

LANGUAGE IS PRIMARILY A HABIT FORMATION

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ABSTRACT: Language is the medium by which thoughts are conveyed from one person to another, accordingly all words or combinations of words used orally or by writing must be considered as coming within the scope of language. It is the mirror of thought and both reflector and reflected or conventional. In addition, language is more than the apparently simply stream of sound that flows from the tongue of the native speaker, it is more than the native speakers think it is. As to habits, the complex process of communication through language as we know it is made possible by the system of habits which operates largely without our awareness. These habits are deeply set in the nervous system of the individual and in his/her muscular, intellectual and emotional process. To change any part of the system of habits is a major undertaking. To set up a parallel system in learning a foreign language is an equally formidable task. He/She might as well learn second language through the language such as practising a lot of sentence structures, reading essays, short stories and novels. It is only when he/she has the habit of practising more sentence structures and reading books will he/she be able to good at language. So the more he/she practices the sentence structures and read books the better. In these circumstances, it is high time he/she started practising sentence structures and reading books.

‘To paint is to train the finger,

To speak the tongue’.

-Avvaiyar, a 15th century Tamil poetess.

INDEX TERMS- Language, habit, second language, sentence structure, reading books.

I.HABIT

Good or bad, right or wrong, accurate or inaccurate, habits die hard. The most plastic the mind is the easier it is to form them. As the bend in the twig decides the shape of a tree, so does the elementary training of the student in his linguistic performance. The habits of human hands, in coordination with mind, get manifested not only in construction but also destruction; so do those of the tongue not only in unacceptable utterances. As the hands systematically trained in sculpture make statues, so do the tongues in language make speech forms. creative application of training can make the former works of art and the latter works of literature. Assimilation leads to application and application results in creativity. What follows from this is that assimilation is primary, and when is at its best, there is creativity.

The habit formation which makes assimilation of mother tongue a matter of acquisition reduces the foreign language to a matter of learning. It serves as help in acquiring the maternal language, but as hindrance to learn a foreign language in most situation. There will be a constant conflict between the language habit which the learners are acquiring the foreign language and the own language habits of their mother tongue. When learners are placed in this short of linguistic predicament, one cannot expect them to suppress abandon completely these old language habits. Because, the learning of foreign language their native country. Further, a function may be expressed in one language by means of a definite grammatical category, in the other language by means of functional words or lexical modification.

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II. LANGUAGE

Language is expression of personality in words, whether written or spoken. It is the universal medium alike for conveying the common facts and feeling of everyday life and the philosophers searching for truth, all that lies between. Like any other way of expressing the human mind, it must, by the very nature of its being, be both accurate incomplete: and for this reason some modern philosophers have doubted its validity or usefulness for the attempt to convey any kind of truth other than that which pertains material things. Yet thinkers as well as poets have always assumed that language can be the barer of all kinds of truth and the images of the every short of reality; nor can mathematical or other scientific symbols take the place of language among any but a highly technical group of specialist: and even these will probably only manage to substitute one unfamiliar and equally inaccurate series of science for the short comings of that most intimately known and felt complex of verbal signs which is language. It will be taken for granted, therefore, in what follows that language as defined above is the normal, natural enduring method of expressing the human mind which is the nearest universal.

III. LANGUAGE THROUGH HABITS

Language can be learnt through habits. He/she should have the habit of practicing lot of sentence structures and read books such as essays, short stories, novels. Because of these habits, language become easier to his/her. Both the habits are best and easiest method to learn the target language. It is only when he/she learn many sentence structures will he/she able to be fluent in the second language. Hence, he/she should learn lot of sentence structures to develop his\her communication skills. Besides, he/she supposed read many books with the aim of developing his/her written communication.

Two methods can be used to teach sentences structures. Firstly, teaching the sentence by creating conversation. Secondly, by using substitution table. For example, in English there are six sentences to seek and give informal permission. Six sentences are mentioned below.

1. If you don't mind, I would like to use your pen.
2. With your permission I would like to use your pen.
3. Is it alright if I use your pen?
4. Do you mind if I use your pen?
5. Would you mind if I used your pen?
6. Do you mind my using your pen?

Sentence number one is taken as example to create a conversation.

IV. CONVERSATION

Dharun: Arun, how is the word battalion spelt.

Arun: If I knew the spelling I would tell you.

Dharun: It's not silly of a student of literature to tell like that.

Arun: you know pretty well that I am continuing with my UG course because to put a degree after the name.

Dharun: So am I with M. Phil, Political Science. Does anyone have a dictionary?

Arun: I think the student sitting near the door has one. Please ask her.

Dharun: Excuse me. **If you don't mind, I would like to use your dictionary for a while.**

Student: By all means

Dharun: Thank you. It's very kind of you to let me use your dictionary.

Substitution table

If you don't mind I would like to use your	Pen
With your permission I would like to use your	Pencil
Is it alright if I use your	Calculator
Do you mind if I use your	Cell phone
Would you if I used your	Laptop
Do you mind my using your	Notes

V. LANGUAGE THROUGH READING HABIT

Great leaders such as Jawaharhal Nehru, C.N. Annadurai were extremely good at reading because of their reading habit they gained knowledge and enriched their language. Reading is the only company which does not frustrate you at any point of time. Human happiness is always conditional. But the happiness derived through the company of reading is unconditional and everlasting. You should develop the habit of reading to be independent and meaningful in life. An incident which was happened in Annadurai's life is worth recording. Anna Durai was a man known for voracious reading. Once he was invited for a talk at a famous university in the USA. He was to deliver a talk on economics. His talk was telling so much so the learned audience got fully inspired because he spoke like a book. Surprised by the amount of knowledge Anna Durai possessed, he asked him. 'Sir Do you read voraciously? In all humility Anna Durai replied: I don't know whether I am a voracious reader or not. But I can assure you of one thing. Even if all the books on economics were perished to ash I would be able to rewrite 90 percent of the books from my memory. This shows incident insists the importance of reading habit. So, reading books is a very good habit.

Reading habit plays a major in learning the second language because while reading short stories or novels reader may come across some difficult words and different type of sentence structures. Reader must refer the dictionary to know the meaning of the difficult of words. After knowing the meaning of the word reader should generate sentences by using the words so as to improve the vocabulary. Furthermore, the reader has to generate lot of sentences if the reader finds any complicated sentences from the text. For example, the short story **The Man with the Scar by William Somerset Maugham** is taken as example for the purpose of learning the language through reading habit.

Here are the first few lines from the short story

It was on account of the scar that first I noticed him, for it ran, broad and red, in a crescent from his temple to his chin. It must have been due to a **formidable** wound and I wondered whether this had been caused by a sabre or by a fragment of shell. It was unexpected on that round, fat and good humoured face. He had small and undistinguished features, and his expression was artless. He was a powerful man of more than common height. I never saw him in anything but a very shabby grey suit, a khaki shirt and a **battered** hat.

From the above paragraph two difficult words and one complicated sentence is chosen. The words are Formidable and Battered. Meanings of the words are given below.

VI. VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT

1. **Formidable** as an adjective to qualify person or things.

2. **Battered** as an adjective to describe things damaged due to age, over use or accidents

Sentences using the words **formidable** and **battered**

Great Wall of China is the longest wall on this earth. So, we call it is a **formidable** wall

A **battered** a car

A **battered** a hat

Grammatical competency: Reason followed by the result.

'It was on account of the scar that I first noticed him'.

The above line refers that it was because of scar the author noticed him. This line can be written in three ways by changing the phrase. Different sentences are mentioned in the below table.

It was on account of	Scar that I first noticed him.
It was because of	
It was due to	
It was owing to	

With the use of the above phrases reader has to generate many sentences. For example,

1. It was on account of fever that I didn't attend the class yesterday.
2. It was because of fever that I didn't attend the class yesterday.
3. It was due to fever that I didn't attend the class yesterday.
4. It was owing to fever that I didn't attend the class yesterday.

The above given method is the best method to enrich our language through reading habit. If the reader kept on practicing in this method it goes without saying that the reader will be good at the second language.

If the language is learnt through habits then it is impossible even for the learner to erase from the memory. Learner should speak many sentences and so read many books and later the learner should bring these two methods in to their habits. Then it goes without saying that language is a habit formation.

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