

DIFFICULTIES WHICH ARE FACED BY FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNERS

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Abstract: This article examines the challenges faced by learners of foreign languages. In today's world, knowing multiple languages is increasingly important. Learning a foreign language is a demanding task, requiring significant effort to navigate complex linguistic structures and learn to think in a new way. While challenging, the rewards of language acquisition are substantial, including enhanced communication skills, cultural understanding, and career opportunities.

Key words: deficit model, perspective, personalize, self-talk, community, real time, self-doubt

Introduction

Learning a foreign language is a complex process, requiring dedication and persistence. The brain's effort to adapt to new linguistic structures and ways of thinking makes this a difficult but rewarding endeavor. While many individuals find foreign language learning challenging, it offers numerous benefits, such as understanding diverse cultures, engaging with media in its original form, and advancing career prospects.

The article then delves into specific learning difficulties (SLDs), which affect a significant percentage of foreign language learners. SLDs can impact language acquisition and require an inclusive learning environment to ensure success.

Two models of disability are presented:

1. Deficit Model: Views disabilities as individual shortcomings and focuses on addressing individual needs, neglecting environmental barriers to learning.
2. Interactional View: Acknowledges that disabilities create barriers to full participation in society and emphasizes the interaction between individual challenges and environmental factors.

The article emphasizes the need for research that examines the learning processes of individuals with SLDs from their own perspectives, moving beyond the traditional deficit models that often dominate research in second language acquisition. Learning a foreign language is challenging due to the complexity of linguistic structures and the need to adapt to a new way of thinking. Despite the difficulties, learning a foreign

language offers significant benefits. Specific learning difficulties (SLDs) affect a substantial portion of foreign language learners. The deficit model of disability focuses on individual deficiencies and lacks a holistic approach to addressing barriers to learning. The interactional view recognizes the impact of environmental factors on individuals with disabilities and emphasizes the interaction between individual challenges and the learning environment. There is a need for research that examines the learning experiences of individuals with SLDs from their own perspectives.

The article highlights the limited research on how social and instructional contexts impact language learning for students with SLDs. Most existing research relies heavily on interviews, neglecting the broader picture of environmental barriers within educational policies and teaching practices. This gap in research calls for further exploration to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by this diverse group of learners.

The text then transitions to offer encouragement and practical tips for overcoming the challenges of learning a foreign language. The authors point out the numerous benefits of language acquisition, including cultural immersion, travel opportunities, and personal growth. They emphasize that, while learning a new language can be demanding, it's also a fulfilling and engaging process. Creating personalized learning methods can help learners overcome obstacles and solidify their understanding of the language.

The passage acknowledges the struggles that language learners encounter but emphasizes that modern technology makes the process more accessible than ever before. The shrinking world fostered by the internet and digitization expands communication opportunities, presenting a unique chance to engage in language learning.

The article then offers a specific tip for overcoming learning hurdles:

1. Confronting Self-Doubt:

Many individuals hold back from language learning due to self-doubt and a perceived lack of ability. This negative self-talk can limit a learner's potential. Instead of accepting these limiting beliefs, the authors encourage learners to recognize that past experiences may not reflect their true capabilities. They suggest exploring personalized learning approaches, such as one-on-one tutoring, to address specific needs and foster confidence in language acquisition. Taking control of your mindset and actively engaging in the learning process can unlock your potential for success.

Research on language learning for students with SLDs within social and instructional contexts is limited and largely based on interviews. The impact of educational policies and teaching practices on this learner population needs further exploration. Despite the challenges, learning a foreign language offers numerous benefits and can be an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Modern technology has

significantly simplified language learning, offering increased accessibility and resources. Confronting self-doubt and embracing a positive learning mindset are crucial for overcoming language learning hurdles. Personalized learning approaches can help learners overcome specific challenges and achieve their language learning goals.

The article acknowledges that language-learning apps, incorporating brain-friendly learning techniques, can significantly aid in acquiring new languages. Techniques such as combining writing, reading, and listening within a single lesson can accelerate vocabulary acquisition. However, technology alone cannot overcome the barrier of self-doubt. The authors emphasize the importance of a positive mindset and mental preparedness for successful language learning.

2. Overcoming the Lack of Practice:

The article addresses the challenge of limited opportunities to practice a new language. While immersion experiences, such as living abroad, are ideal for rapid language acquisition, the internet offers valuable alternatives. Online language communities, forums, and virtual meetings provide spaces for practicing conversation with native speakers. Despite these resources, the importance of real-time interaction with peers cannot be overstated.

3. Confronting the Fear of Speaking with Strangers:

The fear of speaking with strangers in a new language is a common obstacle for learners. The article encourages embracing the awkwardness of early conversations and highlights the benefits of online language groups where everyone shares the same goal of practicing and improving. Ultimately, overcoming this fear is essential for achieving fluency, especially if the goal is to communicate with locals during travel or for business purposes. The authors suggest finding a language-learning buddy to practice together and gradually build confidence before venturing out to interact with strangers.

Language-learning apps, incorporating brain-friendly techniques, can enhance vocabulary acquisition. Technology alone cannot overcome self-doubt; a positive mindset is crucial for language learning success. The internet provides valuable opportunities for language practice through online communities and forums. Real-time interaction with peers is essential for language fluency. The fear of speaking with strangers is a common challenge for language learners. Embracing the awkwardness of early conversations and finding language partners can help build confidence. Overcoming the fear of speaking with strangers is essential for achieving fluency and achieving language learning goals.

4. Maintaining Motivation:

Like any skill acquisition, language learning can be susceptible to motivation dips. Even with initial enthusiasm, encountering inevitable slumps is a common experience.

The key to overcoming these challenges lies in identifying what motivates you to push through. Reflecting on the purpose behind learning the language can reignite your drive. Whether it's a dream trip, career advancement, or personal growth, reconnecting with your goal can fuel your efforts.

5. Embracing the Journey:

The final obstacle discussed is the misconception that language learning should be effortless. Expecting rapid progress can lead to frustration when reality doesn't align with expectations. Embrace the fact that language acquisition is a messy and ongoing process. Experiment with different approaches and techniques to find what works best for you. Accepting that your accent may not be perfect and that you won't know everything immediately is crucial for avoiding discouragement. Focusing on the progress you make, rather than striving for unrealistic perfection, will keep you engaged and motivated.

Motivation can wane during the language learning journey, but reflecting on your goals can reignite your drive. Expecting language acquisition to be easy can lead to frustration and discouragement. Embrace the messy process of learning and experiment with different approaches to find what works best for you. Focus on the progress you make and accept that perfection is not the goal.

Conclusion

Learning a new language is a rewarding journey filled with challenges. While obstacles are inevitable, remember that anything is possible with dedication and persistence. Fluency in any language requires time and effort, regardless of your perceived aptitude. The potential benefits of language acquisition, which you've recognized by reading this article, are worth the investment.

Your belief in your abilities and your commitment to pursuing your goal will play a crucial role in your success. A positive mindset is essential, as negativity can hinder your progress. Believe in yourself, embrace the challenges, and enjoy the journey of learning a new language. With determination and a positive outlook, you will undoubtedly achieve your goals and reap the rewards of your hard work.

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