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Abstract

This paper aims to present an insight on the importance of knowing different languages yet in a different fascinating manner. Jotting down the main objectives of this research paper, it starts with a brief introduction followed by the difference between a polyglot and a linguist. During research, we found most of the people confuse themselves regarding these particular two words. Do we really know how difficult is knowing more than one language is? Are we aware about the fact why bilingualism or multilingualism in general, is given so much importance in our society or at our workplace? Do we know that there is a difference between knowing a language and using the same in our daily life? The people who are unaware of the linguistic field, assume them to be the same. And when it comes to the application part, they realize their predefined wrong notion behind it. Also, most of the people do not know the importance of knowing many languages, they are unaware of the fact that multilinguals have a very prestigious position in the society. This research paper focuses to answer all the above questions with proper explanation. Also, this paper aims to apprise people about the other side of the prevailing linguistic diversification in our country. Last but not the least, this paper concludes with some important facts followed by references.

Keywords: Polyglot, Linguist, Bilingualism, Multilingualism, Linguistic Diversity, Prestigious, Prowess, Society

Objectives

The objectives of the paper are to find out the:

- Difference between polyglot and linguist.
- Importance of being bilingualism and multilingualism in our society.
- Importance of knowing different languages at a workplace.
- Other side of the linguistic diversification.

Introduction

Learning a language other than own community's language is not compulsory, but if learnt makes our life easier, easier to travel, easier to explore, etc. Thus, every school has a second language and a third language other than 1st language which is English mostly. So, it is obvious that a person may know two languages. But if a person knows more than two or three languages, then automatically he owns an eminent position in the society.

Now, it is very easy to praise someone who is multilingual, but we never think about the hidden part that how much continuous training did he take to achieve that eminent position. Then the question comes, what are the leading steps one should know if he wants to enter the linguistic field? What are all the basic information one should be aware about the linguistic diversity of the country? This paper is proposed to answer all these basic questions.

Therefore, starting with the basics what is the difference between a polyglot and a linguist?

Difference between polyglot & linguist

Most of the people often get confused about the terms, polyglot and linguist. They assume them to have the same meaning, which is normal. Even modern dictionaries have almost same definition of both the words. However, these are different for a person from linguistics field. And, the meaning of Linguist is a person who is either interested in the science of language or has studied deep a particular language. Whereas, a Polyglot is a person who can easily speak, read or write in several languages but has nothing to do with the deep science or syntax of any language. However, if a polyglot knowing different languages shows interest in the rules and science of a particular language, then he may be called as a linguist. Since, a linguist could have studied more than one language but he may not speak more than one language therefore all linguists cannot be called as Polyglots.

Bilingualism and Multilingualism

Now, when we know the actual difference between a polyglot and a linguist from a linguistic perspective, we should know that these linguistic people can be further classified into two basic categories, namely bilingualism and multilingualism. Now, monolingualism can be a classification but in this modern generation, minimum number of languages that a person is assumed to be knowing is two, hence this classification is not given much preference in this paper.

As classified;

Bilingualism: Bilingualism is the ability to speak two languages for various purposes. It can be either teaching in school, or at workplace for giving presentation, etc.

Some facts relating bilingualism are:

- This can be learnt by children in those regions where most of the people generally speak different languages.
- Bilingualism can also be acquired by learning languages in two different settings.

- A second language can also be learnt while studying in school as a subject.

Multilingualism: Multilingualism is the ability to speak and use more than one language, precisely more than two languages, either by an individual speaker or by a group of speakers.

Some facts relating multilingualism are: 3796

- Multilingualism encourages learners to learn more languages.
- It furnishes one language by other languages.
- It amplifies one's competitive skill in global perspective.
- It helps improve social and personal relationships.

Their respective benefits & applications

Multilingualism is more beneficial than bilingualism though, both have benefits in their respective particular cases. Hence, illustrating both their benefits individually;

Benefits of Bilingualism:

- **Better Educational Performance**

Generally, bilingual children have been found to have a different level of intelligence. As per studies, bilingual students are found to be more focused and less distracted than monolingual students.

- **Greater Job Opportunities**

Bilingual people are selected as representatives at branches in different in different international communities. At workplace, especially at multinational company, communication plays a great role. Prowess of speaking more than language creates a different impression in front of the interviews and consequently, sparkles your resume while applying for any job.

- **Improves Communication Skills**

Expertise of bilingualism, makes us confident while talking to any other community group which at the end of the day enhances your skill and improves your communication skills. Hence, you can travel to foreign places and communicate better with the residencies of that place which consequently fascinates your trip.

- **Increased Creativity**

Prowess of being bilingual increases your brain creativity. This works as, when your brain is trying to think and learn more, its thinking capability gets shaped. Thus, bilingual people come up with new innovative ways to solve problems and they are found to be more brilliant than monolingual.

- **Heightened Cognitive Ability**

Bilinguals are inclined to have better cognitive skills. Also, school students speaking another language perform better in academic tests.

- **Improved Health**

Bilinguals experience low stress levels, and have better neurological health as per studies. They are comparatively less likely to develop dementia and Alzheimer's disease earlier in life.

Benefits of Multilingualism:

- **Improved Communication Skills**

Comparatively, multilingual people are more exposed to varied social experiences. They get familiar at considering other people's point of views, which consequently makes them more efficacious communicators.

- **Heightened Linguistic Recognition**

A surrounding of multilingual society gives new born babies a head-start on the language learning process. Their exposure to multilingualism at a very early age will make them receive more linguistics recognition in future.

- **Superior Executive Functioning**

A multilingual person has to switch between different languages often, when required. Thus, increasing thinking capability of the brain, multilingualism makes a man more cognitive that enhances his executive functioning skills. The person is also found to be a multitasker that can do multiple works with comparatively low stress by blocking out distractions.

- **Adapt To Their Surroundings**

A multilingual is found to have the aptitude of learning from the surroundings by continuously monitoring the environment and considering real time going incidents, which helps him building pragmatic competence.

- **Improves Memory and Career Opportunities**

Multilingualism not only boosts memory power but also enhances the opportunities of the job seekers in international companies. Because speaking in various languages is a great quality of a person, that can help the company in building business relationships with other countries or with other companies as well.

Impact of knowing different languages at our workplace

The prowess of knowing and speaking more than one language plays a very vital role in this world. As mentioned above, this ability improves different mental and social aspects of individual. However, keeping all these aside we need to have a quality within ourselves that can help us in our personal growth, be it the position, social life, or anything that can lead us towards

success. There may be different tactics to achieve all these requirements, but including all multilingualism is one of those qualities that help us in many ways. Jotting down some of them we get:

1. Speaking more than one language connects us to more communities and this

characteristic of oneself can help us expand not only our international network but our personal environment too.

2. Multilingual workers are presumed to be the workers who are comparatively more systematized.
3. Knowing and speaking more than one language is appraised to be a very eminent skill. And as per the rule, more the skills you count of yours, your CV will look sparkling attractive and consequently you will encounter a better experience at your workplace.
4. Some companies round the globe offers language bonus to the multilinguals in their companies.
5. Being multilingual enhances your communication with your colleagues and co-workers.

There may be many more reasons and benefits of being multilingual and exploring other cultures, this could also be done as a hobby for seeking pleasure or to unite with people from different backgrounds professionally.

Difference between knowing and using different languages

After understanding the difference between polyglot and a linguist and illustrating the two important classifications of linguistic, it is important to know that there is a difference between knowing a language and using it.

Thus, language and communication are different from each other. They are complementary to each other, though, they should not be considered to be the same terms.

As per Collins Dictionary, “language is a communication system made up of a group of written and sound symbols that people of a region or country use for writing or talking.”

When we are learning something be it the language or anything, we are at the stage of gaining knowledge, do that we can use it in future. Learning boosts our confidence in the field.

Now, knowing a language can be further classified as:

- Language Acquisition
- Language Learning

Language acquisition need not require a particular space or school like area.

It can be acquired simply exposing ourselves into a certain environment of existing people with different communities for a certain minimum period of time. This particular way learning works best for a child that gets used to with the environment at very early age. He easily picks his native language just by being around other people including his families.

Whereas, language learning is a bit slower process than language acquisition. The former is actually a systematic way of knowing a language, which is followed by most of the people who try to learn a different language. Now, this do require a perfect space and area for its systematic learning.

Language acquisition is more a practical way of knowing a language because, learners learn by paying proper attention to the happenings in their society. Thus, language learning is more a theoretical knowledge of a language.

Besides all of these, using a language can be considered as an application, either of language acquisition or language learning. We can communicate with people of other communities only if we know their language. Hence, knowing a language can be considered as the backbone of communication.

Linguistic diversity

India is a vast country with high degree of linguistic diversity along with diversity in communities, religions, ethnic groups, etc. People with different dialects staying together on a single land is a great boon to us. There has been strong potency of unification, whose result is right in front of us. Social interaction with different linguistic groups over the centuries has resulted in such a strong bond formation wherein Sanskrit played the major role followed by Persian and English which keeps people connected throughout the country.

As accrued by some of the scholars, the total number of language and dialect in the country is numerous. Out of these numerous languages, 22 are recognised as national languages of the country as they are included in the eight schedules of the constitution.

These languages are: Hindi, Bengali, Assamese, Kannada, Sanskrit, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Urdu, Konkani, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Manipuri, Nepali, Punjabi and Gujarati, Maithili, Bodo, Dogri, Santhali. Hindi is the official language of India and it is understood by the largest number of people in the country.

Other side of Linguistic Diversity

Being proud to be a citizen of a very vast country with linguistic diversity, we should not forget the other side of this characteristic. There are challenges that our states have to face, that includes regionalism. This is very obvious that conflict has to be present wherever diversification exists. Same thing happens with our country too. Let's consider the case of South India, the people there have always been the opponent of Hindi language. Due to this type of confictions, Indian states' attitudes and sentiments differ from each other.

Conclusion

Once students, job seekers, workers, businessmen are apprised the reality of being multilingualism, the respect of languages will automatically increase. Nowadays, it has been observed that students do not prefer doing classes of any foreign language. Most of them do not get the opportunity, whereas if some of them gets, they tend to escape and avoid them. There can be two reasons behind this, one, they may not know the benefit of the classes or another, they may find it boring. Hence, the strategy or the technique should be changed. Today's generation is mostly equipped with smart technology; therefore, students might not adjust with the old traditional teaching especially when it is the case of a language class. On this account, some steps should be taken for improving this, because at the end of the day, this will benefit us only.

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