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THE IMPORTANCE OF SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

Qiyomidinova Nilufar Qaxramon qizi

Uzbekistan State World Languages University
Teacher of department of methods of
English Language teaching and educational technology

Abstract. Acquisition of a second language has numerous merits including opening up a world of job opportunities, travelling through foreign countries, getting to know new diverse cultures, acquiring effective communication skills, improving education. Some feel that it can be advantageous to learn a second language while others suggest that this trend is without merit.

Keywords. Second language, communication skill, multilingual, monolinguals, critical thinking ability, bilingual education, global language.

In the globalization area, English is global language, it is a must-know language in order for one to adopt the real world (Farak Zulkefly, Abu Bakar Razali, 2019). Majority of parents consider a second language acquisition not only just "good to have" but also vital in global environment (Abbott, 2018). The world is changing so fast so many companies are trying to do business in several countries around the world. In order to achieve the best result they need bilingual

staff who are well-paid and receive huge benefits. Multilingual employees are able to communicate and interact with multiple societies. Employers respect and highly appreciate those who can speak foreign languages because they can talk with customers all over the world who can not speak employer's native language. Moreover, being able to speak more than one language creates a good chance for people who wants to go abroad during the vocation. Those people who are bilingual or multilingual can enjoy visiting foreign countries without any difficulty because they are able to express themselves clearly in any situation. Whenever they want, they can ask support or anything else in anywhere of the world. Learning a foreign language gives an opportunity to watch foreign films, TV programs and to read foreign books, newspapers which help to know and understand that country's history and culture. It helps to connect with people who live in overseas. Meeting new and interesting people and communication with them help to build a bridge to the real world. While speaking in multilingual, communication skill and critical thinking ability spontaneously grow.

Some people who live in rural areas, who has lack of motivation for language learning or who do not get benefit from a second language think that studying a foreign language is waste of time and unproductive. "Jamali Ismail and HaslizaArif (2002) stated that the secondary school pupils in rural areas fail to see the need to use English in their lives. Consequently, both their motivation to learn the English language and their proficiency in the language decrease."(Farak Zulkefly, Abu Bakar Razali, 2019, p. 1142) FarakZulkefly, Abu BakarRazali noted in their article "Malaysian Rural Secondary School Students' Attitudes towards Learning English as a second language" that without seeing the significance of the second language, people have negative attitude towards learning the language in remote areas. Most of the students understand that learning the second language is vital but they are not able to see the importance of using English for communication while speaking with others who talk the same mother tongue successfully. However, people whose mother tongue is English, they do not want to learn another language while English is global language and they can interact

with people easily. For some people learning the second language is difficult and instead of learning foreign language they easily hire interpreters and translators.

However, in order to develop global relationships and get higher status in society, people should know multiple languages. The second language users have advantages over monolinguals in several areas, they consider the world differently(Cook, 2016). Many top universities suggest bilingual education for students and people can receive some masterpiece of art in their original language rather than translated version. People can save their money, time and easily can get access to the world when they know a foreign language.

To sum up, acquiring a second language is essential for all human beings in order to break language barriers and make friendship all over the world. People can get good job opportunities, can easily travel all over the world, enhance their knowledge on culture, have good chance to study abroad and communicate with the world.

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