

THE ROLE OF MULTILINGUALISM IN LANGUAGE LEARNING

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Annotation: Multilingualism is becoming increasingly prevalent in today's society, with many individuals speaking two or more languages. This has led to a growing interest in the role of multilingualism in language learning, and benefits it can bring to learners. The article explores the benefits of being multilingual when learning a new language, including improved cognitive flexibility and enhanced communication skills. Multilingual individuals have been found to be better at switching between different languages, which can help them to adapt more easily to new linguistic environments.

Key words: Multilingualism, cognitive improvement, mixing languages, communication skills

Multilingual classrooms are a growing phenomenon around the world due to the surge in immigration worldwide. These classrooms allow students from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds to speak one language at home and another at school, or learn the language of instruction as an additional language. International organizations such as UNICEF, UNESCO and the European Commission argue that multilingual education can play an important role in the participation of diverse learners. Classrooms that encourage multilingualism can not only support academic success, but also promote positive identities associated with home culture. This position is supported by the concept of "language as a resource" by Richard Lewis (1984), which advocates the use of a student's native language as a resource for learning and teaching. In practice, the perspective of language as a resource means that teachers should use the native language of their students as a tool for thinking and communicating, while at the same time learning and improving the language of instruction. However, English is still the dominant language in many classrooms around the world, and students read, write, listen and speak exclusively in English. Extensive research points to the importance and benefits of incorporating multilingual education into classroom practice.

A new British Council publication entitled 'Using a Multilingual Approach: From Theory to Practice' reflects a growing body of research that prevents learners from using their native language in the classroom. Learning English not only hinders learning and denies human rights to the language, but also deprives teachers of a valuable opportunity to use their students' knowledge and experience as a resource. Pedagogy. This set of activities has been developed in response to the British Council's

conscious decision to promote international methods of teaching English in multiple languages. Activities that identify the native language and culture of learners when teaching English as a supplementary or foreign language, or when using English as the language of instruction in multilingual classrooms.

A striking feature of multilingual languages is that mixing occurs. Mixing is the use of multiple languages in the same utterance or conversation. Mixed languages are therefore a typical feature of polyglot languages, as they can only be used by people who are able to mix and use multiple languages. Mixes, also known as Chord Switches, Chord Mixes and Blends, stand out for two things. First, because it literally stands out to the ears of monolingual speakers. The people who puzzle over them appear to be unacquainted with what I call the “expat-speech” used by anyone, including fully articulate monolinguals, who has lived for any length of time in a country where a foreign language is spoken. An Englishman who has visited Portugal is likely to use the Portuguese word bacalhau when describing local staple food for other English speakers, and may define it as ‘dried salted codfish’, which is also a translation of the word but does not mean the same. Likewise, Westerners in Singapore will order laksa in a restaurant, not “noodles in spicy coconut milk”, and discuss the amount of money to include in each hong bao, not “red envelope”, to be given over Chinese New Year. My view on these observations is that it is in fact impossible not to mix in a multilingual environment, whether that environment consists of a family language and a different country language, or of two parents who speak two different languages. Nevertheless, the negative overtones of the word mixed itself, against its opposite “pure”, reinforce the common view of mixes as linguistic stigma.

The language was very mixed, a terrifying sign of semi-linguisticism. The argument seems to be that, so to speak, when one language invades another, there is a gap in one language that needs to be filled with parts of the other. To achieve fluent speaker status, a multilingual must demonstrate the ability to remove all traces of multilingualism from their language, especially those that surface in mixed form. In other words, the linguistic ingenuity of multilinguals who naturally make use of different languages should be restrained, because there are mixtures that should not be restrained. It's a little disconcerting to say the least when I have to deny and show competence in relation to the resources I have. It's like asking a pianist to ignore his musical knowledge when playing the guitar. Otherwise, you risk being labeled as an inferior musician. It does not matter that the mixture has been shown to reveal a deep knowledge of the language involved, including its phonetic system, grammatical structure and vocabulary. Only those that are distinguishable can be mixed. In other words, language mixing does not indicate confusion or lack of fluency.

Multilingual people have Improved memory: Learning and using multiple languages requires the brain to constantly switch between different sets of vocabulary and grammar rules. This helps to strengthen the brain's memory capacity and recall abilities.

Better problem-solving skills: Multilingual individuals are often better at solving complex problems and thinking creatively. This is because they have developed a flexible and adaptable way of thinking, which allows them to approach problems from different angles.

Enhanced attention and focus: Speaking multiple languages requires a high level of attention and focus, as the brain must constantly switch between different languages. This can help to improve overall attention and focus skills, making it easier to concentrate on tasks and stay focused for longer periods of time.

Increased cognitive flexibility: Multilingual individuals are often better at switching between different tasks and adapting to new situations. This is because they have developed a more flexible way of thinking, which allows them to quickly adjust to new environments and situations.

Improved decision-making: Multilingual individuals are often better at making decisions, as they are able to weigh the pros and cons of different options in multiple languages. This can help to improve overall decision-making skills and lead to better outcomes in both personal and professional.

Being multilingual can also have a positive impact on communication skills. Here are some ways that multilingualism can help to improve communication:

Enhanced language proficiency: Multilingual individuals have a deeper understanding of language and are able to communicate more effectively in each language they speak. This can help them to better express themselves and understand others.

Increased cultural awareness: Learning multiple languages often involves learning about different cultures and ways of life. This can help multilingual individuals to better understand and appreciate cultural differences, which can improve communication with people from diverse backgrounds.

Improved listening skills: Multilingual individuals are often better at listening and understanding different accents and dialects. This can help them to communicate more effectively with people from different regions and backgrounds.

Better nonverbal communication: Multilingual individuals often have a better understanding of nonverbal cues, such as body language and facial expressions, which can improve their ability to communicate effectively with others.

Increased empathy: Learning multiple languages and understanding different cultures can help to increase empathy and understanding towards others. This can lead to more effective communication and better relationships with others.

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