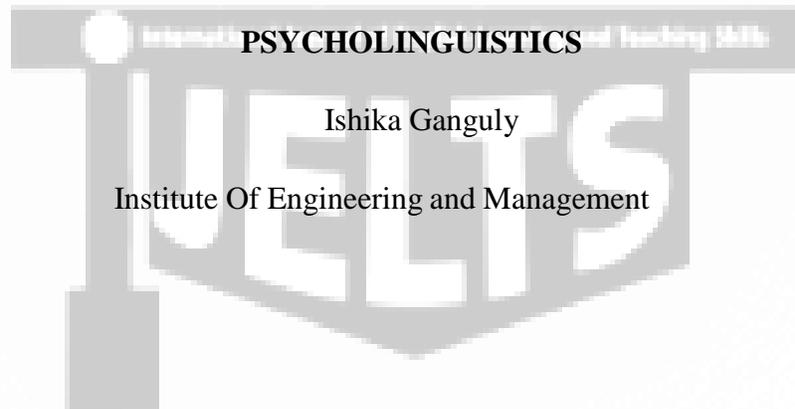


Running Head: PSYCHOLINGUISTICS

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ABSTRACT

Psycholinguistics, is a branch of psychology that deals with language and cognitive development. It is primarily concerned with how the language is presented and processed in the brain. It also projects similarities between different languages, compares their history and explains the relation between two languages sharing similar history or place of origin. The term “Psycholinguistics” was first coined by American psychologist **Jacob Robert Cantor** in 1936 in his book “*An Objective Psychology Of Grammar*”, where he refers to psycholinguistics as *the bridge between psychology and linguistic study*. Later, it was researched on again in 1940 by *Charles E. Osgood* and *Thomas A. Sebeok*, who performed a series of experiments and concluded that psycholinguistics plays a huge role in *cognitive development* of children and almost all children, irrespective of any linguistic community, show the same pattern of development.

KEY WORDS:

Jacob Robert Cantor , cognitive development, linguistic communities, generative grammar, Chomsky’s conviction, cognitive principles, history of languages, relation between languages

Introduction

Psycholinguistics or psychology of language is the study of the *psychological* and *neurobiological factors* that enable humans to acquire, use, and understand language. It can also be defined as the study of the mental faculties involved in the perception, production, and acquisition of language. APA Encyclopedia Of Psychology states , “ *Psycholinguistics is the study of human language processing, involving a range of abilities, from cognition to sensorimotor activity, that are recruited to the service of a complex set of communicative functions. It is related to the traditional academic disciplines of linguistics, psychology, education, anthropology, and philosophy, and particularly the cross-disciplinary*

areas of speech science, cognitive science, artificial intelligence, neurolinguistics, and language learning, teaching, and rehabilitation.”

Psycholinguistics also, deals with the cognitive development in children and experiments were conducted extensively about how a child’s brain can successfully interpret complex language usage and develops it with time. Irrespective of belonging to any linguistic community, children do not only take much time to learn the language and communicate with it efficiently, but also with proper guidance, are able to behave and communicate in a socially-acceptable manner. A huge number of *generative grammar* has been used to explain and predict language interpretation in children through the production and comprehension of speech by adults. It was **Chomsky’s conviction**, shared by a number of psycholinguists, that children are born with a knowledge of the formal principles that determine the grammatical structure of all languages, and that it is this innate knowledge that explains the success and speed of language acquisition. Others have argued that it is not grammatical competence as such that is innate but more general

cognitive principles and that the application of these to language utterances in particular situations ultimately yields grammatical competence. Many works have stressed that all children go through the same stages of language development regardless of the language they are acquiring. It has also been asserted that the same basic semantic categories and grammatical functions can be found in the earliest speech of children in a number of different languages operating in quite different cultures in various parts of the world.

Psycholinguistics, deals with the *history of various languages and the relation between them*. For example, the languages like Hindi and Sanskrit have originated from India and have a lot of common words with similar pronunciations and similar meanings. Also, Albanian, which is an Indo-European language, is at least distantly related to French, Greek, Russian, English, Farsi, Tajik, and the oodles of other languages of the Indo-European origin. So, it can be concluded that, languages sharing same place of origin show distinct similarities between them.

Psycholinguistics is a concept not only restricted to human brain's cognitive development. It can also be seen in animals belonging to other species. Like a dog or a cat, once trained to obey commands will have the same response to common commands its master gives, in a language it would not be very familiar with, from the beginning. They also, learn non-verbal communication and mostly adopt that as a medium to express themselves.

CONCLUSION:

Psycholinguistics, is thus a wide concept dealing with a lot of important aspects of psychology and has a lot of applications. It helps to study the psychological factors that are possibly involved in process of learning a language. Psycholinguistics also focuses on the application of the actual language and communication and helps people learn new languages easily, knowing more about the history and place of origin of the language. It is *diverse* and it allows people to communicate in a manner that enables the *sharing of common ideas and creates a sense of mutual understanding among people of different communities, breaking all the language barriers.*

