

THE ROLE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN HUMAN LIFE

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Abstract: Language is an abstract system of symbol and meanings. This system includes grammar that relates meaning so that we can communicate with each other. As language plays very important role in the development of a person personality. Not only in personality but by learning more than one language it can develop person’s cognitive skills, learning more than one language also important in social development of person. As language is not the creation of one person or of one period but it is an institution, on which hundreds of generations and countless individual workers have worked. The present study is undertaken with a view to explain role of language in human life. Main objectives of the paper were; meaning and definition of language; nature and scope of language. Role of language in intellectual development, emotional development and social development.

Key words: Language, Personality, learning, Human life, Intellectual, Emotional and Communication.

Introduction

“Language is the road map of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going”.....Rita Mae Brown

Language is the ability to acquire and use complex systems of communication, particularly the human ability to do so, and a language is any specific example of such a system. Language is the divine gift of the god. It is language that distinguishes man from animals. Language is man’s finest asset. To the philosopher, language may be the instrument of thought, for we think through language. Language is an extremely important way of interacting with the people around us. Without language we cannot communicate with people. As it is a vital tool for communication. We all know that we are living in multilingual world that is becoming globalized and therefore it is very important to know more than one language. By learning more than one language it could open many career doors, it can help us progress in our career, we can gain awareness of other cultures and it can increase our understanding and knowledge towards language. In today era it is compulsory to learn at least 2 languages. Knowing language is not only means of communication but it builds economic relationships, friendships, and culture ties. As we all know that English language had become a unique language, but in this world there are still many people who don’t know even English language. English is one such connecting links.

Learning language fascinate opportunities to develop their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills and to express themselves with full confidence. John Stuart Mill referred that “language to be the light of the mind”. In today era, the basic knowledge of a single or more language has become crucial. Language has become the major tool of communication between countries, cultural groups, varies companies and organizations, communities and friends.

Wittgenstein says “The limit of my language is the limit of my world”. He implies that people those who speaks one language, live only in one world. A baby is born without language, but even without any formal training, at the age of 4 or 5, the child knows several hundred words and grammar of a particular language. For a last few years, millions of people across the world, who share common interest, are able to communicate with each other and exchange ideas. Not only they are able to do this due to advanced technology, but also because they share a common language. Language is the bridge which connects individual and the outside world. Language is

closely related to the culture, you can only get to understand the person very well if you can speak his language. Due to the development of technology, our world today is the world of information with a fast speed of globalization. Thus understanding each other through language become an even more important issue. Language is like a vehicle that we use in presenting our ideas, thoughts, feelings, and opinion to the world. As Chomsky proves the purpose of language he said “the purpose of language is for communication”. Krech also explained the major function of language form the following three aspect:

1. Language is the primary vehicle of communication
2. Language reflects both the personality of the individual and the culture of the society.
3. Languages make possible the growth and transmission of culture, and the continuity of societies, and the effective functioning and control of social group.

The influence of the language on Social Development

Socialization involves the relationship of child has with a number of different people. In this the development of language is most important because it allows the child to communicate with others. As there is the close connection between the development of thought and the development of language. Language also develops within a social context and depends on social development. According to Chomsky 1976 “Children are preprogrammed and have an innate ability to acquire language. The infant and young child need appropriate language models and constant feedback as they attempt to communicate” Even piaget 1952 believed that Cognitive development lead to the growth of language.If Children develop language, they actively build a symbol system, which helps them to understand the world. A child external speech is the first step in the development of thinking. Vygotsky’s theory emphasis that importance of communication with others as a major factor in the development of a child’s language, which stimulates the development of thought.

SUMMARY

Language is the divine gift of the God. It is language that distinguish man form animals. Language is man’s finest asset. To the philosopher, language may be the instrument of thought, for we think through language. Language is thought to have originated when early hominins started gradually changing their primate communication systems, acquiring the ability to form a theory of other minds and a shared intentionality. Languages evolve and diversify over time, and the history of their evolution can be reconstructed by comparing modern languages to determine which traits their ancestral languages must have had in order for the later developmental stages to occur. A group of languages that descend from a common ancestor is known as a language family. A human system of communication that uses arbitrary signals, such as voice sounds, gestures, or written symbols. The study of language is called linguistics. Human activity linked to language goes on widening in the manner of concentric circles. Generally speaking Language is a socially shared code, or conventional system, that represents ideas through the use of arbitrary symbols and rules that govern combinations of these symbols. Human speech is very much complicated. It cannot be explained from any single source. The first sound a child makes on coming into the world is one of discomfort, it is a cry, a reflex action and the child does not expect a response. In the developmental trajectory of a child, language plays an important role since it is connected with various aspects of a child’s growth. Language is the medium of literature. All great literature are produced through the medium of language. Language thus helps us to read literature, understand and appreciate the work of great writers and poets.

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