

## **THE ROLE OF FEEDBACK IN LANGUAGE ACQUISITION.**

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**Abstract** This article explores the critical role of feedback in the process of language acquisition. Through various forms of feedback—such as corrective, formative, and peer feedback—language learners receive guidance that aids in skill improvement and comprehension. Drawing on research from books and journals, this article examines how feedback types influence learners' progression in language learning and highlights practical ways educators can implement effective feedback strategies.

**Key words:** language acquisition, feedback, corrective feedback, formative feedback, peer feedback.

### **Introduction**

Language acquisition requires both exposure to language and active engagement in using it. Feedback plays a fundamental role in helping learners understand their progress, identify areas for improvement, and feel motivated to continue. Studies show that feedback, particularly when provided timely and constructively, facilitates language learning by encouraging learners to refine and enhance their language skills (Ellis, 2009). This article delves into different types of feedback and the impact each has on language acquisition.

### **Main Body**

#### **1. Types of Feedback in Language Acquisition**

**Corrective Feedback:** This form of feedback focuses on correcting learners' errors. For instance, in response to a grammatical error, an instructor might provide the correct form or gently guide the learner to self-correct. Research by Lyster and Ranta<sup>[1]</sup> indicates that corrective feedback helps learners become more aware of specific language rules and reduce errors over time. Example: In a classroom, a student says, “She go to school every day.” The teacher responds, “Remember, we say ‘She goes to school every day,’ because with ‘she,’ we use ‘goes.’” This feedback directly corrects the student’s mistake and helps them remember the grammatical rule. Purpose: Corrective feedback targets specific language errors, helping learners recognize mistakes and encouraging accuracy. This type of feedback is especially effective in grammar and pronunciation training, where precise use of language is essential.

**Formative Feedback:** Formative feedback, which is ongoing and supportive, helps students develop their language skills continuously. This type of feedback is not solely corrective but encourages learners by emphasizing their strengths and identifying potential growth areas <sup>[2]</sup>. Formative feedback has been shown to increase confidence and motivation, which are key factors in successful language acquisition. Example: After a speaking activity, a teacher comments, “Your pronunciation is improving, especially with the ‘th’ sound. Keep practicing! Next time, try to use more descriptive vocabulary, like ‘enormous’ instead of ‘big,’ to make your sentences richer.” Purpose: Formative feedback emphasizes improvement and ongoing learning. It acknowledges what the student is doing well and suggests specific steps for further progress. This feedback type motivates learners and helps build their confidence, as they see their efforts being recognized.

**Peer Feedback:** Peer feedback involves students evaluating each other’s work. This can be highly effective in language classes, as it encourages collaborative learning and helps students learn to give and receive constructive criticism. Topping <sup>[3]</sup>suggests that

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peer feedback fosters critical thinking and helps learners become more active in the language learning process.

## 2. The Role of Feedback in Developing Language Skills

**Speaking and Pronunciation:** Feedback on pronunciation is essential for helping learners achieve better fluency and accuracy. Teachers may provide corrective feedback by modeling correct pronunciation or encouraging repetition, which allows learners to adjust their pronunciation accordingly<sup>[4]</sup>.

**Grammar and Structure:** Feedback on grammar helps learners understand language structure. Corrective feedback specifically aids in the mastery of grammar rules, enabling learners to apply these rules accurately in speaking and writing (Ellis, 2009). **Listening and Comprehension:** Formative feedback on listening comprehension is critical. Teachers might use cues or rephrase questions to help learners grasp difficult content, improving their ability to comprehend spoken language (Field, 2008).

## 3. Feedback Timing and Methodology

Research highlights the importance of providing feedback immediately or shortly after a task is completed to maximize its effectiveness (Hattie & Timperley, 2007). Additionally, feedback should be clear, specific, and relevant to the learner's language level. Here's a draft article on "The Role of Feedback in Language Acquisition," structured with annotated elements.

This article explores the critical role of feedback in the process of language acquisition. Through various forms of feedback—such as corrective, formative, and peer feedback—language learners receive guidance that aids in skill improvement and comprehension. Drawing on research from books and journals, this article examines how feedback types influence learners' progression in language learning and highlights practical ways educators can implement effective feedback strategies. **Language Acquisition:** The process of learning and developing proficiency in a language.

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### **Conclusion**

Feedback is a powerful tool in language acquisition, influencing learners' progress, confidence, and engagement. Corrective, formative, and peer feedback each serve unique purposes in helping learners refine their skills and deepen their understanding of the language. When used effectively, feedback not only aids in correcting errors but also motivates and empowers learners. As language teachers and educators integrate structured feedback into their instruction, learners can achieve a more holistic and effective learning experience.

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