



## PECULIARITIES OF ORAL COMMUNICATION IN ENGLISH AS A NON-NATIVE LANGUAGE IN MATERNITY SERVICE IN LITHUANIA

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**Research field:** M 005 Nursing; H 004 Philology, N 07 Language Studies

**Research purpose.** The research aims to determine the peculiarities of oral communication in English as a non-native language in maternity services in Lithuania.

**Keywords:** communication, languages, maternity services, midwifery, oral communication.

**Research Methodology.** Analysis of scientific literature, document content analysis, linguistic analysis of semi-structured interview texts, and qualitative content analysis. Existing literature on English as a second language in medical and maternity settings was analysed to reveal the current trends in English use. Afterwards, data was collected verbally and then presented in the text. The data were coded to help flesh out the information available. Next, interviews were held, and the acquired answers were analysed. Finally, qualitative content analysis was done, excluding categories and subcategories of the theme to reveal the attitudes towards the English language of midwives in maternity services in Lithuania.

**Results / Findings.** The research discovered various ways to describe different midwifery processes and phenomena in English. Furthermore, the information provided by the midwives must be understood by the birthing mother, which means that the language must be accessible. Midwives use English as a *lingua franca*, and in most cases, foreign mothers understand the information midwives provide. Midwives or foreign women sometimes use technological tools such as translation applications to understand each other. Collaboration and communication between midwives and foreign mothers ensure a higher quality of health care and accurate exchange of vital information regarding childbirth. Some midwives feel that using the Russian language is more useful in the context of the war in Europe, with a substantial number of Ukrainian refugees in Lithuania.

**Originality / Practical implications.** This research is first-of-a-kind work in the institution to the authors' knowledge. This research is relevant to people interested in the state of English used by midwifery and medical PR specialists. The results of this research could be significant when suggesting possible improvements for the care of foreign women in maternity services in Lithuania.