



AGE AND SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

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Abstract: This article discusses the importance of age effect on second language acquisition has been recognized in the sphere of SLA not only because researchers and teachers are interested in the optimal period of time for L2 teaching and learning , the effective instructional and also influences L2 curriculum design on age.

Keywords: Young learner, Adult learner, early age, Critical period Hypothesis, Second language acquisition, Learners' personality, learning style

Introduction

The age a child to be exposed to a second language is a key point of many communities where English is learnt as a Second language. The age on L2 acquisition topic in the field of SLA. Children and Adults don't follow the same path of language acquisition. The spoken and written data collected confirm that young earlier age helps language fluency. It has been strongly believe that younger is better on SLA. This belief may be based on hypothesis that young learners are more potential and faster in learning language. There are many researchers that told different perspective and question whether young learners are better in second.

Description of the learner's age

Majority of us believe that the earlier children seem to learn new language relatively easily while older learners can't do it. This case study investigates whether children learn a second language better when they are exposed at an earlier age or not. The spoken and written data collected confirm that young earlier age helps language fluency. It has been strongly believe that younger is better on SLA. This belief may be based on hypothesis that young learners are more potential and faster in learning language. Conducting the research will help indentify more specific on this topic. While doing this study I strongly believe that, it can be open and give a answer the age affect on language acquisition. During conducting the research as I researcher to remember level of my participant, her or his interest and also needs. One more thing is essential to remember chose correct teaching method. There are many researchers that told different perspective and question whether young learners are better in second language learning than older one. There are many researchers that told different perspective and question whether young learners are better in second language learning than older one. In particular , based on the proposed argument , Krashen (1979) draw from the scholar indicated the older is faster but younger is better. In contrast, Coppieters (1987), Scovel (1988) Johnson and Newport (1989) held that the earlier the children learn second language it easier it seems to be.

Interpretation

There is a critical period for first as well as second language acquisition shows that children have advantage over adult or adolescents. This hypothesis was first introduced by Penfield and Roberts (1959, p.5). As well, Ellis observed that "there is the period when language acquisition can take place naturally and efficiently, but after a certain age the brain is no longer able to process language in this

way” (1994,p. 107). This critical period is defined by Scovel (1988,p.2) in the following manner. “The critical period hypothesis is the notion that language is the best learned during the early years of the childhood, and that after about the first dozen years of life everyone faces certain constraints in the ability to pick up a new language. Is it true that” “ the younger is better”?.There are successful second language learners who started SLA after puberty and have been able to achieve native proficiency. Johnson and Newport (1989) states that the age of arrival was the significant predictor of success in their case study test about the Chinese and Korean who had been first exposed to second language either before or after puberty. They found there was a strong relationship between early start to language learning and performance in the second language. They state that there are few differences in their second language ability before age of 10 and older learners will not have native-like language skills and are more likely to differ greatly from one another in ultimate attainment. Therefore, it is true that most scholars would agree that there are differences between children and adults in final outcome of second language acquisition.

Conclusion

As a language teacher, we should always aware of the age-related factors are cognitive factors, educational factors and social-psychological factors, neurological factors. We can admit that age will influence language learning based on CPH, while it is also associated with cognitive, social-psychological and other factors which will definitely affect language learners’ second language learning. They are seemed as the determining factors to learners’ second language learning. Therefore, learners’ age is one of the factors which can determine the way he approach the second language learning. When comes to overall perspective, one can strongly agree that, learner who want to be proficient in second language he or she should learn foreign language as early as possible. Because, “younger can believe the second language like their mother tongue. Because of their personality, they will show their interest to learn the foreign language. They can memorize words quickly because of their fresh brain and can be easy to achieve the native accent”. (Ruyun Hu, 2016. p.6-7).

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