

Language learning and acquisition



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For CTET, KARTET & GPSTR exam

What is language?

Language is a means of communication through which we can express our thoughts, emotions and feelings.

Communication is the process of exchanging messages and creating meaning.

Language is a symbol system. It includes rules regarding the combination of sounds into meaning units, meaning units into words, words into sentences, along with the rules for using that language.

Language can be acquired in two ways:

1. Language acquisition
2. Language learning

What is language acquisition ?

When language is learnt naturally, without any systematic practice, then it is called language acquisition.

language acquisition provides the student with the practical knowledge of the language.

A child will learn his native language just by being around other people, mainly their families and in the society.

Children acquire language through a subconscious process during which they are unaware of grammatical rules.

What is language learning?

Language learning is the process by which we learn the new language with the help of grammar rules and vocabulary.

It is also called a second language, foreign language or target language.

It is a conscious effort in informal situations.

Language learning is a structured learning of a language.

Language learning focuses on providing theoretical knowledge of a language.

Difference between language learning and acquisition:

language learning	language acquisition
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Practical knowledge2. Unconscious, implicit3. Informal situations4. Does not use grammatical rules5. Pick up a language	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Theoretical knowledge2. Conscious, explicit3. formal situations4. use grammatical rules5. Studying a language

Language Families:

1. Around 1600 languages are spoken in India.
2. There are 22 major languages in India and 13 different scripts.

Indo-European: Hindi, English, Gujarati etc.

Dravidian: Kannada, Tamil, Telugu etc.

Language learning and acquisition: Previous year questions

1. The second language should be taught through CTET September 2016

- a) Mother tongue and translation.
- b) Using the target language as much as possible.
- c) Learner's background and talent.
- d) Grammar and rules of language.

Ans: b. Using the target language as much as possible.

2. The 'acquire system' or 'acquisition' of a language is that... CTET September 2014

- a) Formal skills development.
- b) Subconscious process of learning.
- c) Input – output process.
- d) Self-monitoring learning.

Ans: b. Subconscious process of learning.

3. Providing students can encourage second language acquisition.

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- a) Frequent feedback on spoken.
- b) Informal interviews.
- c) Adequate speaking and writing assignments.
- d) The opportunity to voice their opinions.

Ans: d. The opportunity to voice their opinions.

4. Language learning is better achieved if what students learn CTET February 2014

- a) Is functional in terms of their life values.
- b) Is in a controlled classroom environment.
- c) Is closer in form and sound to their mother tongue.
- d) Helps them improve their chances of college admission.

Ans: a. Is functional in terms of their life values.

5. Language acquisition occurs only when

- a) The child is taught the rules of grammar.
- b) The child is given an award.
- c) The child has exposure to the language.
- d) The child absorbs the language without conscious attention.

Ans: c. The child has exposure to the language.

6. Children can learn best a language when they have

- a) A proficient language teacher.
- b) Motivation
- c) Good text book.
- d) None of these

Ans: b. Motivation

7. Home language is in natural way.

- a) promoted
- b) acquire
- c) learn
- d) taught

Ans: b. acquire

8. Language acquisition stands for

- a) Language acquired with conscious effort.
- b) Language acquired without conscious effort.
- c) Learning language with methodology.
- d) A formal learning process.

Ans: b. Language acquired without conscious effort.

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