

Can generation gap be bridged?

The conflict between generations has always existed and is supposed to have become too big to vanish. Remember your youth: your grandparents probably stopped their ears from the loud music coming from your room or could not state the value of your personal style in clothes. Naturally, your outlook on life differs from your grandparent's one, and in this case you deal with a serious problem: misunderstanding causes generation gap. The reasons like differences in tastes and views may seem ridiculous to create a real generation conflict; but eventually, the clash of interests expands and it will not be easy to remove borders between adults and children.

As Tammy Pamuk noticed, «each generation gives itself a distinct label». Indeed, people from one age have their own picture of the world, and this fact of distinguishing them from the others is likely to create misunderstanding. At the present time, the boundary between generations can be marked even in doing a normal activity such as watching TV: viewers from different ages try to catch every piece of information which is suitable for their generation identity. Namely, it is normal for your father not to be able to get the idea of your favorite cartoons: in his vision of reality they do not make any sense exactly the same as some old black and white films for you. Consequently, the distinction between generations is evident and can provide embarrassment or even a conflict.

However, Mr. Pamuk claims that despite the differences in the conception of the world, cultural values and norms, or some traditional issues stay without changing. At this rate, the probability of generation gap being bridged is rather high. For instance, today marriages are still popular among all modern generations: young people take the understanding of the necessity of a strong family over from the elder ones. Furthermore, the main items of the wedding ceremony still remain unchanged; it means that preparing for this big event, children can easily bond with their parents. Thus, the hope for «reconciliation» between generations really takes place in case of stepping forward to get on with each other.

Nevertheless, some critics believe that today generations are far from each other and the reunion is hardly possible. The blogger Sam Wilson explains that technological progress has finally separated people from different ages. Certainly, teenagers are constantly stuck in the Internet and they have neither the time nor the desire to communicate with their elder relatives. Moreover, common interests like family activities are being lost because of the emergence of social networks: young people prefer chatting with friends rather than spending time with their family. Therefore, generations grow apart and the rapprochement is unlikely to appear somehow.

Meanwhile, according to several forum opinions, the dissimilarity in attitude to life cannot spoil the relationships in family castle forever. This statement is definitely not unreasonable: the misunderstanding between generations can

actually be regulated. Firstly, returning back to the Internet issue, it should be said that the Internet access is the key to rapprochement between children and their parents: staying current on events and not being afraid of discussing them with the youth give parents a chance to get closer to their offsprings. Besides, old simple methods can be very useful: try having a heart-to-heart talk to your child and let him be open and feel comfortable with you, and your treasure will not disappoint you. In this way, tension between the members of the family may fall and contact between different ages is sure to resume.

To sum it up, it should be mentioned that generation gap is a widespread phenomenon, which anytime comes into the society. Differences always go with similarities; therefore, contradictions do not manage to pass away. But still, it is possible to overcome the abyss of misunderstanding between generations and give people an opportunity to get closer in many issues. Also, rapprochement on the basis of common interests can strengthen family relationships and provide confidence in the family. The point is that all the members need to take steps to reunite: only in this case generation gap is likely to be bridged.