

FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCE LEARNERS FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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Annotation: In today's modern world, learning foreign languages has become not only just a necessary issue but a crucial necessity. Learning a new language is more than just memorizing words and grammar rules. It's a journey of exploration, a bridge to new cultures and a window into a world of possibilities. But like any journey, it's influenced by a variety of factors that pave the way for success or create problems path. This article delves into the key elements that shape our language learning experience, exploring the cognitive and linguistic forces that play a crucial role in our ability to master a new tongue. By understanding these influences, we can navigate the journey with greater awareness, identify our strengths and overcome challenges with more effective strategies. So, let's embark on this exciting adventure together and discover the secrets to unlocking the wonders of language learning.

Key words: Cognitive flexibility, problem-solving skills, critical thinking, linguistic factors, psychological factors

Like it is said before learning a new language is like embarking on a thrilling adventure, but the journey is not always smooth sailing. It's not just about memorizing words and grammar, but also about how our brains process and understand the language. That's where cognitive factors come into play, they are the mental gears that drive our language learning experience. Imagine your brain as a complex machine, with different parts working together to absorb and process information. Understanding how each part functions helps us make the most of our mental power. Cognitive factors are the mental processes and abilities that influence how we learn and process information. Cognitive abilities are the mental skills that let us pay attention, hold information in memory, reason, solve complex problems, and learn new things. Cognitive abilities develop gradually throughout childhood and early adulthood, and start to decline as we get older.¹ In language learning there are several terms in cognitive factors like.

1. Attention

¹ How does your mind help you learn a second language? By: George Smith, Kaitlyn Tagarelli Fri Aug 30 2024

2. Memory
3. Motivation
4. Metacognition
5. Language aptitude
6. Processing Speed
7. Cognitive Flexibility
8. Problem-Solving Skills
9. Critical Thinking
10. Self-Efficacy

Neglecting cognitive factors in language learning can create several challenges. When learners don't use effective memory strategies, they often struggle to learn vocabulary and grammar, which can lead to frustration and a feeling of being stuck. Additionally, without attention to motivation, learners may lose interest and find it hard to stay engaged with the language. They might not recognize the need to adjust their study techniques if they lack awareness of their own learning processes, resulting in inefficient progress. A lack of cognitive flexibility can also be a problem. Learners may have difficulty adapting to different contexts or variations of the language, which can increase frustration when they encounter challenges. Furthermore, if learners have low self-efficacy, they may lack confidence in their abilities, making them hesitant to practice or use the language in real-life situations. Overall, ignoring cognitive factors can delay language learning, leading to a less effective and less satisfying experience.

When it comes to linguistic factors, a linguistic factor is any factor having to do with language. For example, the linguistic factor in early childhood education refers to the capacity of a child to learn and use language. The linguistic factor in anthropological research may involve a researcher learning to understand the language of a particular group of people.² Linguistic factors refer to the various elements of language that affect how individuals learn, understand, and use a language. In the context of learning a foreign language, these factors include:

- **Phonetics and Phonology:** The sounds of the language and how they are organized. This includes pronunciation, intonation and stress patterns.
- **Morphology:** The structure of words and how they are formed. This involves understanding prefixes, suffixes and the rules for word formation.
- **Syntax:** The rules that govern sentence structure, including word order and the relationship between words in a sentence.
- **Semantics:** The meaning of words and phrases, including how context can influence meaning and the understanding of idioms and figurative language.

² <https://homework.study.com/explanation/what-are-linguistic-factors.html>

- Pragmatics: The use of language in context, focusing on how meaning is constructed in social interactions and the roles of tone and body language.
- Discourse: How larger units of language, such as conversations or texts, are organized and how coherence and cohesion are achieved within them.
- Sociolinguistic Factors: Variations in language use based on social factors such as region, culture and social context.

These factors collectively influence the process of language acquisition, comprehension and production making them essential for effective language learning.

Why We Need Linguistic Factors in Language Learning?

I think linguistic factors are crucial for anyone learning a foreign language, because they provide foundation effective communication and comprehension. Understanding these factors helps learners grasp how languages are structured and used in real-life situations. Firstly, linguistic factors, such as phonetics, morphology, syntax and semantics enable learners to understand the building blocks of a language. Knowledge of sounds give us effective pronunciation and listening skills. Understanding word formation and sentence structure is crucial for creating coherent sentences and expressing ideas clearly. Moreover, these factors play a significant role in well-organized communication. When learners are familiar with vocabulary and grammar rules, they can make meaningful sentences and engage in conversations with confidence. This foundational knowledge allows them to navigate social interactions more successfully. This awareness is vital for interpreting idioms, jokes and other phraseological units that may not translate directly. Additionally, linguistic factors encourage adaptability. Recognizing regional dialects and variations in language use prepares learners to communicate effectively in different settings, enhancing their overall competence. Lastly, learning well linguistic factors improves learners' confidence. As they become more proficient in the structure and use of the language, they are more willing to practice and engage with others. In essence, linguistic factors are crucial for mastering a foreign language. They provide the necessary tools for understanding, communicating and adapting in diverse contexts, ultimately leading to a richer and more successful language learning experience.

Conclusion

To conclude, when learning a new language, we face many challenges and innovations. To overcome these and find more effective ways, we rely on many factors. I mentioned cognitive and linguistic factors in this article. Cognitive factors include concepts such as the human mind, motivation and memory, while linguistic factors include relatively grammatical topics. However, knowing both

makes the learning process more interesting and effective.

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