

Learning English as a Second Language the Natural Way

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Abstract

Since English has been an international language, it is necessary especially in a multilingual nation to plan this language intelligently. In India the learning of English has been adversely affected due to lack of proficiency in English on the part of teachers (because of limited exposure both to the language and its cultural context), limited resources, less real life like communication situations and the regionalization of the medium of instruction at the secondary level. As a result, many college students of the first year have little or no English. In this globalized world, English language has a significant role to play. Therefore, learners need effective spoken and written English. In a multilingual setting of India, teachers of English should consider the role and function of English, and also learner needs and accordingly syllabi and courses can be suitably designed. Learning of English should also facilitate studies of other subjects. For this, the learners should be provided with a rich input (linguistic and socio-cultural materials). The ultimate goal should be to help learners improve communicative competence in English, so that they can confidently communicate in a global society. Utilizing the available means and methods fully and putting the speakers in real communication situations can, partly, solve language learning problems. It is, therefore, essential to understand the various factors of language learning. Teachers' scheme of teaching should match the learners' path of learning. The purpose here is to consider a few established approaches to language learning and their ramifications, and also the studies of language acquisition (L1 and L2). This will reveal the intricacies of language learning process which will facilitate teaching learning process.

Keywords: Acquisition, learning, L1, L2

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