

Two Faces of Ecological Awareness (Feuilleton)

The environment is coexistence of people, animals and nature. This is my opinion. Every day I go to school by bus and tram so I do not produce exhausted fumes. People should travel more by public transport (MHD). But the public transport in Bratislava is neither very punctual nor ecological, modern, fast and you often stick in the traffic jam. A lot of buses and trams are damaged, messy and they are often very crowded. People are stressed and nervous. Bratislava as the capital of Slovakia misses metro too. But the city is not only the public transport.

Each city must breathe. Where are all former beautiful parks, green zones, trees and flowers? People should plant more trees and grow fruit and vegetables in their gardens, because it is healthier than buying food from supermarkets. In my opinion the global warming is a cycle that repeats, but negative human activities do not help that. People should more recycle subsidiary raw materials than only produce new products. We need keep our planet "green" for the next generations. We need to invent new energy resources. This is my opinion about the current environment .

The ecological awareness of many citizens is doubtful and two-faced. One February day, when I was travelling home from school, two well dressed obscure people had this conversation.

- Hi, Ms. Indolent, how are you today?

- I'm well, thanks. And how are you, Mr. Cosy?

- I'm fine, thank you.

- Where are you going?

- I gona do some shopping.

- Shopping?

- Yes, I love shopping. It's my favourite hobby.

- Is there a sale anywhere?

- No, but I need a new pair of branded shoes, a handbag, parfum, new iPhone and a microwave. And I have to go to the bookstore.

- Bookstore??? You are kidding!!!

- Yes, I saw one beautiful book there.

- And what's the title of the book?

- I'm not sure, but something like "People and Ecology".

- Oh, it must be boring. I prefer to read manuals how to earn much money, be succesful and not to work very hard.

- *Me too. But I love that book about ecology.*

- *Why?*

- *Because of the colour, size and its shape.*

- *The colour, size and shape???*

- *Yes, it fits exactly to the shelf under my TV set.*

I was upset. Next day I did my own research about the ecological awareness among my classmates. The questionair included 10 questions:

1. How do you travel to school?
2. How far do you live from school?
3. Is your behaviour ecological?
4. Do you separate rubbish at home?
5. Have you ever taken part at the collecting of subsidiary raw materials at your school?
6. Do you take into account ecological charakteristics of the goods when you are doing some shopping?
7. Do you use plastic bags for shopping?
8. Do you like bus (tram) stops in Bratislava?
9. How do you judge the environment in Bratislava?
10. Do you have any idea how you can help to improve the ecological situation in Bratislava (Slovakia)?

And the results of my research? About 94% of my classmates get to school by trams or buses , 48% of them live in a distance more than 5 kilometers from the school, 85% claim, that their behaviour is ecological. 65% have their own shopping bags and do not buy plastic bags from the shopping centres. 62% of my classmates think, that the environment in Bratislava is contaminated and the bus stops are messy and smashed.

On the other hand 77% of them have never taken part at the collecting of subsidiary raw materials, which is traditionally organised by the teachers of our secondary school. 75% do not take into account ecological charakteristics of goods, and they usually decide according the price of the stuff. Many of them admire expensive cars, branded clothes and very sophisticated technologies.

Which face is the right ? The green or mean?



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