

TOPIC :: Problems Of Language Learning

“Language is not a genetic gift, it is a social gift. Learning a new language is becoming a member of the club -the community of speakers of that language.” - Frank Smith

Introduction : Learning a new language can be a fun challenge. Whether you find yourself with extra time or you’re dreaming of traveling to an exotic non-English speaking place, there are a lot of good reasons to take the plunge. While every new language learner struggles at some point in their journey to fluency, today’s technology does make learning a language easier than ever. As the Internet and digitization makes the world smaller, the opportunities to communicate with anyone around the world are expanding.

Language learners face so many difficulties mainly because of the negative interference of the mother tongue and cultural differences. The problems of language and learning are discussed below:-

1. Lack of motivation :

One of the most common challenges faced by language learners is the lack of motivation. Learning a new language requires discipline, dedication and effort. Without motivation, it can be difficult to stay on track and make progress. To overcome this challenge, it is important to set clear goals and objectives.

2. Language Transfer : Language transfer refers to the interference of mother tongue in second language learning. Learners apply knowledge from their native language to learn a second language. While this can

help in understanding and using the target language, also this can hinder the proper internalization of the second language rules, vocabulary, pronunciation etc.

3. Cultural differences : Learners culture can be a barrier to second or foreign language learning. Cultural differences may cause confusion and cultural misunderstandings. Learners may have problems communicating with target native speakers because of cultural differences.

4. Lack of immersion :

Language immersion is one of the most effective ways to learn a new language. Immersion involves surrounding yourself with the language, culture and people who speak the language. However, not everyone has the opportunity to travel to a foreign country to immerse themselves in the language. To overcome this challenge, create an immersive environment at home. Listen to music, podcasts, and watch movies in the language.

5. Lack of curiosity : A learner who is keen about the target culture will be more successful in their language studies. The culturally curious students will be more receptive to the language and more open to forming relationships with native speakers.

6. Rigid thinking : Language learning involves a lot of uncertainty. Students will encounter new vocabulary daily, and for each grammar rule there will be a dialectic exception or irregular verb. Until native like fluency is achieved, there will always be some level of ambiguity.

7. Fear of making mistakes : Many language learners are afraid of making mistakes when speaking in the language. This fear can hinder progress and prevent learners from practicing and improving their skills. To overcome this challenge, embrace mistakes as part of the learning

process. Accept that making mistakes is a natural part of learning a new language.

Conclusion : Learning a new language is a journey that comes with its challenges. However, with the right mind-set, resources and dedication, anyone can overcome these challenges and become proficient in a new language. Remember to stay motivated, practice regularly, and embrace mistakes as part of the learning process.