
Research for Finding the Real-Life Problems That Affect the Second Language Learning

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Abstract:

Language as a means of communication is very useful and flexible. We can express almost everything by means of communication (Srijono 2001, p. 05). Learning a second language can be a challenging task for many individuals. In Pakistan where various languages exist but English has been given high priority as a second language. The success of Language learning is influenced by a variety of factors. This study aims to investigate, describe and analyze the factors such as age, first language proficiency, motivation, intelligence, aptitude, and personality which are highly affecting second language learning (S. Nina and B. Patsy, 1993) and creating problems for students in the way of their learning. This research will provide a brief review to not only students but also teachers on how they can make strategies, and plans to overcome problems by working on these factors. This research is based on the qualitative descriptive method in which interview was conducted with second-language learners and Second Language Teachers. This study explores those learners of a second language who are not given such an environment for practice according to their personality where they can practice and make themselves motivated. It also suggests that Teachers should pay more attention to the learning process of their students because their students do not have a good background in English, so the English teacher should teach them intensively. Teachers and learners also should pay attention to the method of teaching and learning, the variety of methods can help develop the students' interest and motivate them to learn English.

Keywords: SLA, Teachers, Learners, motivation, Teaching Methods

Introduction

Definition of learning language

Language acquisition is the process of learning a language it may be first or second. When a child is born, he has some pre-disposition of learning or speaking so a child can acquire his or her first language rapidly but for learning the second language some students take time but some learn rapidly. And for proving or telling how a child learns, many psychologists and linguists work and tell which type of problems students are facing commonly. So here we are doing the research which is taken from the second language learners and teachers. The factors are observed and analyzed.

Factors affecting the second language

There are some factors which are creating issues in learning a language they may be extrinsic or intrinsic: Age, Motivation, Intelligence, Environment, Personality, Aptitude. So, here in this research, we will see which problems students are facing in learning a second language and what they are thinking about it. Secondly, what teachers' perspective is about second language learning? So before starting I want to tell one thing students are those whose first language is Urdu and Sindhi and their second language, they are learning is English.

The use of this research

This research is based on real-life problems which are caused by some factors and this is for the convenience of students which will give a brief review to the reader that which are the factors affecting the second language learning and how the students of the second language can overcome their weaknesses. How can the teachers help the students in learning of second language?

The Objectives of Research

The objectives are to analyze the real-life problems in learning a second language. To give the review to teachers in what field they should work more to make the process of learning easier.

Research Methodology

The methodology of this research is based on an interview which was conducted by second language learners and second language teachers about what problems they are facing and what teachers are observing while teaching second language and after this. Their answers are compared and analyzed and conclusions are carried out to bring out new ways which make the process of learning easier.

The Source of Data

The source of collecting data is 8 students who are learning English as a second language and 5 teachers who are teaching English as a second language.

Technique of Collection

The 12 same questions were asked to 8 students and 10 same questions were asked to 5 teachers and their answers were compared individually and the conclusion was penned.

The research is based on the following questionnaire:

The questions from learners of second language

Q1 What is your second language?

Q2 What is the purpose of learning a second language?

- Q3 Why it is difficult to communicate in second language?
- Q4 Why do we feel so empty when we try to speak?
- Q5 Why are the students not habitual of writing in second language?
- Q6 Why do we not use second language during communicating with friends?
- Q7 What is the main hurdle which comes in the way of learning second language?
- Q8 Which thing is so difficult in the journey of learning second language?
- Q9 Does the environment play an important role in learning? if yes so why?
- Q10 Does intelligence play an important role in language learning? if yes so how?
- Q11 What is the most important thing for learning a second language?
- Q12 Which steps should we take to improve the learning of second language?

The questions from the Teachers who teach English as a Second Language

- Q1 What is the purpose of teaching second language?
- Q2 Why does your student feel so hesitant to speak second language?
- Q3 Does the environment play an important role in learning? if yes so why?
- Q4 Does intelligence affect second language learning? If yes, so how?
- Q5 Why are students not proficient in writing in a second language?
- Q6 Which is the most important thing for learning the second language?
- Q7 Does teaching methodology affect the child’s second language learning? If yes, so how?
- Q8 What are the factors which affect the second language?
- Q9 How can we judge if a child is improving in learning of second language?
- Q10 What are the ways by which teachers can help the students in facing difficulties in learning a second language?

Data from learners of Second Language Learning

Q1 What is your second language?		
Students	First Language	Second Language
S1	Urdu	English

S2	Urdu	English
S3	Urdu	English
S4	Urdu	English
S5	Sindhi	English
S6	Sindhi	English
S7	Sindhi	English
S8	Sindhi	English

In this question, they were asked about their first and second language. Their second language is English and their first languages are Urdu and Sindhi.

Q2 What is the purpose of learning second language?

Students	Explanation	Result
S1	Helps in academic courses	Academic studies
S2	To have an insight into another culture	communication
S3	To communicate effectively with people	communication
S4	Gives more opportunities to get employed and various jobs	Various jobs
S5	Help in Communicating with others	Communication
S6	Communicate with others	Communication
S7	The need for time gives confidence	Communication
S8	International language	Barrier of Communication

The purpose of learning a second language is it help in communication it removes the barrier between two languages. It provides help in different academic courses and helps the students in various jobs.

Q3 Why it is difficult to communicate in a second language?

Students	Explanation	Result/ factors
S1	Because it is not a mother tongue	Practice
S2	It challenges both mind and time to construct new cognitive frameworks	Intelligence
S3	Grammatical errors which lead to hesitation while speaking	Intelligence
S4	Lack of vocabulary	Cognitive ability

S5	Lack of practice instead of mother tongue which is spoken all the time	Practice
S6	Habitually speaking a second language	Environment
S7	Lack of vocabulary, fear of taking risk	Environment and intelligence
S8	Lack of time for arranging the sentences	Intelligence

It is difficult to communicate in a second language and many factors are environment, Practice, intelligence, and cognitive ability. The environment is the main factor because if the environment is not favourable, the child cannot practice and without practice, no one can remove the barrier of learning a second language sometimes students do not memorize the vocabulary and if he or she memorizes but lack of practice cannot bring improvement.

Q4 Why do we feel so empty when we try to speak?		
Students	Explanation	Result/ factors
S1	Because of the lack of grammar structures	Practice
S2	Because words are not in mind when we talk quickly	Intelligence
S3	Syntactical problem	Practice
S4	Lack of quick answers because of making correct sentences at a time	Cognitive ability
S5	Lack of strong command	Practice
S6	Lack of vocabulary and guidance	Motivation
S7	Not communicate before	Environment
S8	Used mother tongue frequently	Environment

We feel so empty because vocabulary is not memorized by Students. After all, different students have different intelligences and they are also not appreciated by the environment and teachers. They have the fear of being judged and criticized by friends because everyone cannot accept a second language so during speaking due to fear and less appreciation, they feel empty.

Q5 Why are the students not habitual of writing in a second language?		
Students	Explanation	Result/ factors
S1	They are not very aware about knowledge in 2 nd language	Environment

S2	Lack of vocabulary, poor grammar, poor spelling	Knowledge
S3	Lack of vocabulary, poor grammar, poor spelling	Knowledge
S4	Lack of practice	Practice
S5	Laziness	Personality
S6	Student readiness and lack of exposure to books	Environment
S7	Lack of vocabulary	Knowledge
S8	Lack of knowledge and not habitual of brainstorming	Knowledge

They are not habitual because they do not focus on reading and do not take the knowledge and due to these ideas cannot hit the mind. Less vocabulary but sometimes if they have vocabulary, they cannot join them with appropriate grammar structures and if the teacher motivates them, they only listen to him in the class and do not practice, make lots of mistakes and cannot write well.

Q6 Why do we not use a second language during communicating with friends?		
Students	Explanation	Result/ factors
S1	Difficulty in choosing words	Intelligence
S2	Emotional distance and fear of making mistakes	Personality
S3	Grammar, words and pronunciation of those words create a huge communication barrier	Environment
S4	Most of our friends are not unaware so we are habitual in our first language	Environment
S5	Fear of being judged	Personality
S6	Not want to be the point of making fun and do not involve with friends and people	Personality
S7	Lack of confidence and incompatibility	Personality
S8	Friends are not aware of English	Environment

Everyone has a different type of personality some are introverts and some are extroverts. Introverted people cannot connect and their vocal cords are not able to produce different sounds and different words. Some people fear because they are not provided with the proper environment which affects their language because environment plays a vital role without environment a child cannot practice.

Q7 What is the main hurdle which comes in the way of leaning second language?		
Students	Explanation	Result/ factors
S1	Memorization of Vocabulary	Intelligence
S2	Feeling embarrassment	Personality
S3	Not quick response in making sentences	Intelligence
S4	Not proper institution, fear of being judged	Personality
S5	To speak in front of any people	Personality
S6	Memorizing vocabulary	Intelligence
S7	Speaking, reading, and writing due to less reading and listening	Practice
S8	Grammar problems and ag difference	Age

The research tells us that the main important things are personality and intelligence because personality helps to settle in the environment and intelligence helps to express ideas by different things or words.

Q8 Which thing is so difficult in the journey of learning a second language?		
Students	Explanation	Result/ factors
S1	Vocabulary	Memorization
S2	Overcoming the challenge of fear of not finding the correct word	Intelligence
S3	Practising conversation and dialogue games	Communication
S4	Practice the things and memorization of vocab	Practice
S5	To convey the message completely in a second language	Practice
S6	Practice and guide ourselves	Motivation
S7	Delivering a speech in front of people	Introvert personality
S8	Talking with gestures and emotions	Body languages

Many students said that memorizing vocabulary is so difficult and to motivate his or herself is difficult in different environments. Some said that playing different role plays and using body language because they cannot show their expressions in a second language.

Q9 Does the environment play an important role in learning? if yes so why?		
Students	Explanation	Result/ factors
S1	It affects the learner's mind	Yes

S2	The more exposure the better acquisition will be	Yes
S3	We acquire the things very quickly that we are constantly listening to in our encircle	Yes
S4	It will give the platform to practice because in the environment there are many languages which are spoken	Yes
S5	Because it gives the exposure and teaches us to find out the mistakes	Yes
S6	It gives experience	Yes
S7	Give a platform to make mistakes and help in rectifying	Yes
S8	It boosts the confidence	Yes

Yes, it plays because it provides the platform to practice and make mistakes and any learner can make mistakes and can learn from those mistakes if he or she does not have any environment so he or she cannot learn rapidly.

Q10 Does intelligence play an important role in language learning? if yes so how?		
Students	Explanation	Result/ factors
S1	It forces us to think about how words are used and spoke	Yes
S2	Language is derived from cognitive development	Yes
S3	Things will be acquired early; vocab will be memorized early	Yes
S4	It teaches where, and how can we choose and fix different words to make the speech or writing more attractive	Yes
S5	It helps in memorizing different words and in adopting difficult words	Yes
S6	Tool of learning because it helps in different places	Yes
S7	Help to choose the right words at the right time	Yes
S8	Help in memorizing sounds	Yes

Yes, it affects because it helps in memorizing vocabulary making the difference between types of words and using arts to express the message in different attractive ways

Q11 which is the most important thing for learning second language?		
Students	Explanation	Result/ factors
S1	Fluency which can be possible by good vocab and correct grammar structures	Practice and Personality

S2	To learn the clear and straight way of remembering things.	Intelligence
S3	Quality of material, healthy mind and practice by speaking, reading, writing	Motivation
S4	To know it from the starting point	Motivation
S5	Syntactic structures and vocab with practice	Practice
S6	Reading, writing, listening and speaking	4 skills
S7	Which type of personality do learners possess	Personality
S8	Taking guidance from the instructor	Motivation

The main important thing is that one should possess an extrovert personality he should have the guidance of an instructor he should work on his all skills of language and whatever the environment is he should do the practice all time.

Q12 Which steps should we take to improve the learning of second language?		
Students	Explanation	Result/ factors
S1	We should focus on everything and try to copy everything which can be possible from the environment	Environment
S2	More reading, writing and practice	Practice
S3	Involving in those things which create fear. And start learning those things in different steps	Creating environment
S4	Learn it as a responsibility and practice as much as one can, take guidance from a language instructor	Motivation and practice
S5	We should have guidance and should be extroverts' personality and not fear people	Personality
S6	Alternative methods of building vocabulary and focusing on the methods of teachers	Intelligence
S7	We should memorize a huge vocabulary and try to create the people we are	Intelligence and practice
S8	We should adopt and work on those things which are helpful for us and try to overcome fear	Environment

We should be more focused on learning a second language. we should not fear being judged we should make mistakes because mistakes are things which tell us that we are learning we should make our personality different and try to copy the environment we should memorize the vocabulary and try to practice every word and try to be in touch with English at every time and should try to different methods for learning.

Data from Teachers of Second Language

Q1 What is the purpose of teaching a second language?		
Teachers	Explanation	Result/ factors
T1	It breaks the language barrier to communicate between two different languages native speaker	communication
T2	To communicate internationally	Communication
T3	Help in syllabus which is provided in English	Another academic activity
T4	To be the competitor and adopt the culture of different nation	Communication and preparation for adopting someone's culture
T5	Many youngsters are going to foreign countries to settle down in their culture	

The purpose of teaching a second language is to help and create chances for young students and learners to speak fluently and communicate effectively in a second language. It is the only way by which students can be able to be good competitors because nowadays English has become the official language

Q2 Why does your student feel so hesitant to speak a second language?		
Teachers	Explanation	Result/ factors
T1	Fear of being insulted	Environment
T2	Fear of making mistakes	Motivation
T3	Lack of practice	Intrinsic motivation
T4	Lack of words and vocabulary	Knowledge and intelligence
T5	Fear of people	Personality

The research tells us that students feel hesitant due to fear of people; they do not want to take risks of making mistakes because they do not want to be judged. They do not have the vocabulary as compared to the first language and their grammatical structures are not properly constructed in their mind due to this they are not fluent and not rapid answerers and the reason for this is that they are not provided with the proper environment where they can practice, where they can observe the things. When they commit mistakes, people make fun of them and hence they feel hesitant.

Q3 Does the environment play an important role in learning? if yes so why?		
Teachers	Explanation	Result/ factors
T1	It is a laboratory for experimenting with words, phrases and idioms.	Yes

T2	By doing the role plays which can be done by teacher their confidence builds and they practice.	Yes
T3	Because it gives students a platform to practice	Yes
T4	By facing different age groups people they overcome their fears.	Yes
T5	If we listen then we speak	Yes

Yes, research tells us that the environment plays an important role because it gives the platform to practice, where students can face many people and make their errors correct and they can boost their confidence.

Q4 Does intelligence affect second language learning? If yes so how.		
Teachers	Explanation	Result/ factors
T1	Helps in memorizing vocab	Yes
T2	Helps in remembering structures in grammar and in copying the teacher	Yes
T3	Helps to choose the right words at the right time	Yes
T4	Reading and writing in a second language is an art so it helps in writing the single expression in different ways.	Yes
T5	Helps in adopting early	Yes

Yes, it plays because it helps students to memorize the vocabulary and syntax structures and if any learner does not have intelligence, he is not a good fixer of a correct word in the right place and it works at different places.

Q5 Why are students not proficient in writing in a second language?		
Teachers	Explanation	Result/ factors
T1	Lack of practice, having no intrinsic motivation	Motivation
T2	More focused on speaking instead of writing	Attitude
T3	Lack of reading expressive material	Personality
T4	Lack of vocabulary and words	Intelligence
T5	Lack of Practice	Motivation

The teachers said that learners of a second language do not practice writing they do not use their vocabulary. Their mindset is not toward writing they only think that by speaking they will learn but it is not possible we have four skills. They are Reading Writing, speaking and listening and we have to focus on them. The learners should work on their intelligence, they should be motivated internally and externally both.

Q6 Which is the most important thing for learning the second language?		
Teachers	Explanation	Result/ factors
T1	Learning should be in a clear and proper environment	More clear way
T2	Working on four skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening	Practice
T3	Proper syllabus according to the age	Proper designing
T4	Practice an excessive amount of vocabulary	Practice and intelligence
T5	listening and observation	Environment

Vocabulary and practice should be there, proper environment should be given where they can learn.

Q7 Does teaching methodology affect the child's second language learning? If yes, so how?		
Teachers	Explanation	Result/ factors
T1	Direct method teaching is more effective	Yes
T2	It is important to boost children's learning and help them in rectifying their mistakes	Yes
T3	Direct method by providing the environment from which they can learn practically	Yes
T4	Because teachers provide them with different attractive methods of learning and engage them in their capabilities of learning	Yes
T5	Methods affect because different students have different mindsets	Yes

Yes, because the teachers are only the way from them. They rely on and if a teacher will not give proper attention and will not design the syllabus according to them they can't learn. The teachers should motivate them and try to make them confident in all ways and make them free to speak a second language during teaching teachers should use direct methods; they should not use the first language during teaching.

Q8 What are the factors which affect the second language?		
Teachers	Explanation	Result/ factors
T1	Mother tongue abundance, improper environment	Environment
T2	Unfamiliar words and phrases, speaking more than hearing strong	Intelligence

T3	Not concentrating on learning, not adopting the environment,	Intrinsic motivation
T4	Children cannot learn more rapidly than elders because they speak their mother tongue more	Age
T5	Methodology and class environment	Environment

Research tells us that environment which has been discussed before is so important intelligence and age are the most important factors which affect because according to age the method will not be child cannot learn. A teacher also said if a learner will not make his or her goal and will not motivate himself to learn he cannot improve.

Q9 Is it important to judge a student? if yes How can we judge a child that he is improving in learning of second language?		
Teachers	Explanation	Result/ factors
T1	Proper assessment of every skill	Yes
T2	Conducting traditional or non-traditional test	Yes
T3	Taking assessment tests, viva and giving them situations where a child can role play in another language	Yes
T4	By observing in class and giving him presentations at the same time as deliver	Yes
T5	By observing and checking his or her pronunciation	Yes

Yes, a teacher needs to judge the learners and there are multiple ways by which they can judge the learners without this the learner will be less motivated and will not have the fear of being checked and his or her mistake cannot be rectified and teachers should check the student by checking every skill because students may be active in different things so the test pattern should be different for everyone.

Q10 What are the ways by which teachers can help the students in facing difficulties in learning a second language?		
Teachers	Explanation	Result/ factors
T1	Practice, by providing an environment	Working on environment
T2	By guiding to face the problems	Working on motivation
T3	Teachers must know about the level of the student and which type of learner he is.	Working on their levels (age)

T4	To provide them with more vocabulary to enhance their language and motivate them to make mistakes	Working on their knowledge and intelligence
T5	Appreciation	Motivation

Teachers should provide the proper environment, and they should work on their every skill Teachers should try to involve students in every manner where the learner will feel free to communicate and share the problem which he is facing in learning.

Conclusion

The research was conducted with the learners of a second language and the conclusion was carried out. The result was approximately the same for all students because there were some common problems which were faced by second language learners with table conclusion mentioned there, so from first to eighth student researchers tried to write concisely and tried to draw the picture in mind.

The conclusion of the answer is that language is not learnt due to some factors, there are some external factors and internal factors. Internal factors are those that the individual language learner brings with him or her to the particular learning situation. Age, acquiring the English language is influenced by the age of the learner; motivated older learners can be very successful too.

Personality, introverted and anxious learners usually make slower progress, particularly in the development of oral skills. They are less likely to take advantage of opportunities to speak or to seek out such opportunities. Extroverted students will not worry about the inevitability of making mistakes. They will take risks and thus will be given more chances to practice.

Motivation also plays a vital role that may be intrinsic or extrinsic but gives better exposure to learning. Intelligence also makes the progress of learners faster. Environment plays a big role in learning because if the environment is not provided no internal factor can work because everything needs practice and practice makes man perfect. This is all about the problems and the factors which affect second language learning.

Suggestions for Teachers

The researcher suggests that teachers should pay more attention to the learning process of their students because their students don't have a good background in English, so the English teacher should teach them intensively. Teachers also should pay attention to the method of teaching and learning; the variety of methods will develop the student's interest in learning

English. A teacher should motivate their students to learn English and tell the students why English is important. The teacher should explain that English is considered and applied as an international language. Since then, it has been very popular and has been spoken and learnt by most people in the world. There are some reasons why English is important and many people attempt to learn it. Some of them are: finding a job, travelling, interacting with one another, doing business, taking examinations, doing research, writing in a foreign language, etc. The suggestion for the EFL learners is they EFL learner should study hard in English, always practice English with friends, and try to ask their teacher if there are some difficulties in their learning process. The Suggest for the Parents, if students' parents can't speak English or don't understand English, take the children to an English Course for example, or just give some motivation to make the children study hard in learning English.

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