

Language learning Vs Language Acquisition

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LANGUAGE LEARNING VS. LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

2

Abstract

In life, reality surrounds us. Sometimes it makes us smile, while most of the times it makes us worry and sweat. No matter how much we try to run away from it, under normal psychological conditions, it always manages to capture us. One of the harsh realities of today's world is competition. We are not going into the debate whether competition is good or not, or even the details of competition in school life, job market or in different realms of life. We would rather focus on a very significant portion of it: Communication. This article contains three published articles that report on a more specific aspect of the broader topic; Communication, which is the contrast between language learning and language learning. It includes the means which hinder one to actually fall in love with learning a language and thus has to break a sweat in order to imbibe the language, and at the same time, the reasons for which many of us are so fond of the language and hence there is no real difficulty in getting used to the ways of the particular language. It also contains the methods and the steps which should be taken, regardless by whom, in order to reduce the percentage of simple language learning and at the same time, increase the portion of love in one's mind for a particular language. Lastly, even though language doesn't refer to any language in particular, this article is based on the mentioned aspects of English language.

Keywords: communication, love for language, language learning, faults of our 'guardians'

Learning language Vs. Language Acquisition

Communication forms a large, yet basic position in the world of competition. And communication does require a language. Call it unfair or call it accidental, but today's human civilization has chosen English as the mode of communication. It is this worldwide acceptance and importance of English which has led to the rise of so many different accents of English and this even qualifies for a branch of education itself, called sociolinguistics. All these facts hint to only one reality. If a person living in today's world, who happens to be in competition, doesn't have English as his cup of tea, he is partially doomed. Maybe he knows the answer to the question asked by the interviewer of IBM, but still he is most likely to get disqualified just for his poor status in English. A language can simply snatch all the opportunities from him which he quite rightly deserved in exchange for his qualities and gathered skills. Speaking of embarrassment, we all have seen how Sridevi was humiliated and rudely spoken with by her daughter; just because she didn't know proper English like her daughter's comates' mothers. Like racial discrimination, gender discrimination, religious discrimination; isn't this one of the biggest and most humiliating form of humiliation a person can face in his life? Now, since this simple fact could be realised by a layman like me, it is no mystery that the governments of countries all over the world must have understood this thing long ago, and thus had taken necessary implementations. At the same time, this must be understood that since humane people comprise of governments and governments only take care of implementations; whether a process will be implemented or not and if it will be, then the procedure of the implementation depends upon people only.

LANGUAGE LEARNING VS. LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

4

Countries like UK, USA, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand have English as their mother tongue. So, naturally for the people of these countries, it is much easy to grasp English. It is always easy to be in one's mother tongue, than to be the same in a foreign language. Every country has a language of its own. In countries like our's, there even exists multiple native languages. Even though common sense tell us that every language should have the same value, just because the world runs on English today; it should not be tough to deduce that placing English at a significant position in a country's system is the straightforward trademark of progress. Therefore, the primary things which countries all over the world should do in this aspect, is increase exposure of English for its citizens. It is at this junction that the people got divided into two categories-one who wanted to learn English for sheer love; people who wanted to live with the language and the other kind of people, who just wanted to learn English, so that they could pass the examination and get a degree, mainly because of the fact that it was a part of their school or college curriculum. These categories may seem to be at a much mediocre level of life, but it would be a blunder if we forget that the governments of many countries of the world are nothing but mediocre.

Discussion

We must understand the reasons behind a person falling in love with something, a person treating something as his own component and also the reasons behind a person treating something as an additional attribute. Let's focus on the first category.

It's all about love. The most basic reason behind a person accepting something as a part of his day-to-day life is, lots of exposure. And this measure is the most effective if the

exposure is created right from the childhood. We all know that children love to watch cartoon the most. Therefore, the availability of the programs in English along with subtitles would help a long way. Only if everything, which surrounds a person, is in English, a person will be able to go in depth of the language, get used to the whereabouts of English. Now isn't it just the case with the previously mentioned countries like USA, New Zealand etc? They even have this advantage of actually conversing with each other via English. The exposure gives them confidence, the conversations give them practice. Does a person really require anything else for mastering something?

Imposition is never good. Now let's focus on the second category, ie, language learning. We must understand the circumstances under which a person regards something as an extra skill. Take the instance of a middle-aged poor farmer. If he is made to learn computer programming, it will be nothing but an extra skill for him, but on the other hand; computer coding is the sole reason of employment of millions of people all over the world. Now, had it been thirty years ago for the farmer, he may had grown interest in that field, under proper conditions obviously. If his head is always filled with thoughts such as to gather the money required for the current day's meals, the chances of him maintaining thorough interest in learning something will go down dramatically. Under such pressure of harsh life, he will always opt for the ways of earning money which are quick and simple, regardless of the amount he is able to fetch at the end of the month. This reference simply proves the fact, that something is an additional attribute for someone, either when, he is not introduced to the particular subject either by his parents, or by his school or by anyone in the earliest phases of life or his conditions of life don't permit him to mingle with the subject. The introduction of anything in the early phase of life actually gives birth to the relevance of LANGUAGE

LEARNING VS. LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

6

that, in the later phase of the person's life. Once he enters his 30s or so, the will to learn something new and to gain some actual deep knowledge is almost gone. Taking the example of our own country today, we all know the kind of importance English holds in our culture. Schools teach English but never teach to be confident in it; never tries to promote love for the language; never actually portrays the language in a way that the pupils will go back home and won't be able to resist watching a Hollywood movie just for the sheer pleasure of listening to so many people speaking in English continuously for couple of hours. That is the reason why students, while talking to each other, talk in their mother language only. Maybe being in an English- medium school helps one to be grammatically correct in the language, but the lack of exposure makes them reluctant to think of English as something more than just a language to score pass marks in, or just a language to talk to the teachers in, when the situation demands.

This is called Language Learning, where you learn, you know, you don't absorb, you don't fantasise. The truth is, since everyone is the like this, they carve their next generations in the same manner and that only results in the frown and surprise on the faces of peers or parents if they hear someone talking in English. Most of them like to call it a flaunt. But still, however surprised may they be, deep down their brains, they know this fact that if someone is good at this language, his/her opportunities in life increase at least by some percentage. That is the reason they have to learn it, just as an learning, to pass exams and get a job, finally settle in life,

Possible way-outs. It should be well understood upto now that whether a person wants to learn something in depth or something is just a learning for somebody depends entirely upon oneself. But just like a catalyst increases the speed of a chemical reaction, proper

implementations by governments should increase the probability of acquiring language.

And if the aspect is to be looked at from global perspective, then apart from a few countries like the ones mentioned previously, almost all other don't feel the importance of giving English the required spotlight. The governments of the some of the countries in the world are so bizarre that they prefer to give importance meaningless things like beef ban, prefer to give adhaar cards to cows and even prefer to lure people to kill thousands of people of other religions just for blocks of stone stacked together, commonly known as temples or mosques.

Obviously the governments of such countries should never be expected to have any sense of giving proper heed to significant things. Anyway, instead of categorising learning acquisition as fair and language learning as bad, it is better to state that both have their own reasons of existence, and even though all this fuss is about a language, this difference will never cease to exist unless the governments become more sensible or the people become more conscious.

A Burning Instance. In the end, I would really love to tell a story, more precisely my own lifestory. I have come from a Bengali background, so it is needless to mention that i would have no idea about the language until I entered the school. But it was all hopeless for me. Somehow, I couldn't grasp the language. While I watched my other friends beginning to talk to the teachers in broken English, I couldn't even do that. As a consequence, I did grow an inferiority complex. But the Indian parents, as we all know, seldom take kids seriously. It would be absolutely bizarre to them if they came to know that a child, as small as, 8 or 9 years old is actually having the feeling of inferiority. But I can assure you, this is not the reason why I didn't tell them. The obvious reason was fear for some unknown cause, which

LEARNING VS. LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

8

is common in almost all children. One day is particularly stored in my brain as a most ugly and humiliating situation in my life. That day, most probably in class four, the condition of my stomach was not good. For some junk food or so, I was infected with food poisoning. While sitting in the second last bench, the pain had grown to an intolerable extent. I had no other choice but to try to request the teacher to excuse me for the day. I remember I could not figure out what exactly to say in English. As a result, I was constantly calling the teacher and telling her what I had to say in low volume in Bengali, mainly with the intention of not letting anybody hear what I was saying. But still, everyone could hear me and obviously, laughing at me. Then, in the end, somebody sitting in the first bench heard me and translating it to English, told the teacher what I was trying to say. Maybe the teacher did not tell me anything that day, but the extent of humiliation and disgrace I felt that day was incomparable to anything. Then came the glorious day, when while browsing through channels, I tripped over the channel of Star Movies. There, I saw a man, supercool, supersmart and most importantly, superfluent and superconfident in English talking grandeur with each and every word throwing out of his mouth. Later, I came to know the man's name was Tony Stark.

Luckily, the channel did display subtitles with the programs. So, even though I couldn't understand a single word said by the actor, I could at least read it and somehow connect it with his polished American accent. That day marked the beginning of my transformation. It is to be said, without a shadow of a doubt, that the concepts which Hollywood movies portray are on a different level and out of the threshold of understanding of many people, but the main problem of them is the twisted English accent, at least for Indians. But after a few weeks, I had slowly begun to grasp the accent. Then came my addiction to wwe,

English songs, documentaries and many such things which further strengthened my confidence. I can say that English text books and grammar books merely helped me to be grammatically right, but the real confidence was brought to me by English films, songs and stuff. It is really very ridiculous to think that majority of Indian parents restrict their children from watching Hollywood. They have this strange idea from somewhere, that the main theme of Hollywood movies is girls wearing short dresses, kissing scenes and nude scenes.

Conclusion

There is nothing known as impossible for mankind. A couple hundred years ago, no one would believe that man could step on a surface other than that of the Earth's. Even fifty years ago, no one would had dreamt that via a simple click or touch, someone can share something with the entire globe. All these instances just indicate one thing; in the words of David Hilbert "Wir müssen wissen. Wir werden wissen" which simple means "We must know. We will know". May it be the entire human race or may it be a single person, everyone is capable of great things, if we, at all, consider growing love for a language a great thing. It is through my life that I have realised, it is the self will which can help one to conquer fears, eliminate weaknesses and shine walking in that path which was always hesitated to walk upon.

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