Psycholinguistics, The Need Of the Hour

Debjani Chakraborty
Dept of Applied Science & Humanities
Asst Prof of BP Poddar Institute of Management & Technology Kolkata
Introduction

Few Things play an important role in our everyday lives as language. Language as we all know is the pivotal tool in communicating our thoughts and feelings to each other. As one grows it is the language which helps us to understand whether a person is an introvert or can socialise. Similar processes are at work in gender and social class differences in the use of language. Overtime for many of us language becomes not merely a means to an end but an end in itself. We start to develop love for words, so we turn to write poetries, plays and short stories or different literary genres or playing different word games like crossword puzzles. The diversity of how we use language is daunting for psycholinguists who wish to study language. Psycholinguistics is the study of the mental mechanisms that make it possible for people to use language. It is a scientific discipline whose goal is a coherent theory of the way in which language is produced and understood as stated by Alan Garnham. The scope of Psycholinguistic is to disperse the psychological processes that take place when someone utters sentences.

Now the question is how can something widespread and far reaching as language be examined psychologically? An important consideration is that although language is intrinsically a social phenomenon, psychology is principally the study individuals. The psychology of language deals with the mental processes that are involved in language use. Three sets of processes are of primary interest. Language comprehension that is how we perceive and comprehend language; language production; how we construct an utterance from idea to completed sentence and thirdly language acquisition how children acquire language.
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What does a psycholinguist do? ---- A psycholinguist studies the way human learns, how a human being has the potential; to grasp a language and apply it in correct place for harvesting productive outcome. Now a days knowledge is basically outcome-based. We cannot consider any knowledge to be productive unless it is measured in terms of its outcome, which is actually the end result or the positive consequence. Through the study of psycholinguistics we can classify the slow learners and quick learners and accordingly in schools and colleges the weak and strong students are classified and thus special steps are taken to upgrade, uplift and motivate them. In this respect psycholinguists play a vital role. They try to reach the minds of the people and understand their cognitive and meta-cognitive level. The Psycholinguists go deep into the minds of the people and try to fathom out their emotions and feelings because we all know that words or languages are the expression of one's latent and pent up emotions and feelings. Various modern psycholinguists have tried to bring out the psychology of various literary exponents and their masterpieces. Thus various works of criticism and biographies written by eminent psycholinguists bring out the diverse linguistics swings of the famous poets, essayists and literary maestros. In every organization we have done the research on the fact that almost the slow learners and fast learners exist at an equal ratio. It is the responsibility of all the psycholinguist to deal with them in a different way based on their psychological progression, nature their cognitive skills in case of weak learners. For quick learners the psycholinguists should arrange some better and advanced methodology to meet their ends.
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Conclusion: So we may conclude that psycholinguists should play an active role in the realm of grooming the human minds through gradual nurturing of their mental setup. Efforts are being made to make the study of Psycholinguistics a multidisciplinary cult.

References: Introduction To Applied Linguistics.

The Need To Study Psycholinguistics by Shivani Joshi.