

LANGUAGE ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

1.] Write briefly first language acquisition and second language acquisition.

LANGUAGE:

It is the process by which humans acquire the capacity to perceive and comprehend language as well as to produce and use words and sentences to communicate.

FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION:

* The term "first language Acquisition" refers to children's natural acquisition of the language or languages they hear from birth.

* First language acquisition is a rapid process.

Stages of First Language Acquisition:

(a) Pre-talking stage (0-6) Months:

During the first two months of life, infant vocalizations are mainly expressions of discomfort along with sounds produced as a by-product of reflexive actions such as coughing, sucking,

Swallowing and burping.

(b) Babbling (6-8) Months:

During the period from 4-7 months infants typically engage in vocal play, manipulating pitch, loudness and also manipulating tract closures to produce fiction noises, nasal muzzles.

(c) Holophrastic / one word (9-13) months:

About ten months, infants starts to utter recognizable words. Some word like vocalizations that do not correlate well with words in the local language may consistently be used by particular infants to express particular emotional status.

Two Words (18-24 months):

At 18 months, 11% of parents say that their child is often combining words and 46% say that he or she is sometimes combining words. By 25 months, almost all children are sometimes combining words, but about 20% are still not doing so often.

(d) Telegraphic Stage / Early Multiword Stage

(24-30) Months:

The child is still mostly understood by his/her parents and caregivers. "Telegraphic" sentence structures are lexical rather than functional or grammatical morphemes.

(e) Later Multiword Stage (-to infinity) (30+ Months):

By age 5, sentences average 4.6 words per sentence and vocabulary increases by about 20 words per day. By age 6, the child knows about 13,000 words. By age 8, the child knows about 28,300 words.

SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION:

It assumes knowledge in a first language and encompasses the process an individual goes through as he or she learns the elements of a new language such as Vocabulary, Phonological Components, grammatical structures and writing systems.

Stage of Language Acquisition

(a) Pre - Production Stage:

This is called "the silent period" when the student takes in the new language but does not speak it.

(b) Early Production Stage:

The individual begins to speak using short words and sentences, but the emphasis is still on listening and absorbing the new language.

(c) Speech Emergent:

Speech becomes more frequent, words and sentences are longer, but the individual still relies heavily on content clues and familiar topics.

(d) Beginning Fluency:

Speech is fairly fluent in social situations with minimal errors. New contents and academic language are challenging and the individual will struggle to express themselves due to gaps in vocabulary and appropriate phrases.

(e) Intermediate fluency:

The individual is able to speak almost fluently in new situations. There will be gaps in vocabulary knowledge and some unknown expressions. There are

very few errors.

(b) Advance fluency:

The individual communicates fluently in all contents and successfully in new concepts and when exposed to new academic information.

2.] Explain the importance of Bilingual method of Teaching:

Bilingual Method:

- * The use of both English and the mother Tongue is known as bilingual method.
- * The mother tongue is used only by the teacher to explain difficult concepts.

Merits:

- * Bi-lingual method ensures that fluency and accuracy is learnt through lot of pattern practice.
- * This method is suitable for both rural and urban schools.
- * Use of Mother tongue minimally helps in the full understanding of the concept and grammar.

De-merits:

- * This method is useful at lower stages of education.
- * If a teacher fails in handling this method it will degenerate translation method.
- * The teacher's teaching will not improve.