

PROMOTING FOREIGN/AUXILLARY LANGUAGE FOR ENHANCING FUTURE PROSPECTS

Dr. Pramila Gupta, (Principal)

Guru Nanak Dev College of Education, Majatri (Mohali)

“To have another language is to possess a second soul.”

“Charlemagne”

ABSTRACT

A foreign language is a language indigenous to another country. It is also a language not spoken in the native country of the person referred to. With the world getting smaller every day and everyone looking to have an edge to them, learning a foreign language could come in handy. Reasons as to why it is important to learn a foreign language include demonstrating cognitive development which enables creative thinking and be able to appreciate foreign arts and cultures. It also helps in making international friends and making travel more enjoyable. Foreign Language study creates more positive attitudes and less prejudice toward people who are different. Analytical skills improve when students study a foreign language. Business skills plus foreign language skills make an employee more valuable in the marketplace. Dealing with another culture enables people to gain a more profound understanding of their own culture. Creativity is increased with the study of foreign languages. Skills like problem solving, dealing with abstract concepts are increased when we study a foreign language. Foreign languages provide a competitive edge in career choices: one is able to communicate in a second language.

INTRODUCTION

With Indian companies emerging as global players and Indian market being eyed by multinational companies, it becomes essential that there is no dearth of professionals who can overcome language barriers and facilitate smooth communication for proper business transactions. Foreign language experts with a good understanding of cultures are in great demand in the corporate world. The scope of foreign languages as career is stupendous and candidates willing to explore it have multitude of job opportunities in various multinational companies and multilateral organizations. Moreover, language skills are essential attribute in most professions and help in the advancement of career.

STEP BY STEP

There are various options to learn foreign languages. Whereas several students start learning a foreign language in their schools, numerous others opt the course after their 10+2 and go for graduation courses that are offered by various institutes, colleges and universities. Then there are some certificate courses and diploma courses which take less time and duration

and are available in a condensed form – candidates who have done 10+2 are eligible for such courses. Those who are interested in higher education in foreign languages can opt for post-graduation and PhD which are being offered at select universities in India.

START EARLY

Language skills are like sport skills wherein early starters are at an advantage. Therefore, it is advisable to make an early beginning as love for a foreign language cannot be developed; it has to be felt from within. Some public schools in India have foreign languages in their curriculum. Home tuition is ideal for those who have passion to learn foreign languages. Moreover, in order to attain proficiency in language skills, practice is the main key. Therefore, it helps tremendously if the learner is able to build a group wherein they converse in the concerned.

PROGRESS IN RIGHT CAREER

If you have a deep interest in knowing the way of life, language and culture of other people, learning a foreign language is an extraordinary career option. Career in a foreign language is not only attractive in terms of fulfilling the innate passion to know culture and people but also earns you handsome salary. Knowing one foreign language alongside English adds significant value to career prospects. However, be ready to put in a lot of effort as learning a language is a painstaking task and requires high levels of concentration and a lot of hard work.

FUNDING / SCHOLARSHIP

Jawaharlal Nehru University offers attractive scholarships for students studying foreign languages. The university has excellent student exchange program with various universities and foreign language students receive option to study in foreign universities for certain period during their study in JNU. University of Delhi too offers certain scholarships based on merit and performance in university exams. Similarly, governments of South Korea and Japan offer students of Korean and Japanese a number of scholarships. Max Mueller Bhavan offers two scholarships at its centres in India to the two best students of advanced level learning. They are offered a chance to visit Germany and observe the society and people to learn the language with first hand interaction.

JOB PROSPECTS

Academic qualification and proficiency in foreign languages opens the gate for career in sectors such as tourism, embassies, diplomatic service, entertainment, public relations and mass communication, international organizations, publishing, interpretation and translation, etc. Additionally, various multinational corporate bodies require candidates possessing excellent language skills in French, German, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, Korean,

Portuguese, etc. Some new avenues such as online content writers, technical translators or decoders too have come up in a big way.

International organizations such as the United Nations Organization (UNO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and various Indian national organizations such as Ministry of External Affairs, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), etc too require professionals who have specialization in foreign languages.

PAY PACKET

Foreign language professionals earn attractive remuneration depending upon the work and the organization. Professionals working for PR or Marketing Department of any MNC can earn Rs 30,000 – 50,000 per month. Teachers can earn any salary in the range of Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000 a month. Translators on the other hand receive Rs 250 to Rs 500 per page; compensation depends a lot upon the proficiency in the language. Similarly, an interpreter who is paid on an hourly basis can earn Rs 2000 to Rs 4000 per hour, again depending upon his caliber and work experience.

DEMAND AND SUPPLY

Despite huge demand for foreign language professionals there is not much information available for aspirants. As a result few professionals come out from foreign language institutes which ultimately results in a dearth of trained foreign language experts. India requires a huge number of foreign language experts, particularly in Chinese, Japanese and Korean languages. Whereas India possesses millions of English language experts, it faces shortage of people who know French, German and Portuguese. One important reason for shortage of trained foreign language professionals is lack of infrastructural set up in institutes and universities. Also, there are not many institutes which offer quality training in any foreign language. Additionally, most of the foreign language training centres or universities are located only in metros and big cities and candidates from small cities cannot afford to come to learn languages in metros.

MARKET WATCH

Market for professional experts in foreign languages, particularly in European languages is expected to widen up in couple of decades. Evalueserve, an international research company claims that there would be a requirement of more than 1, 60,000 foreign language professionals in various BPO, IT and KPO processes in India. Moreover, there is a strong requirement for skilled foreign language professionals who can effectively work in language-sensitive processes outsourced to India by companies located in the European countries. The research company concludes that the total addressable market for language-sensitive work is worth USD 14.4 billion. The demand is putting aside the English language experts which are in plenty in India.

INTERNATIONAL FOCUS

Whereas Indian MNCs require trained foreign language professionals to open their operations in foreign countries, foreign multinationals require such candidates at cheap salaries from India. The situation is so attractive for Indian foreign language professionals that language experts in Japanese, Chinese and Korean get jobs soon after their five year language course from various institutes. International job opportunities for foreign language experts from India are open in supranational bodies such as United Nations Organization and its other bodies, various projects of India's Foreign Ministry and of course India's spy agencies.

POSITIVES / NEGATIVES

The demand for a language depends a lot on the country and its economic prowess; therefore, it is important to take an informed decision while choosing a particular language as a field of study. One fine example is Russian language. When the Soviet Union was at the helm of international business and India's biggest development partner, Russian experts were in high demand; however, after the breakdown of the Soviet Union, there is not much scope for Russian language professionals. Same is the situation with Persian language. Now it is China and Japan that offer attractive job prospects for Chinese and Japanese language professionals respectively.

Some children learn more than one language from birth or from a very young age: they are bilingual or multilingual. These children can be said to have two, three or more mother tongues: neither language is foreign to that child, even if one language is a foreign language for the vast majority of people in the child's birth country. For example, a child learning English from her English father and Japanese at school in Japan can speak both English and Japanese, but neither is a foreign language to her.

Most schools around the world teach at least one foreign language. By 1998 nearly all pupils in Europe studied at least one foreign language as part of their compulsory education, On average in Europe, at the start of foreign language teaching, learners have lessons for three to four hours a week. Compulsory lessons in a foreign language normally start at the end of primary school or the start of secondary school. In Luxembourg, Norway and Malta, however, the first foreign language is studied at age six and in Flanders at age 10. In Wales, all children are taught Welsh from the first year of primary school. The Welsh language is also compulsory up to the age of 16, although a formal GCSE qualification is optional.

THE BENEFITS OF LEARNING A SECOND LANGUAGE

Learning a new language takes time and dedication. Once you do, being fluent in a [second language](#) offers numerous benefits and opportunities. Learning a second language is exciting and beneficial at all ages. It offers practical, intellectual and many aspiration benefits In

today's world, there is over 7000 languages and learning at least one will help you in life massively. Although it has been proven that it is easier for children to learn a second language, it is certainly never too late to learn, and the benefits definitely reward the effort and dedication.

Whatever your age, being bilingual certainly has its advantages, especially in today's global society. Here are the top benefits of learning a second language:

1. Better job prospects

In today's business dominated society, being bilingual can only be an advantage and gives you a competitive edge when searching for jobs, or maintaining your current employment. Companies who plan to expand into overseas market are constantly looking for bilingual staff, which are well-paid and receive excellent benefits, as they will ultimately give the company a huge competitive advantage. By learning a second language, you will be indispensable at your place of work as you can easily bridge the cultural gap between the two countries, and those with the ability to speak a second language are more likely to find a job.

2. Brain health / Stave off dementia

Medical studies have shown the positive effects learning a second language has on the brain. Studies showed that learning a second language significantly delayed the onset of many brain related diseases such as Alzheimer and dementia, compared to those who can only speak their native tongue.

Language centers' in the brain actually grow as a result of successful language learning. The better you learn, the more those vital areas of the brain grow (Mårtensson et al., 2012).

Bilingualism delays Alzheimer's disease in susceptible people by as much as five years (Craik et al., 2010). Seems incredible, but the studies are continuing to support this result. To put this in context: the effect on dementia of learning another language is much greater than anything achievable with the latest drugs.

3. Travel and leisure

Learning a [new language](#) opens up a world of new opportunities. If you choose to learn a commonly spoken language, such as Spanish, French or German, you can travel practically anywhere in the world and not have trouble with translations.

4. Improved first language

As we go about our everyday lives, we rarely give a second thought to our own grammatical structure and [vocabulary](#). However, when learning a new language, many people

find they have a greater understanding of their first language. Learning a second language focuses your attention on the grammatical rules constructions of that language. This experience gives people a new insight into their own language and ultimately leads to them improving their [mother tongue](#), which will improve their everyday lives.

5. Improved understanding of the world

Learning a new language gives you a greater global understanding of the world we live in. Even by learning a few phrases, never mind a whole language, you will access many fascinating cultures around the world and understand the differences between the two countries. You will have access to a whole new array of film, music and literature, and a greater understanding of the history and culture of the nation and ultimately a better understanding of the way the world works, including politics and security.

6. Experience new cultures

The world is a cauldron of rich and interesting cultures. Learning a new language allows you to access many different cultures across the world. You will have the chance to see fascinating new things from a new perspective, which not many people can, and connect with the new people all over the world.

Different culture has its own music, style, history, literature and many more interesting things which you will be able to enjoy and understand. You will be able to connect through books, TV, the internet and converse with whole countries of people, ultimately broadening your horizons, interests and views. A whole new world will be open to you.

7. Achievement

Learning a new language is an achievement anyone can be proud of and is extremely satisfying. Once the hard work and effort has paid off, you will experience the many benefits associated with learning a new language and you will have a new found confidence. Learning a new language will open up our world in ways a monoglot would never have the chance of experiencing. Your mind will be constantly be engaged and you will gain an insight into many different cultures. Learning a second language also makes it easier to learn a third, which will certainly broaden your horizons.

8. Academic Importance

Learning another language assists in the development of critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving and memory as per the Connecticut State Department of Education. A 2007 publication cited several studies showing that students who study a foreign language have higher scores on standardized tests in math, reading and social studies, as well as college

entrance exams like the ACT and SAT. English-speakers who learn a second language typically also have better listening skills and a greater understanding of their native language.

9. Understanding Diversity

Studying a second language also affords the opportunity to be immersed in another culture, learning not only the language, but its heritage, history and traditions as well. The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages claims that learning another language increases a student's understanding of diversity and leads to more positive attitudes and a greater sense of respect for people of other cultures. It also opens up the way for new experiences like being able to watch and understand foreign films or travel to new nations and converse in the native language.

10. Job Opportunities

As our world becomes more globalized and diverse, being able to speak more than one language becomes an invaluable skill and opens up more career choices and advancement opportunities. Being able to list that you are bilingual on a resume will set you apart from the competition and give you an advantage in the job market. According to Career Builder, many employers in the business, education, health care, government, hospitality, law enforcement or marketing fields look for applicants who can speak other languages.

11. Hear language better

Being bilingual can lead to improved listening skills, since the brain has to work harder to distinguish different types of sounds in two or more languages (Krizman et al., 2012).

12. Become more language sensitive

Infants in bilingual households can distinguish languages they've never even heard before (Werker & Sebastian-Galles, 2011). Just being exposed to the different sounds in, for example, Spanish and Catalan helps them tell the difference between English and French.

13. Boost memory

Babies brought up in a bilingual environment have stronger working memories than those brought up with only one language (Morales et al., 2013). This means they are better at mental calculation, reading and many other vital skills.

14. Better multi-tasking

Bilingual people can switch from one task to another more quickly. They show more cognitive flexibility and find it easier to adapt to unexpected circumstances (Gold et al., 2013)

15. Increased attention

Bilinguals have stronger control over their attention and are better able to limit distractions (Bialystok & Craik, 2010).

16. Double the activation

Cognitive boosts, like improved attention and better multi-tasking, may come because bilingual people have both languages activated at the same time, and must continually monitor which one is appropriate (Francis, 1999). All that switching back and forth confers the mental benefits.

17. New ways of seeing

Learning a new language can literally change the way you see the world. Learning Japanese, for example, which has basic terms for light and dark blue, may help you perceive the colour in different ways (Athanasopoulos et al., 2010).

HISTORY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN INDIA

The School of Foreign Languages (SFL) is a premier Inter-Services institute of India was first established by the Ministry of Defense, Govt. of India in 1948. The SFL enjoys a unique status among the leading educational institutions of our country as it has, to its credit, the unparalleled distinction of offering quality education in more than 18 major foreign languages.

It was established with the purpose of imparting training in different foreign languages to the personnel of the Armed Forces and other government departments. The Government of India granted permanent status to the SFL in 1954 in recognition of the strategic importance of foreign language teaching.

From a humble beginning, the School has gradually risen both in terms of quantity and quality. It has metamorphosed into an educational institute of great repute and excellence. While the strength of the SFL faculty has increased to 13, the number of students at any given time of the year is not less than 200.

Next Department of Foreign Languages was established in 1961 by Banaras Hindu University has the distinction of conducting teaching programmes in seven major languages of Asia and Europe; namely, Chinese, Japanese, Sinhalese, Russian, Italian, Spanish and Polish. These programmes range from Certificate /Diploma courses in all the languages to BA (Hons.), M.A. and Ph.D in Russian and Chinese. The Department has currently sanctioned strength of 16 faculty members. (Professors - 2, Associate Professors - 4, Assistant Professors -10). They are supported by six visiting foreign teachers who are appointed under various MOUs and

exchange programmes with foreign countries. Their participation facilitates native speaker input to the language teaching. Moreover, it helps us getting latest didactic teaching materials and provides opportunities to our students to get scholarship and other short and long term awards to pursue advanced studies in foreign countries.

The Department caters to more than 600 students from various faculties of the university and professionals from varied sectors from the outside in their part-time Diploma and full time degree courses. With the spread of globalization, our students are getting good offers of job from both government and MNCs and other business concerns dealing at the international level. Our students have also been recipients of scholarships from China, Japan, Spain, Poland, Italy, Russia etc In the XII Plan period; the Department proposes to start degree courses in Japanese. It also plans to introduce several languages of the Southeast Asian countries following the recent thrust of our government towards Look East and the beginning of, what is popularly proclaimed, as the Asian Century.

The Department also proposes to participate in the newly established independent Centres of Inter-Cultural Studies as well as Translation Studies to promote interdisciplinary researches and studies. These centres would provide fillip to the academic and research programme.

RESEARCH INTO SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNING

Results showed that nine out of 10 British companies thought their businesses could benefit from better language skills. Studies show that a person that is bilingual or multilingual can make a greater salary than a computer programmer or engineer because they can use their abilities in foreign language to obtain success in a wide range of career paths. Also due to the increase of international population, a multilingual person can easily communicate and translate to perspective viewers.

Also in 2004, a study by University College London (UCL) examined the brains of 105 people who could speak more than one language. The study found that people who learned a second language when younger had denser grey matter than those who learned one later. Grey matter is the part of the brain where information is processed. Other research has shown that early exposure to a second language increases divergent thinking strategies, helping not only in language-related tasks, but also in areas such as math. Children early on have different ways of expressing themselves, such that they better understand there is more than one way to look at a problem and that there is more than one solution.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE VS. SECOND LANGUAGE

There are no major differences in different definitions that different writers have provided about foreign language and second language, although not many of them differentiate these two terms. The distinction between acronyms TESL (Teaching of English as a

Second Language) and TEFL (Teaching of English as a Foreign Language) shows some attention of different researchers to the concepts of foreign language and second language. Richards and Schmidt (2002: 472) provide this information about second language: "In a broad sense, any language learned after one has learnt one's native language is called second language. However, when contrasted with foreign language, the term refers more narrowly to a language that plays a major role in a particular country or region though it may not be the first language of many people who use it. They also define a foreign language as a language which is not the native language of large numbers of people in a particular country or region, is not used as a medium of instruction in schools and is not widely used as a medium of communication in government, media, etc. They note that foreign languages are typically taught as school subjects for the purpose of communicating with foreigners or for reading printed materials in the language (Richards and Schmidt, 2002: 206).

Crystal (2003) notes that first language is distinguishable from second language (a language other than one's mother-tongue used for a special purpose, e.g. for education, government) distinguishable in turn from foreign language (where no such special status is implied). He also notes that the distinction between the latter two is not universally recognized

So, the distinction between 'second language' and 'foreign language' is a geographical and environmental distinction. We can mention 'second language situation' and 'foreign language situation' as two situations of learning, not two kinds of languages. So a foreign language is not always a foreign language and a second language is not always a second language. Since the distinction is geographical, the two situations (learning second language and learning foreign language) can be considered as a continuum. At one extreme, we may find learners learning without external help and direction purely from exposure to the non-native language through living in the target language environment (second language learning) and at the other we find learners learning the non-native language exclusively in language teaching setting and classrooms (foreign language learning).

The purposes of second language learning are often different from foreign language learning. Second language is needed for full participation in the political and economic life of the nation, because it is frequently the official language or one of two or more recognized languages. It may be the language needed for education. Among the purposes of foreign language learning are traveling abroad, communication with native speakers, reading foreign literature or scientific and technical works.

There are some major differences between foreign and second language teaching and learning. In second language learning, one can receive input for learning both inside and outside the classroom. He or she can readily put to use what is learned, as can the child learning its first language, so lots of naturalistic practice is possible. The major characteristics of

the planned condition of the classroom in the case of foreign language learning as opposed to natural conditions of second language learning are:

1. Psycho-social demands of classroom: The school classroom requires adjustment of the learner to the group processes, classroom discipline and procedures. The learner receives only a limited amount of individual attention. Regular attendance is required.
2. Preselected language data: The teacher generally introduces preselected target language items. Spontaneity is limited. A planned curriculum is followed with the teacher attempting to realize certain goals regarding the language that is to be learned.
3. Grammatical rules presented. The teacher may describe a rule in the native language to explain a grammatical structure. The teacher is expected to understand, assimilate and later apply the abstract rule.
4. Unreal limited situations. Situations for language use in the classroom are limited in variety and scope as compared to those outside of the classroom. The situations which are employed are often simulated.
5. Educational aids and assignments. In order to assist learning and achieve teacher goals, books, writing or a language lab, for example, may be used. Work assignments may be given to be completed in the class or at home.

There are some other issues in teaching and learning foreign language and second language including the type of motivation and the distinction between 'learning' and 'acquisition' that I will discuss them in separate parts. There is often a distinction between acquisition and learning in linguistic and pedagogic literature. Children are described as 'acquiring' their native language, where there is no previous information and knowledge in their mind. On the other hand, adults are said to 'learn' a non-native language. Acquisition is viewed as a natural, unconscious, untaught and probably unteachable process, while learning is somewhat artificial, usually conscious and possibly dependent on instruction and study.

Nevertheless, acquisition can take place in the case of foreign language learning and learning can take place in the case of second language learning. For example, immigrants to the US can attend language teaching classes in the target language environment. On the other hand, foreign language learners that are far from target language environment can sometimes acquire some points for example by listening to foreign radio, reading literature etc.

DIFFERENT ROLES, DIFFERENT NAMES

Foreign language experts do a variety of roles depending upon their skills and experience as well as the job. Here are some of the professions you can look for:

DiplomatS, Foreign Language Trainer, Translator for MNCs and Government Organizations
Research Associate Interpreter, Tourist Guide, Air Hostess or Flight Steward, Attendant at
hotels, Freelance Writer, Translator, Interpreter, Public Relation Officer

A passion to learn foreign language is must as it helps to know the language in fulsome manner, Readymade sentences do not help in long term, so learn the language from scratch and construct your own sentences. There would be problem at the beginning but effort would pay in the end. A learning aptitude and zeal to excel is must to build up proficiency in spoken aspect of the language. If active interaction is possible, use it to maximize the language skills. No one can speak better than native speaker so talk with them to enhance spoken skills, What various MNCs and KPOs look for in candidates is their fluency and clarity in the language, so gain them overtime.

CONCLUSION

Foreign languages expand one's view of the world, liberalize one's experiences, and make one more flexible and tolerant. Foreign languages expand one's world view and limit the barriers between people: barriers cause distrust and fear. Foreign language study leads to an appreciation of cultural diversity Foreign languages open the door to art, music, dance, fashion, cuisine, film, philosophy, science... Foreign language study is simply part of a very basic liberal education: to "educate" is to lead out, to lead out of confinement and narrowness and darkness.

REFERENCES:

1. Crystal, D. (2003), A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics, 5th edition, London: Blackwell.
2. Falk, J.S. (1978), Linguistics and Language, USA: John Wiley & Sons.
3. Fasold, R.W. and Connor-Linton J. (2006), An Introduction to Language and Linguistics, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
4. Hudson, G. (2000), Essential Introductory Linguistics, London: Blackwell.
5. Palmberg, R. (1989). Integrating CALL into Foreign-Language Teaching.
6. Rafael Diaz (1983). Thought and Two Languages: The Impact of Bilingualism on Cognitive Development. Review of Research in Education. Vol. 10, pp. 23-54.
7. Richards, J.C. and Schmidt R. (2002), Longman Dictionary of Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics, 3rd edition, London: Longman.
8. Steinberg, D. D. (1991), Psycholinguistics: Language, Mind and World, London: Longman.

9. Stern, H.H. (1983), *Fundamental Concepts of Language Teaching*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.