

# General Factors in Acquisition of a Second Language

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**Abstract**— This research paper focuses on the factors that influence the acquisition of a second language. The research shows that motivation, self-esteem as well as age are the main factors that influence the second language acquisition.



## 1 INTRODUCTION

Learning a second language (or L2) is dependent upon many variables from the individual's personality to the whether the second language is within the same language family to their own (Shoebottom, "The Factors that Influence the Acquisition of a Second Language"). For example, a child from Finland would be more likely to learn English as a second language more rapidly than one from China.

### 2 motivation

Both intrinsic (inner) and extrinsic (outer) motivation especially factors into it. Those who enjoy it and take on the can't-live-without-it attitude are likely to learn it faster than those who are more perfectionistic. A couple of the most common extrinsic factors are if they want to take a job or career within that country or if they're in a romantic relationship with someone who's a citizen of that country and doesn't speak their native language (Shoebottom, "The Factors that Influence the Acquisition of a Second Language"). A very significant part of it also depends on how well they're able to empathize or embrace the new cultural experiences as their own (Bilokcuoglu, "Factors Affecting Second Language Acquisition"). For example, those who make the effort to live an active lifestyle, attend church or join community organizations are more likely to rapidly immerse themselves in a new language than those who are more reclusive.

### 3 Self-esteem

Self-esteem factors very heavily in the motivation to learn a second language (Bilokcuoglu, "Factors Affecting Second Language Acquisition"). Those with low self-esteem are less

likely to progress rapidly due to a mental block of perfectionism that they inadvertently build for themselves. Those who are more introverted are also less likely to take advantage of opportunities to use their new language than extroverts (Shoebottom, "The Factors that Influence the Acquisition of a Second Language"). Those who are more extroverted tend to have higher self-esteem and not get as anxious anticipating the outcome of the risks that they take (Bilokcuoglu, "Factors Affecting Second Language Acquisition").

### 4 Age

Age also tends to make a significant difference in how rapidly the learner progresses in their immersion of the second language. Children who are already have a strong skill in their own language seem to be the most likely to be rapidly immersed in another language (Shoebottom, "The Factors that Influence the Acquisition of a Second Language"). Adults are capable of achieving the same but tend to be slower at picking up on the inflection and equivalent pronunciation (Shoebottom, "The Factors that Influence the Acquisition of a Second Language").

### 5 conclusion

For students attending elementary school through college, it is very important that they receive assistance in learning the new language within their curriculum (Shoebottom, "The Factors that Influence the Acquisition of a Second Language"). Otherwise, they will only go through school thoroughly confused and probably very disoriented. As a result, it's best if they can "earn" their way up to more and more of the mainstream edu-

cation and even society once they have mastered certain levels of the second language (Shoebottom, "The Factors that Influence the Acquisition of a Second Language").

There's no doubt that learning another language secondhand can be quite challenging, especially if it's in a completely different family from their own native language. However, it is far from impossible and mostly depends on the level of intrinsic and extrinsic motivation on the part of the learner.

## References

- [1] Bilokcuoglu, H. *Factors Affecting Second Language Acquisition*. LinkedIn Corporation, LinkedIn Corporation, 2016. Web. 6 Apr. 2016.
- [2] Shoebottom, Paul. *The Factors that Influence English as a Second Language*. Frankfurt International School, Frankfurt International School, 1996-2016. Web. 6 Apr. 2016

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