Foreign language Learning at Primary Level

Ani Setyaningsih
anisetyaningsih@uny.ac.id
English

• international language

• foreign language
Indonesia

→ 1994’s Primary School Curriculum

→ English

→ Local Content

→ 2013 Curriculum
How Children Learn Languages
STAGES IN CHILDREN’S LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

• 0-3 months (cries differentiate)
• 4-6 months (babbling)
• 7-12 months (first words)
• 1-2 years (two words)
• 2-3 years (three & more words)
• 3-4 years (simple sentences -not fluent)
• 4-5 years (clear and fluent sentences)

11/12/2015
Different views of L1 and L2 Acquisition

1. Behaviorism
2. Nativism
3. Cognitive-Developmental
4. Social interactionism
Behaviorism

- Skinner → Verbal Behaviour
- Believe that imitation and practice or habit formation are key processes in language development
- Stresses the importance of positive reinforcement in L1 and L2 acquisition where correct learning behaviour is rewarded by praise
Nativism/ Innatism

- Chomsky \(\rightarrow\) Language Acquisition Device
- LAD allows infants to process all the language they hear and produce their own meaningful utterances
- Child’s creativity is an important part of L1, a factor which has been carried over to L2 learning
Cognitive-developmental

- Language development was an aspect of general cognitive growth.
- Lenneberg → the critical Period Hypothesis (CPH) → there is a specific and limited time for language acquisition.
Social-interactionist

• Emphasises the importance of human social interactions and the role of adult and child relationships in learning.
• The way of language is modified to suit the level of the learner → motherese
• Bruner → Language Acquisition Device (LAD) + Language Acquisition Support System (LASS)
Cont.

• Vygotsky → Zona Proximal Development (ZPD) → children can do much more with the help of someone more knowledgeable or skilled than themselves than they can do alone.

• The importance of social interaction and learning from working with others.
Does younger mean better?

- Scovel (1988) → language is best learned during the early years of childhood
- Ellis (1994) → the critical age for pronunciation is six years
- Lightbown and Spada (1993) → learners who start later (10 / 12) catch up quicker
- Conclusion: an early start is influenced by many factors (motivation, confidence, different language aptitude and personality)
Young Learners Characteristics

- Have a lot of physical energy and often need to be physically active
- Have a wide range of emotional needs
- Are emotionally excitable
- Are developing conceptually and are at the early stage of their schooling
- Are still developing literacy in their first language
Cont.

• Learn more slowly and forget things quickly
• Tend to be self-oriented and preoccupied with their own world
• Get bored easily
• Are excellent mimics
• Can concentrate for a surprisingly long time if they are interested
• Can be easily distracted but also very enthusiastic
Children Development

- Social/ emotional development
- Cognitive development
- Physical development
- Moral development
Attributes of Social/Emotional Development

• Is usually in a positive mood
• is usually excessively dependent on adults
• Usually copes with rebuffs adequately
• Has positive relationship with one or two peers
• Displays the capacity for humor
• Does not seem to be acutely alone
• Approaches others positively
Attributes of Cognitive Development

- Can follow one-step instruction
- Can follow two-step instructions
- Can follow three-step instructions
- Understands the concept of symbols
- Likes being read to and reading
Attributes of Physical Development

• Demonstrates muscle control when using scissors, crayons, pencils, spoons, forks
• Demonstrates the muscle coordination necessary to throw or kick a ball, catch a ball
• Is able to skip, hop, run, jump, and dance or move to music
Learning Styles

- Berman (1998)
  1. Visual learning style → sight
  2. Auditory learning style → hearing
  3. Kinesthetic learning style → movement
Multiple Intelligences

- Linguistic intelligence
- Logical-mathematical intelligence
- Spatial intelligence
- Kinesthetic intelligence
- Musical intelligence
- Interpersonal intelligence
- Intrapersonal intelligence
- Naturalist intelligence
Multiple Intelligences

- Naturalist
- Musical
- Bodily-Kinesthetic
- Spatial
- Logical-Mathematical
- Linguistic
- Interpersonal
- Intrapersonal