen to the interests and desires of the child of generation Z, even if they are not clear to you. Do not perceive the Internet as evil and a source of danger. Digital technologies take generation Z to a new level, improve the quality of life. But still time for gadgets should be limited. Generation Z has a communication problem: it's easier for them to correspond online, rather than contact live people, they prefer a text message to a conversation. Modern children are sedentary, any physical activity is difficult for many children. Exercise in the morning, regular sports, visiting sports sections should become a habit. Talk about everything that excites the teenager. These children are better at perceiving information visually than by hearing. If necessary, write e-mails, notes, just to stay on the same wavelength.

Generation Z is interested in science, technology, art. They understand the new trends better. That is why try to understand it, so as not to lose credibility in the eyes of your own child. It is important to understand that each time has its own generation. We can't say that children of generation Z are worse, not clever, they are different.

The generation *digital natives* don't want to grow up. They need gadgets, fast Internet and constant access to Wi-Fi. They first learn to hold a smartphone in their hands, and then begin to learn to walk and talk. It is impossible to imagine the life of representatives of the modern *digital generation* without computers, smartphones, tablets, other electronic novelties and digital toys.

Among the main peculiarities of digital natives are the ability to get high grade information quickly and easily, the desire for interactivity and multitasking. To find the necessary data they are engaged in systematic monitoring of the information field and monitor the slightest changes. They move directly and purposefully in the information field, and not in a random and chaotic order, preferring pictures and videos, not text. They prefer products in the process of creating which they can take a direct part. Modern children love minimalism, use selective concentration of attention, always try to immediately penetrate into the essence and catch the main message. Generation of *digital natives* values the right to freedom of speech and privacy. They hate racial discrimination, are willing to take responsibility for their actions. Emotional support from parents, close relatives and friends is important for them. The global economic crisis strongly influenced representatives of digital natives. They had to grow up and learn the world around them in very difficult conditions. Mobile gadgets have influenced the lives of modern teenagers in the most radical way. They affected not only socialization skills, but also the mental health of the younger generation. Representatives of

digital natives do not seek as early as possible to get acquainted with the «delights» of adult life. They do not spend much time in the street, are indifferent to alcoholic beverages and drugs.

Digital natives spend a lot of time with smartphones in their hands. They do not part with their favorite gadgets during sleep. Many teenagers, falling asleep, hold a mobile phone under the pillow. This negatively affects the quality of sleep. People during sleep subconsciously respond to sound alerts, and some Teens immediately wake up and respond to messages. Constant lack of sleep and insomnia can cause depression or strengthen existing symptoms of this disease.

Digital natives have no need to grow up. A teenager has parents who do everything for him. To interact with a typical representative of digital natives successfully and effectively, you need to: take social networks seriously and not doubt their strength. The digital generation does not divide the world into virtual and real, for them social networks are the same reality as for representatives of previous generations grocery store; to help a teenager find specific goals. Digital natives need specifics. They need realistic tasks that they can only cope with when they have some knowledge; engage in feedback. Modern teenagers are used to getting all the information in a playful way and without any difficulty.

The sooner you realize that the world has already changed, the easier it will be for you and the *digital generation* to find a common language. Be always in touch. Technologies do not stand still, and every year they develop more and more. Follow the innovations in this area and master them, otherwise you will hopelessly lag behind the digital aboriginal and lose contact with him, the resumption of which will take away a lot of strength and nerves.

How do digital natives have fun when they have free time? The favorite entertainment of a typical representative of the digital generation is a smartphone. If earlier teenagers gathered together to have fun, discuss the latest news, try something forbidden and just have a great time in the company, now a typical teenage party takes place in a deathly silence, because everyone is sitting quietly at the table and looking at the screens of their mobile gadgets. When a teenager is having fun with the phone, then: his face almost never expresses any emotions; he quickly moves his fingers on the screen; he has no time for idle talk; he pays no attention to the remarks of strangers, answers reluctantly and very dryly. Real everyday communication decreased to 50%, though it is customary for them to communicate with friends, enjoy life, have fun and hang out. The more members of the digital generation spend on the Internet, the more unhappy they feel in real life.

Modern education is “obsolete”, everything that worked before: the transfer of knowledge by word of mouth, memorizing poems or passages by heart no longer works. We cease to be an authority for students, so the question is very acute: how

to teach generation Z and it will always remain open. From the experience of interaction and observation of children born in 2010, several factors for successful learning were identified: providing classrooms with modern equipment; electronic textbooks and manuals instead of paper; the use of an individual approach to each student; creating healthy competition and proper motivation among students; to give the most complex topics of the program in the form of presentations with visual images and a minimum of text; the main part of the test tasks is interesting for children in the form of a computer game (for example, various kinds of quests).

Among the advices for successful communication with children of generation Z are:

1. Do not force to learn what is not necessary.

Generation Z spends a lot of time on the Internet. You can't tell them how to live. These are advanced children, because in the network you can learn everything you want – from the birth of life and ending with employment and where and what knowledge will be useful for this. Modern students have a very developed sense of purpose. Many of them do not want to learn what they think is unnecessary. It is necessary to follow what interests the guys, i.e. trends, otherwise you will find that you are behind for a century.

2. Communicate with children in social networks, but carefully

In work it is very useful to use social networks. Often students believe that they communicate with those with whom they maintain contact in the network. If they can't ask a person a question in the form they're used to, it doesn't make sense to them. Children can write to both peers and teachers and do not have a complex about it at all. They are not stopped by any age difference or social status of the apponent. Therefore, the relationship with children should not be too formal.

So, the main problems of *digital natives* are: fragmentary thinking, lack of mobility, lack of communication skills, unwillingness to grow up, learning, insomnia and others.

References:

1. Marc Prensky, On the Horizon (MCB University Press, Vol. 9 No. 5, October 2001) [Электронный ресурс]. – Режим доступа: http://www.ascd.org/authors/ed_lead/el200512_prensky.html

2. [Электронный ресурс]. – Режим доступа: <https://bestlavka.ru/novoe-cifrovoe-pokolenie-z-detej/>

- 3 [Электронный ресурс]. – Режим доступа: <http://kak-bog.ru/pokolenie-z-chto-eto-takoe-i-kakie-ih-harakternye-cherty>