

Language and Learning

Paper – 4

Unit - i

What is language?

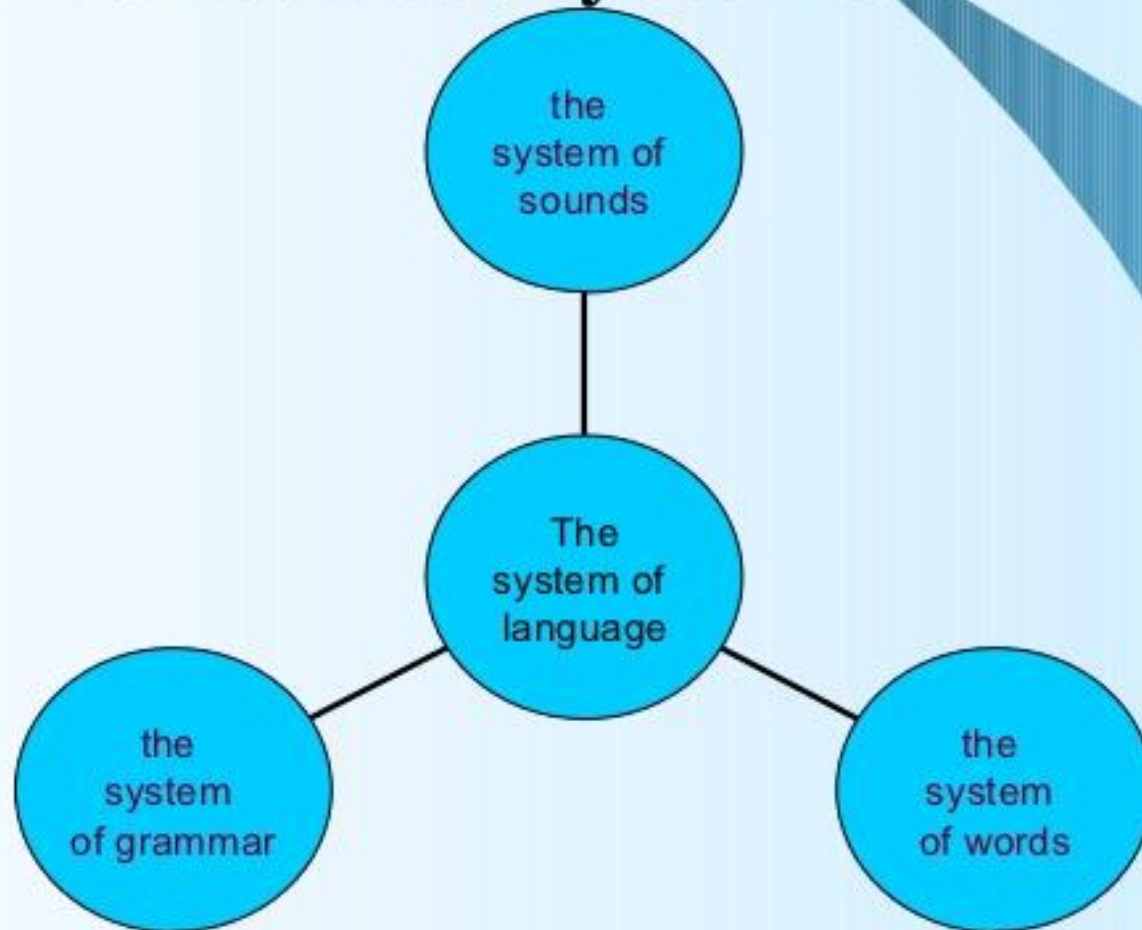
For me language is...


- a system of signs.
- a set of rules and principles.
- a system of conventional spoken or written symbols.
- a set (finite or infinite) of sentences, each finite in length and constructed out of a finite set of elements.

- a matrix for the expression of thoughts.
- a social medium of expression.
- an instrument of social interaction.
- a weapon of empowerment and a tool against oppression.
- a psychological tool used to solve problems.

Language is a system of structures

Language is a linguistic system made up of various subsystems:





Language is human system of communication that use arbitrary signals, such as voice sound, gesture or written symbols. It is the human ability to acquire and use complex sentences of communication and language is any specific, example of such a system. It enables human to express their feeling, thoughts and ideas through verbal and non-verbal sounds, symbols and gestures.

What is learning?

- ❖ learning is the acquisition of habits, knowledge and attitudes. It involves new ways of doing things, and it operates in an individual's attempts to overcome obstacles or to adjust to new situations. It presents progressive changes in behaviour..... . It enables him to satisfy interest to attain goals.
- ❖ knowledge acquired through study, experience, or being taught.

Language acquisition

Language acquisition is the process by which human acquire the capacity to perceive and comprehend language, sentences to communicate.

First language acquisition

Language acquisition usually refers to first language acquisition which studies infant's acquisition of their native language or mother tongue. It studied how children starts understanding and speaking their first language.

It is distinguished from 2nd language learning which deals with the learning additional languages both in children and adults.

Biological clock of 1st language acquisition

Language utterance	age
crying	Birth
cooing	6 weeks
bobbing	6 months
Intonation pattern	8 months
1 word utterance	1 year
2 words utterance	18 months
Word inflection	2 years
Question, negatives	2.5 years
Complex structure	5 years
Matures speech	10 years

Stages of 1st language acquisition

- ❖ pre-taking stage (0-6months)
- ❖ Bobbling stage (6-8 months)
- ❖ Holophrastic stage (9-18months)---kaka, baba, mama, dada like that.
- ❖ two words (18-24months)--- 50 words
- ❖ Telegraphic stage (24-30months)-----produce multiple words/sentences like that
- ❖ multiword stage (30+ months)---13,000-28300 words


Theories of 1st language acquisition

In the boarder sense many theories and approach have been emerged over the years to study and analysis the process of language acquisitions. Three basis main theories are:

- 1) Imitation or behaviourism theory
- 2) Innateness or mentalist theory
- 3) Interaction or developmental perspective theory

Imitation or behaviourism theory

B.F. Skinner put forward behaviourist theory as 'the operant process.' This theory states that language acquisition is a process of imitation, reinforcement. It argues that children learn to speak by imitating the utterances heard around them and strengthen their responses by repetition, correction and other reactions that adults provide. Thus language is practice based. According to this theory children start out as clean slates and language learning is a process of getting linguistic habits printed on these slates. So language acquisition is a process of experience and children acquire their 1st language step by step. Which are given below:

- 
- Imitation
 - Repetition
 - Memorization
 - Controlled drilling
 - Reinforcement (positive negative)

Second language learning

2nd language: a language other than mother tongue that a person of community uses. It is usually learned for public communication, trade purpose, higher education and administration.

2nd language learning: it is the process by which people learn a 2nd language. Different techniques can be used for L2 learning, such as class room lecture, graphic organization, map, charts or directly observing and interacting with native speakers

Benefits

- It increase the brain health
- It can provide batter job opportunities
- It provides cognitive ability of a person
- One can experience new culture
- It increases attention abilities
- It effects one's way of seeing the world

Factor affecting L2 learning

- **Internal factors:** age, personality, motivation, experiences, cognition, native language etc.
- **External factors:** curriculum, instructions, culture and status, motivation access to native speakers

Comparison between L1 and L2

feature	L1 acquisition	L2(foreign language) learning
1. Overall success	Children normally achieve perfect L1 mastery	Adult L2 learners are unlikely to achieve perfect L2 mastery
2. General failure	Success grantee	Complete success rare
3. variation	Little variation in degree of success or route	L2 every in overall success and route
4. goals	Target language competence	L2 learner may be content with less than target language competence or more concerned with fluency than accuracy
5. institutions	Children develop clear institutions about correctness	L2 learner are often unable to form grammatically judgements
6. instruction	Not needed	Helpful or necessary

- Learning a language is to learn its...
 - vocabulary and structural rules.
 - Syntactic system (phrases & sentences)
 - Morphological/Lexical system (morphemes & words)
 - Phonological system (Phonemes)

Structural view

Language is a linguistic system as well as a means for doing things

Learners learn a language in order to do things with it (use it)

Learners learn a language through using it

Instruction focused on the functions and notions of language

Functional view

Language is a communicative tool to maintain social relations.

Language is the reflection of cultures

Learners need to know the rules of a language and where, when and how it is appropriate to use them.

Instruction on cultures and focus on appropriateness of speech

Two things are needed for communication:


- Rules of **language form**
(grammar & vocabulary)
- Rules of **language use** in a context
Is it appropriate to use this language
item in this context?

Interactional view

Views	Language	Language learning
Structural	Language is a linguistic system made up of structural rules and vocabulary.	to learn these structural items. . * vocabulary and grammar (sentence patterns)
Functional	Language is a linguistic system as well as a means for doing things (to be used in real life).	to know how to combine the grammatical rules and the vocabulary to express notions that perform the functions. •communicative categories •communicative ability (to be able to communicate)
Interactional	Language is a communicative tool to maintain social relations.	not only to know the grammar and vocabulary of the language, but also to know the rules for using them in a whole range of communicative contexts. •to communicate appropriately (communicative strategies, cultural awareness, etc.)

Tips For Learning A Foreign Language

- **Conversation, Conversation, Conversation.**
- **Start with the 100 most common words.**
- **Carry a pocket dictionary.**
- **Keep practicing in your head.**
- **Figure out pronunciation patterns.**
- **You're going to say a lot of stupid things. Accept it.**
- **Use audio and online courses for the first 100 words and basic grammar.**
- **After the first 100 words, focus on becoming conversational.**
- **Date someone who speaks the target language and not your native language.**

- 
- **Facebook chat + Google Translate = Winning.**
 - **When you learn a new word, try to use it a few times right away.**
 - **TV shows, movies, newspapers and magazines are a good supplementation.**
 - **Most people are helpful, let them help.**
 - **These are the phases you go through.**
 - **Finally, find a way to make it fun**
 - **Use flashcards.**
 - **Buy bilingual books.**
 - **Watch a TV show in another language or a movie with subtitles**
 - **Try informal learning sessions.**
 - **Sign them up for an online class.**



Thank you