

**PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF
SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION**

Suchandra Samanta

(ICSSR Doctoral Fellow) Research Scholar,
Department of Education, Guru Ghasidas
Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, C.G., India.

Subham Banerjee

Lecturer in English
Govt. Polytechnic College, Jashpur, C.G., India

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Abstract

Language is a medium of communication. Language helps in growing human civilization. English is considered a world language. English is spoken widely; one person can survive worldwide with the help of this language. Language acquisition is a process through which human acquires the language to communicate. Language acquisition generally refers to first language acquisition and second language acquisition. First language Acquisition refers to a learner learning his native language and Second language Acquisition refers to a learner learning the second language along with the native language. Language acquisition can be successful when the learner understands the second language using tools including Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, Semantics, and Vocabulary. There is a lot of difference between the first and second languages. Whether learning a first language is a natural process, the second language should be taught. The main aim of English Language Teaching is to make the learner aware of the use of language correctly and appropriately. The Psychological aspect of second language learning depends on their maturation, locality from where they have emerged, family background, and motivational factors. One's motivation helps one to learn a second language successfully. Learners' perception of the language is needed in second language learning. This paper focuses on different psychological aspects that help learners acquire a second language.

Keywords: *Second language, native language, language acquisition, motivational factors.*

Language is the medium by which humans communicate with each other. Human beings and animals also communicate with each other with the help of words, gestures, and posture. Language has syntax, phonology, morphology, and some grammatical rules for framing sentence words. Language keeps on changing from time to time. To function correctly in a society, we use language. It is used for expressing our thoughts and emotions. Without language, it is pretty impossible to retain in the community. Language is an integral part of our life that helps us make our own identity. The different forms of language and dialect reflect one's locale and identity. Good language knowledge helps get a favourable position in every field and have a bright career. A person with having a good command of language can get top place in society. Every language has its essence and specialty. As being reliable and valid, English is considered a Global language. A language is the basis of any society and any civilization. Language has its system and organized pattern of code. Language is a social factor that helps in the process of social interaction.

English as a Second Language: Second language learning means learning a new language that is not native. Acquiring a new language creates positive attitudes within oneself, and it improves analytical skills. Second language acquisition makes an individual more prepared to face international travel, business, technology, marketing, etc. Multi-language speakers are given a significant position in every sphere. Thus, learning a second language in schools and colleges is emphasized. In non-Hindi medium schools and colleges, English is taught as the second language so that learners can achieve all these goals with the English language. In rural areas, people are also eager to learn English as they consider English known people as literate and others illiterate.

Language Acquisition Vs. Language Learning: Language acquisition and Language learning are different things. In a natural process, a child learns to walk, speak, and other behavioural patterns that are part of their growth and development. They know a few languages automatically through a natural process, whereas the second language is learned in an institutional environment. A learner can learn a second language through prolonged contact with a native speaker. Some formal instruction may be needed in that case. When a child learns his first language, it does not focus on grammatical structure, linguistic form, etc. It is quite a natural process. The learner learns it subconsciously. Learning a language is a different thing. It happens consciously and formally. In a word, language acquisition occurs naturally, whereas language learning is a formal way of learning a language with effort.

Objectives

To see the psychological aspects of learners' learning English as a second language; To find the relation among the psychological factors in learning English as a second language.

Research Questions: What are the prominent factors that affect learning English as a second language?; Is there any effect of psychological factors in learning English as a second language?; What is the correlation between these psychological factors in learning English as a second language?

Method: For the Research, the researchers have reviewed some papers related to learning English as a second language. Based on the evidence, they tried to establish some related psychological factors in learning English as a second language.

Psychological Factors Affecting Language Acquisition: Psychological factors play a vital role in the language learning process. These are the factors that inspire and motivate learners to learn. The mental process is deeply connected with language learning—psychological factors affect both positively and negatively. Sometimes, psychological barriers work as obstacles to learning and speaking a second language. Learners got afraid of learning and speaking up a new language. Language learners generally feel anxious about learning a new language and using them. They often get

frightened and nervous over the new language and express themselves in a new language in front of others. Self-esteem of a new learner seems to be low, which affects negatively. There are so many other factors that affect a new learner's language learning. Most of the students consider English the most challenging subject. Psychological hindrances like anxiety, fear, and confusion occur among learners, who start thinking the language cannot be learned quickly. Whenever anyone starts speaking any foreign language, they feel anxious whether they are talking right or wrong. Sometimes mocked by someone or any other negative reinforcement stops them from using this language, which leads to an inferiority complex. This leads them towards an inferiority complex. Training an individual in a multilingual country like India is tough. Some of the psychological aspects are discussed here regarding second language learning. L.E. Wallace., (1963), *Psychological Approaches to the Study of Language* find in his paper that the parents of bilingual children are believed by their children to hold the same strongly sympathetic attitudes in contrast to the parents of monolingual children, as though the linguistic skills in a second language, extending to the point of bilingualism, are controlled by family-shared attitudes toward the other linguistic cultural community.

Social Fear: Social fear is a significant hindrance in learning a second language. When a learner does not get an excellent chance to interact with others, a kind of fear comes into his mind of not being able to talk in that language, which negatively affects him. Providing the learner with good social opportunities helps him overcome the social fear, and more practice in using language helps overcome that fear. So whenever a youngster fails to communicate or hesitates to talk in a new language, he should not be discouraged; reinforcement should be given, and proper channelization is needed.

Learning Method: Learning a new language always depends on the way of learning. Most teachers or instructors consider English as a subject instead of a language. They fail to connect emotionally with students but rather teach in a very mechanical way. They are always in a hurry to finish the syllabus without stressing a proper understanding.

Learning Disability: Learners from rural areas face issues in learning languages. As the parents are uneducated, they are not concerned about their education. Students coming from well-to-do families face fewer problems in comparison to rural areas. Children from educated families can quickly learn a language as their background is vital. On the other hand, children from uneducated families face difficulty learning a new language.

Economic Status: The financial status of students is another psychological issue that affects language learning. Students from wealthy families get quality education and training regarding language education. This financial status prompts the poor students to feel inadequacy among them.

Lack of Practice: Learners will learn a language in a better way when will be practiced. The students should rehearse more and more for more fluency and better understanding. The absence of training fails to improve their aptitude, ability, and fluency. The instructors must correct this issue during language teaching. If the activity is not continued, language proficiency will evaporate from learners' brains.

Mother Tongue Influence: The mother's tongue influences language learning. A child from birth gets connected to the first language or mother tongue. The impact of the first language is always there in learning the second language. Students find it hard to remove the effects of the first language and use some new vocabulary in their life. The impact of local language and mother tongue dominates the learning of English.

Nature of the Learning Procedure: The nature of the learning procedure is also an element in language learning. Understanding language becomes easy when the learner is self-motivated and eagerly learns different things. If they understand their responsibility for learning, second language learning becomes an easy task.

Goals of the Learning Procedure: The ultimate goal of any learning procedure is to achieve particular objectives. With the teacher's help of proper instruction and direction, learners can achieve these. To become objective and goal-oriented is the learning expectancy of a student. So with appropriate aim and guidance, the learners could learn a second language.

Construction of Information: Students accumulate new knowledge with the existing one. Associating any piece of information with current knowledge helps develop any concept. If the teacher could adequately channel the learner, he could learn the new piece of information quickly. Right direction, association, and mapping can help students learn a second language promptly.

Context of Learning: Learning of a language happens in a suitable condition. It does not occur in a vacuum. Some factors like inspiration and direction towards learning are noted elements of better understanding. A classroom with a better environment is crucial for learning a language.

Motivational and Enthusiastic Impacts on Learning: Inspiration from within a person helps one to learn any new thing. Positive feelings, encouragement, and beliefs encourage a student to achieve his goals more. On the other hand, negative emotions and reduced inspiration lessen the motivation. Dörnyei, Z., & Skehan, P. (2003). 18 Individual Differences in Second Language Learning. *The handbook of second language acquisition*, 589. Find that there is a potential connection between motivation and learning strategies.

Intrinsic Inspiration to Learn: The student's inventiveness, shared interest in aspiring and learning, individual interests, and reasoning ability helps one to learn. Teachers can inspire students' inherent capacities and possibilities and take care of students' learning abilities.

Result & Discussion

Based on the above reviews and discussions, it is found that psychological factors play a prominent role in the learning of a language. Learning any language except the mother tongue needs constant support, motivation, and inspiration. A learner could know better when the new language has some similarity in structure, syntax, and other aspects to their mother tongue. Also, the psychological factors are correlated with each other in learning English as a second language. The more these factors are associated, the easier it will be for the learner to learn the new language.

Implication of the Study

The present study clearly shows that language learning is impossible without psychological factors. From childhood, parents and teachers must take care of these psychological factors into consideration of a child and treat them accordingly. If these are taken care of, students will face fewer challenges in learning any foreign language.

Conclusion

In the end, it can be concluded that there are so many factors that help as well as hinder language learning. A learner can learn any language when his inner fear and anxiety are removed. Teachers of English should take extra care while dealing with the language in a classroom. The psychological factors can be a better weapon to deal with the difficulties in learning a foreign language if it is practiced better.

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ORCID: Suchandra Samanta <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4102-2364>

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