

IS LANGUAGE LEARNING ONLY ABOUT WORDS? THE HIDDEN ROLE OF CULTURE IN SHAPING PERSONAL DECISIONS

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Abstract. This article explores the intricate relationship between language learning and culture, emphasizing that language acquisition is not solely about mastering vocabulary and grammar. It highlights research findings that demonstrate how cultural context significantly influences language proficiency and personal decisions in learning a new language. The article also discusses the importance of cultural immersion in enhancing language skills and understanding, supported by statistical insights and case studies.

Key words: Culture, syntax, morphology, phonetics, ACTFL, Kramsch

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqola til va madaniyat o'rtasidagi murakkab munosabatlarni o'rganadi hamda tilni o'zlashtirish faqat so'z va grammatikani o'rganishdan iborat emasligini ta'kidlaydi. Maqola madaniy kontekstning til mahorati va yangi tilni o'rganishdagi shaxsiy qarorlar ustida qanday ta'sir ko'rsatishini ko'rsatadigan tadqiqot natijalarini taqdim etadi. Shuningdek, madaniy immersiyaning til ko'nikmalarini oshirish va tushunishni chuqurlashtirishdagi ahamiyati haqida statistik ma'lumotlar va misollar haqida fikr yuritiladi

Kalit so'zlar: Madaniyat, sintaksis, morfologiya, fonetika, Kramsh

Introduction

Language learning is often perceived as a straightforward process of acquiring vocabulary and grammar rules. However, this perspective overlooks the profound influence of culture in shaping how individuals learn languages and make personal decisions.

Language is not merely a collection of words; it is a reflection of cultural values, beliefs, and social practices. According to Edward Sapir, a prominent linguist, "Language is a guide to social reality." This assertion suggests that understanding a language involves grasping the cultural nuances embedded within it. For instance, idiomatic expressions often carry meanings that are deeply rooted in the cultural experiences of a community. Language learning is far more than just acquiring vocabulary; it encompasses a wide range of elements that contribute to effective communication and cultural understanding. I give several key aspects that highlight the complexity of language learning:

Methods

To examine the relationship between language learning and cultural influence, this study reviews existing literature and research findings. Key aspects of language learning are analyzed, including grammar and structure, cultural

context, listening and speaking skills, as well as reading and writing proficiency. Additionally, relevant studies are discussed to highlight the significance of cultural integration in language education.

Results

1. Grammar and Structure: Understanding grammar is essential for constructing meaningful sentences. This includes syntax, morphology, and phonetics. Mastery of these elements allows learners to express complex ideas accurately (Lightbown Spada, 2013).

2. Cultural Context: Language is deeply rooted in culture. Effective language learning involves understanding cultural nuances, idiomatic expressions, and social norms that influence language use. For instance, greetings and conversational styles vary significantly across cultures (Kramsch, 1993).

3. Listening and Speaking Skills: Developing listening and speaking skills is crucial for real-time communication. This involves practicing pronunciation, intonation, and rhythm, as well as active listening to comprehend spoken language in various contexts (Brown Yule, 1983).

4. Reading and Writing Proficiency: Reading comprehension and writing skills are vital components of language learning. This includes understanding different writing styles and genres. Writing requires learners to organize their thoughts coherently in the target language (Hyland, 2003).

The integration of cultural education into language curricula is underscored by a study conducted by Kramsch (1993), which emphasizes the significance of cultural context in language learning. The research indicates that learners who engage with the cultural aspects of a language exhibit a higher level of proficiency compared to those who focus solely on vocabulary and grammar. This finding aligns with Vygotsky's sociocultural theory, positing that social interaction and cultural context are crucial for cognitive development (Vygotsky, 1978). Furthermore, a survey conducted by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) revealed that 80% of language learners believe that understanding the culture associated with a language enhances their ability to communicate effectively.

Discussion

Cultural influences significantly impact personal decisions related to language learning. The values and norms ingrained in an individual's culture dictate their motivation, preferences, and approaches to learning a new language. Successful language learners engage with grammar, cultural context, pragmatics, and various communication skills to navigate diverse linguistic and cultural landscapes effectively.

Language learning is a multifaceted process that transcends mere vocabulary memorization. It involves understanding grammar, cultural context, and developing communication skills. Integrating cultural education into language curricula is essential for fostering proficient communicators capable of navigating the complexities of diverse linguistic environments.

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