



Language Development and the Use of Dual-Language Immersion Program

Jillian Zhang

Los Altos High School, Los Angeles, United States

DOI: 10.32629/jher.v3i5.1055

Abstract: Many individuals will think that children are only able to learn how to speak and listen when they can experience things themselves. However, that is not the case, Infants can hear and begin to understand languages starting from birth. Learning a language in advance will only provide advantages for the child. They can see and watch things from different perspectives and speak for themselves. Children have a critical period when they can quickly develop a particular language and so does learning a foreign language. Dual-Language Immersion programs have been growing in the past year where children should be exposed to a foreign language starting from middle school or even elementary. Learning a foreign language will provide them with more opportunities and success in their future.

Keywords: language, foreign language, childrens, cognitive, positive, dual-language immersion

1. The structure of the brain

When pediatrics first observe a newborn coming from their mother's stomach, the first thing that needs to be done is to check their weight, height, and the head of the child. These three measurements can establish the growth development of the child and determine whether the child is on the average growth charts. These three main qualifications for childrens may seem ordinary; however, there are more in-depth investigations and connections towards the brain. The brain is an important factor for childrens to establish movements, the way of thinking, communication, and do just about anything. However, different areas of the brain are responsible for different abilities such as movement, "language", and emotions. Our brain is separated into two parts; the left and right side and each side is responsible for various things. Our left brain handles reading, writing, and calculation while our right side of our brain is more visual and deals with images more than words. During childhood our left side, which is where our language function is placed, is larger than the right side. As we grow throughout our childhood, the right side which is where our memories and knowledge is located will slowly increase. Furthermore, since we have a clear explanation of the importance and the responsibility of the left and right side of the brain, which then leads us to the idea of language.

2. The foundation of language

Everyone should be familiar with language because language is the foundation of all social interactions, additionally language was the first thing that was exposed to us ever since we were alive. There are many different languages typically associated with different countries. For example, China has 31 provinces and all 31 provinces have their own unique way of speaking and consist of different characters in their writing. The development of language strongly supports children's brain development

and cognitive studies. Development of language should not be viewed as isolation or indifferent from other individuals, on the other hand it increases children's creativity and the ability to express themselves.

3. The different ways of learning languages

Concentrating on childrens, children's learning languages starts at birth. Have you ever examined an infant that follows your voice when you communicate with them? Infants pay attention to their parents' voices as opposed to random noises or even other languages. When babies are born, they can make and hear all the sounds of all the languages in the world. That is about 150 sounds in about 6500 languages! Then the "baby language" was brought up by the adults when they had difficulties understanding their infant. An example of how infants listen and learn with sounds is by listening to the lullabies that their parents sing to them. Connecting back to the beginning, language development can support children's brain development and cognitive studies, "A new study presented at the 25th annual meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society on Tuesday found that lullabies not only comfort both mama and baby, but they can also benefit an infant's cognitive development"

(Motherly). When the mother is singing the lullabies, it is another way to communicate with the baby. Singing towards the baby physically and emotionally comforts both the mom and the baby. Additionally, it also increases the attention of the baby and displays positive encouragement to the parents.

Depending on the tone of the mother's voice, the infant is able to respond and react in different ways. Especially with emotions, the infants are able to understand and acknowledge when their mother is feeling sad or happy based on their physical movement and their voice. Singing can be a new factor that grabs the children's attention and impacts how babies interact with their parents and the world. Singing is a type of language that childrens are able to use in order to express themselves;

however, this will not help them to speak or master the language in daily life communication. When childrens are able to listen to sounds and being able to differentiate the sounds, which then allow them to be able to connect the sound with the meanings behind it. This is then the beginning of how childrens should start to activate their ability to speak and listen.

4. Critical period of learning a language

Many people will say that different childrens have their own speaking periods when they are comfortable enough to express themselves. Different scientific studies have attempted to examine and determine when the "critical period" for language learning is over, with different and sometimes conflicting results. However, according to an earlier study, the critical period of language learning is close as early as 5-7 years of age. Childrens at the age of five to seven have the most advantage of learning and mastering a language because they are starting from the beginning without any distraction of other words and meanings.

5. Negative and positive effect of learning a language earlier and later

It is never too early to begin learning a language but starting later will cause negative effects towards the child. Learning a language earlier will benefit the child by promoting a healthy development, consisting of many "cognitive" and "social" benefits that will consistently aid the child for their lifetime. Childrens that are introduced to speaking and learning late will cause disadvantage for the child later on in life. Childrens that are late talkers will be restricted from vocabulary and struggle with expressive language development. Late talker childrens are not able to express their feelings and emotions as well as the childrens that are being exposed to language since the age of ten or younger. When the two different kids that are being examined; one that is exposed to language from the age of five and another child that is exposed to language at a later stage, their maturity and skills are different from each other. Based on the study by Ellis Weismer, "3 out of 40 late talkers demonstrated performance at least one standard deviation below the mean with respect to Speaking Quotient on the Test of Language Development" (NCBI). Even though the majority of the late talkers will resolve their language difficulties by early to middle school age, nevertheless late talkers will still demonstrate specific areas of deficiency such as grammar and expressing their thoughts and ideas. Learning a language is something that a child will soon establish, no matter if the child is starting at age five or at age twelve. A "foreign" language or a second language should be developed at an "earlier age" as well.

6. Learning a foreign language

Learning a foreign language earlier will only benefit the child because it gives the childrens a head start and allows them to examine and consider different cultures and perspectives. Childrens who learn another language before age five use the same part of the brain to learn the second language as they used for their mother language. When younger learners are learning foreign languages they are fearless of making mistakes and that can be an obstacle for older beginners. When older childrens are learning a foreign language, their goal turns from learning to achieving a score. They are blinded by the impact of their grade and the different opinions from other friends and competitions. The amount of time that the children are able to commit to learn a language consist of a direct and positive correlation to cognitive development. Longer sequence of learning provides additional opportunities for young learners to learn about the history, culture, and develop a deeper connection as they mature. Despite the additional amount of time that younger learners are able to learn a foreign language, research shows that learning a second language boosts problem-solving, critical thinking, improving memory and listening skills, concentration, and the ability to multitask different language and meanings.

Childrens that accomplish mastering in other languages also show enhanced creativity and mental flexibility. They are being introduced to different perspectives in relation to vocabulary and the way to interpret culture differences and language. Many foreign families will be anxious about losing their mother language after they are introduced to a new foreign language. For example, Chinese individuals that came from China are afraid that their childrens will forget Chinese

when they are introduced to English. Foreign language is not learning one and forgetting the past ones, the cognitive benefits of learning a foreign language have a direct impact on a child's academic achievement.

7. Difference between kids that learn a foreign language and kids that did not

Based on Lead with Language "Compared to those without an additional language, bilingual children have improved reading, writing, and math skills, and they generally score higher on standardized tests." Those without an additional language are not able to communicate and examine through different viewpoints and will consist of cultural differences. Childrens who are exposed early to other languages display more positive and acceptance to the cultures associated with those languages. Childrens that are without additional language will be surrounded by information only connected to their own life experience and nothing else.

8. Dual-language immersion

In the past and even now students are being exposed to second language class options only to students that are in high school or higher. This not only creates differences between the childrens but also puts them at a disadvantage when they are starting high school. High school language is limited and the most frequently opened classes are only Chinese and Spanish, but what if they don't understand any of the two? Wouldn't the child be left behind compared to the childrens that understands two languages? Dual-language immersion programs are brand new and the objective of this program is to teach academic content in two languages. This not only allows childrens to become bilingual but also provides an extra pathway for them in high school and in college. This program is also mentioned by Martha Hernandez, who is the executive director of the language advocacy group Californians Together "The programs are really, I think, a silver bullet to ensure that all students achieve success in school and in life" (U.S. News). The additional pathway of learning two different languages will not only benefit the childrens in school towards graduation requirement, but also an extra path for seeking a job. Dual-language immersion should be established to help childrens that are late talkers and lack the ability to communicate with other people. Students that are learning a new language in high school are already too late for them to master due to different stress and standards that they need to consider. Students from high school or higher do not consist of the same goal compared to the students in elementary or middle school. Students from higher grade levels tend to worry about graduation status, judgment from friends, grades, and even time spent outside from learning. The older the students learn a foreign language the less time and effort that they spend on learning. Distractions from electronics and other outside events will affect the student emotionally and physically. Dual-language immersion should be established and used upon the students in order to successfully learn the foreign language while maintaining their native language.

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