

ACQUISITION OF MOTHER TONGUE VERSUS SECOND LANGUAGE

Paper-6-i
Unit-i

Concept of mother tongue and second language


Mother tongue: is a traditional term for a person's native language—that is, a language learned from birth. ... Contemporary linguists and educators commonly use the term L1 to refer to a first or native language (the *mother tongue*), and the term L2 to refer to a second language or a foreign language that's being studied

Second language: A person's **second language** or L2 is a **language** that is not the native **language** of the speaker, but that is used in the locale of that person. In contrast, a **foreign language** is a **language** that is learned in an area where that **language** has no presence or is not commonly spoken by the community as a whole.

Mother tongue verses second language


Mother tongue acquisition:

- 1) The learning of mother tongue is a natural process.
- 2) The child learn the mother tongue in a natural environment.
- 3) A child cannot escape from his mother tongue all the time he awake, not for a few hours or a week only. There are no holidays during which he can much of what he has been learnt.
- 4) When a child learns his native language, there is no other language getting on the way. He listens to a lot of sentences in the mother tongue and tries to imitate them

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- 5) A child acquires proficiency in the mother tongue as a result of nature and random exposure of the language.
 - 6) Selection and gradation is not resorted to in learning the mother tongue.
 - 7) In mother tongue language learning and language use are one and the same. The child the mother tongue is always engaged in imaginative or real language activities.
 - 8) So far mother tongue is concerned the learners are flooded with the spoken form of the language and the written form is presented only after the learners have mastered the spoken form.

Second language:

- 1) Learning a foreign language is an artificial and a painful process. In most occasions the child has little motivation to learn it. The desire to learn the foreign language or a second language is missing. Constant and sustained practice is the key to foreign language learning. It is difficult to maintain the interest of the learning throughout the process which involves a good deal of mechanical, repetitive and tiresome work.
- 2) The foreign language is taught in an artificial environment. The child learns the foreign language in a classroom or in a similar situation.
- 3) In the mother tongue i.e. Foreign language, there is a fixed time frame when has to pick it up. There are a number of holidays in the school and the time devoted to the teaching of foreign language is limited.
- 4) When a child starts studying a foreign language, he finds it hard not to talk with the sounds of his mother tongue and to put the words of the foreign language into the pattern of our mother tongue. This is due to carrying over the habits of his mother into the new language.

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- 5) A child acquire proficiency in a second language through language teaching which is called language learning.
 - 6) Selection and gradation of structures is a common factor in learning a second language.
 - 7) In a foreign or second language, language learning and language use are very distinct. As a child grows and begins to learn a second language, a division between the imaginative and real language activity is seen.
 - 8) In the case of 2nd language learning, especially when the learners are adults simultaneous presentation of language in both forms facilitates learning. People learn what they see hear more readily than something they only hear.



Thank you