The 21st century is already marked by great increase in communication between many different nations that make up modern community.

Stereotypes are an essential part of this cross-cultural communication, providing individuals with stable, sometimes mythical ideas about their native country and about the character of other nations.

“National Stereotype is a system of culture-specific beliefs connected with the nationality of a person. This system includes beliefs concerning those properties of human beings that may vary across nations, such as appearance, language, food, habits, psychological traits, attitudes, values etc."

There are certain stereotypes of national character which are well-known in Britain.

The British are believed to be reserved in manners, clothes and speech. They are famous for their politeness, self-discipline and especially for their sense of humor. British people have a strong sense of humor which sometimes can be difficult for foreigners to understand. The British don´t like speaking about themselves and their private life. The most favorite topic for conversation is the weather.

The British are known as a nation of gardeners. Most people have gardens. Gardening has been a popular pastime since Roman times. Many people in Britain are proud of their houses and gardens. They want their houses and gardens to look nice. There is an English saying ”My house is my castle”.

The British love sport. Many of the world's famous sports began in Britain, including cricket, football, lawn tennis, golf and rugby. England's national sport is cricket. Football is British most popular sport. Some of England's football teams are world famous, the most famous being Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool.

Britain is famous for being a nation of animal lovers, and many people in Britain keep pets. More than 50 per cent of British families own a pet. Practically every family has a dog or a cat, or both. They have special dog shops selling food, clothes and other things for dogs. There are dog hairdressing saloons and dog cemeteries.

Big Ben, Westminster Palace, London Bridge, Thames, Tower of London, royal family and Elizabeth are also a part of Britain’s stereotypes, as well as oats porridge, tea, coffee, pubs and beer, rainy London and British fogs, Scotland’s green hills and sheep, kilts and bagpipes.

Belarusian traditions and features of the national character were formed in the course of complex history. Belarusians are able to adapt to any circumstances.

Speaking about Belarusian we should admit that they are extremely sociable, hospitable. They are loved and respected by everyone. People turn to Belarusians for help and support. Belarusians are always responsible and helpful.

To sum up, Belarusian features of character are tolerance and a lack of temper. Belarusians are kind, soft hard-working. But at the same time they are reserved.