

# *The Application of Language Acquisition in English Teaching*

Hairong Liang<sup>1,a,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*School of English Education, Quanzhou Normal University, Quanzhou, 362000, China*  
*a. 3302710159@qq.com*

*\*corresponding author*

**Abstract:** With the continuous informatization and internationalization of modern society, English has received more and more attention. No matter in primary school, junior high school, senior high school or college English education, people attach great importance to the cultivation of students' comprehensive English ability and comprehensive level, and believe that English teaching is an indispensable factor in the development of modern education. From a macro point of view, English is a special subject, which is widely used in modern society, and many fields involve the use of English, so it is crucial to strengthen English education for students. To promote the English education of students in different stages of our country, appropriate teaching methods and teaching systems should be adopted. But there will be some problems in the meantime. For students at any stage, it is not enough to only master the mother tongue, which does not allow students to better develop in the fierce social competition in the future. In order to better enhance their own competitiveness, they should also adopt the correct teaching methods and teaching methods for students of different ages.

**Keywords:** Language Acquisition, Second Language Acquisition, Language Teaching, English Teaching.

## 1. Introduction

Language acquisition is an important part of human cognitive development and social interaction, and it involves how children master the complex structure, rules, and usage of language from scratch. Since the beginning of the 20th century, linguists, psychologists and educators have begun to conduct in-depth research on the process and mechanism of language acquisition. With the advancement of technology and the development of interdisciplinary research, our understanding of language acquisition continues to deepen. At present, remarkable progress has been made in the study of language acquisition. Using experiment, observation and investigation, researchers describe and analyze the various stages of language acquisition in detail. In particular, driven by emerging fields such as neurolinguistics and computational linguistics, we are beginning to be able to explore more deeply the relationship between language acquisition and brain development, cognitive processes, and the application of language acquisition to computer simulation and artificial intelligence. Although language acquisition research has made rich achievements, there are still many research gaps. For example, the mechanism by which mother tongue influences second language acquisition is not fully understood; There is also a lack of in-depth research on the language acquisition of special

children (such as autism, language retardation, etc.). In addition, with the acceleration of globalization, the problem of language acquisition in a multilingual environment needs to be further explored.

The purpose of this study is to investigate the process and influencing factors of language acquisition in children under multilingual environment. Specifically, this paper will focus on the following questions: What is the order and speed of language acquisition in children in multilingual environments? How does the interaction between different languages affect language acquisition? How do external factors such as family, school and social environment affect children's language acquisition?

This study will adopt a combination of qualitative and quantitative research methods. First, this study will collect relevant data through questionnaires and interviews to understand the language acquisition of children in a multilingual environment. Secondly, this study will use statistical analysis methods to process and analyze the collected data in order to reveal the rules and influencing factors in the process of language acquisition. Finally, this study will combine literature review and case study methods to discuss and explain the research results in depth.

This research has important theoretical significance and practical value. At the theoretical level, through the study of children's language acquisition in multilingual environments, this study can further enrich and develop the theory of language acquisition, and provide new perspectives and evidence to explain the nature and mechanism of human language. At the practical level, this study helps us to better understand the influence of multilingual environments on children's language development and provides a scientific basis and guidance for family education and school education. In addition, the results of the study can provide policymakers with decision-making references and promote the formulation and implementation of multilingual education policies.

In conclusion, the study of language acquisition not only helps to deeply understand the mystery of human language, but also provides useful enlightenment and guidance for education and social practice. In the future, with the continuous innovation of research methods and the in-depth development of interdisciplinary research, we have reason to believe that language acquisition research will achieve more fruitful results.

Language acquisition. The symmetry of "language learning". It refers to people's natural, subconscious and gradual mastery of a language in a speech environment [1].

Language acquisition is important, it can impact on individuals, society and culture.

This essay will introduce three aspects: The first is about the chronology of language acquisition. The second is about the process of language acquisition. Third, is what should we pay attention to in the process of language acquisition [2].

## **2. The Understanding of Language Acquisition**

In the process of language acquisition, many linguists around the world have contributed their unique views. Chomsky proposed that language is essentially the product of the inner activities of the speaker, and newborns are born with the potential to learn language, so we do not need to over-correct the language mistakes they learn at the beginning, because these mistakes will be corrected naturally as they grow older and practice daily life.

At the same time, Krashen emphasized that the core of language acquisition is an internalization process, which means that learners need to internalize the grammatical and pragmatic rules of a language and make them an indispensable part of the brain mechanism. He further pointed out that foreign language learning is significantly influenced by two kinds of environments: one is the natural environment, where learners unconsciously absorb language knowledge through natural contact with the language; The second is the classroom environment, learners in the formal classroom environment, through conscious learning process to master the language.

Based on the above views, it is not difficult to find that both native language and foreign language are acquired through a certain learning process, but the learning environment and specific ways are different.

### **3. The Chronology of Language Acquisition**

The fetus in the mother begins to receive verbal stimulation, especially the mother's voice and heartbeat, at the age of 4 months. The period from birth to about 2 years of age is a critical period for language acquisition. At this stage, children begin to imitate the pronunciation of their parents and others. They can understand and duplicate gestures and movements to show comprehension [3] and learn vocabulary and grammar rules. In this stage, it's important to focus on cultivating children's sense of language, that is, language perception ability [3]. From ages 2 to 6, children begin to understand and use more complex language structures, including sentences, tenses, voices, etc. They use short phrases and simple sentences to communicate. What's more, they are more eager to work with peers [4].

At this stage, the child's cognitive ability should be improved, and the ability to distinguish sounds should be gradually cultivated to establish the child's phonetic awareness. From the age of 6 to adolescence, children further improve their language skills and begin to use more complex language to express their thoughts and feelings. During this period, people continue to learn new vocabulary and language rules, adapt to new social situations, and constantly improve their language skills. They ask for clarification and ask content-based questions at this stage.

In a word, Infancy is the key period of language acquisition, infancy is the important period of language acquisition, and adolescence and adulthood are the consolidation and strengthening stages of language acquisition [5].

When children develop their first language, it is an automatic, subconscious process. Children usually don't need explicit guidance to develop their first language. Here, the process of "language acquisition" is taking place. This also applies to bilingual or multilingual children, who learn more than language from birth [6].

In contrast, if a child is a sequential bilingual, they will require explicit teaching to support their second language's development. This process is known as "language learning" [6].

Through continuous learning and use, people can gradually master and improve their language ability, so as to better express their thoughts and emotions. People are not born to speak but need to learn and acquire language as they grow up. Because the process of language acquisition is important so we should pay attention to the process.

### **4. The Focus in the Process of Language Acquisition**

For an English teacher, it is important to learn how to teach students English well. For Chinese students, English is a second language acquisition. First, they need to know the differences between Chinese and English. Such as their letters are pronounced differently. Second, Chinese is made up of strokes, while English words are made up of letters. Structurally, English is a subject-first language with a strong emphasis on sentence structure. But Chinese is a topic-first language, with more emphasis on the situation and the transmission of information through the establishment of the situation. And in terms of expression, Chinese pay more attention to circuitous and gradual, beginning and ending, often stating the reason first and then concluding, while English is more straightforward. Based on the differences between Chinese and English, teachers use Language acquisition to teach students.

It's important to create a good language environment:

Language acquisition theory suggests that learners need to be exposed to and learn a language in a real context. What's more, providing rich language stimulation for children, including communication with children helps children build a language foundation at an early stage.

Therefore, in English teaching, people can try their best to create a natural English environment, such as providing English news and playing English movies and music, so that students have the opportunity to learn and understand English in a real context.

Stimulate learning motivation, give patience, and support and encourage children to express themselves:

Language acquisition theory points out that learning motivation is a key factor in successful language acquisition. Encouraging children and giving them the patience to express their needs and feelings verbally can help children improve their language skills, reduce their stress and improve their self-confidence [7].

Therefore, in English teaching, this paper will stimulate students' learning interest and motivation by rewarding, encouraging, guiding and other ways to improve their learning enthusiasm and participation. In the process of learning the language, language acquisition theory emphasizes the communicative nature of language and pays attention to correcting the child's grammar and pronunciation mistakes.

Therefore, we should pay attention to helping the child form correct language habits and the cultivation of students' language communication ability in English teaching, including listening, speaking, reading, writing and translating skills. English corner, role play, speech and other activities are organized to improve students' oral expression ability, and enhance their self-confidence and English application ability [8].

Language acquisition theory holds that independent learning ability is the key to successful language acquisition. Therefore, this paper focuses on cultivating students' autonomous learning ability in English teaching. For example, some teacher encourages children to read and learn independently, help them build a reading habit and interest and also help students master learning strategies and improve their learning efficiency by providing learning resources, making learning plans and organizing cooperative learning.

Teach children to understand and respect different cultures and languages, and help them understand language and cultural differences around the world. This helps children develop an open and inclusive way of thinking.

With the rapid development of modern information technology, teaching technology has also ushered in remarkable progress. The extensive application of modern teaching technology has brought a variety of teaching resources to English classrooms, which greatly support teachers to effectively use them to carry out teaching work, and thus significantly improve the quality of teaching.[9] In the actual English teaching process, teachers can use modern teaching technology to assist teaching, and skillfully use multimedia means to create a vivid teaching situation, in order to stimulate students' learning interest and enthusiasm. At the same time, when using multimedia in classroom teaching, teachers should give full play to its guiding and guiding role to ensure that students can better play their subjective initiative in this process, and realize the positive change of education subject from teachers to students.[10]

## 5. Conclusion

There are various factors influencing children's language acquisition in a multilingual environment. The order and speed of children's language acquisition are different in different language environments, and the interaction between different languages will affect language acquisition. Similarly, external factors such as family, school and social environment will also affect children's language acquisition to varying degrees.

## References

- [1] Peng C. *The impact of Second Language Acquisition on English teaching and Suggestions for Optimization* [J]. *Modern English*, 2023, (11): 46-49.
- [2] Xu Minzhi. *A study on Middle School English Teaching Strategies based on Language Acquisition Theory* [J]. *Teaching Reference for Middle Schools*, 2021, (33): 34-35.
- [3] Ke Mufu. *On the linguistic basis of early intervention for children with hearing disability and its countermeasures*. Diss. Jilin University, 2004.
- [4] Jiang Xiangqi, and Yang Caixia. "An attempt to train children's oral expression ability." *Mental Health Education in primary and secondary schools* 08S(2006):2.
- [5] Gao Feng. "On the difference between children and adults in the process of language acquisition." *Journal of Jiamusi Institute of Education* 12(2012):233-234.
- [6] Xiaoxi. "Language acquisition theory: From infancy to adulthood language development". Accessed 14 May 2023.
- [7] Victoria. "Understand the five stages of language acquisition, and really understand why it is better to learn a foreign language as early as possible". Accessed 6 March 2020.
- [8] Zhang Y. *The application of second Language Acquisition in foreign language teaching* [J]. *Examination Weekly*, 2009, (49): 81-82.
- [9] Wang Jun. *Application of the Rule of Language Acquisition in Foreign Language teaching* [J]. *The Road to Success*, 2008, (32): 53.
- [10] Wang Wanxi. *The application of Language Acquisition Theory in junior middle School English teaching* [J]. *Examination Weekly*, 2008, (05): 88-89.