

Learning a Language

I. Introduction

1. Attention Getter: *Buenos dias. Privet. Ohayou gozaimasu. Ni hao.* These are some ways to greet our friends in various different ways. With the US becoming more and more diverse each growing day, it becomes even more important for Americans to know how to speak in more methods.
2. Relate topic to Self: I am what you consider a polyglot. As a Korean person, I grew up speaking English as a second language. It was not until high school when my comprehension of the language became as advanced as it is today. Over the course of my years, School has taught me Spanish, Latin, and Chinese. I have self-taught Japanese and a bit of Russian and some Arabic. Do I remember all these languages I have learned? Of course not, but they have taught me one very valuable thing: and it is the power of what having a mere comprehension of a language can do to your brain.
3. Reason to Listen: Have you ever wanted to express something, yet somehow the words just could not come out? Or you wanted to be able to relate to something but just couldn't comprehend what exactly was going on? What if you just wanted more friends? How about a better job opportunity? Or maybe increased pay with your current job? (Devaloes 2014) What if you just wanted to impress someone? These are things you are already capable of doing, and you are most likely already gifted with the ability to learn more languages, so listen on.
4. Thesis: I believe in the importance of learning more languages. And here's why and the benefits of speaking more than just English.

Transition: Let's dive right into what language does for your brain.

II. Problem

1. Claim: What if I told you that it is possible to increase your IQ? Now, what if I said you do not have to study extremely hard and instead just have fun, while passively get smarter than ever before? Got your attention? I'll teach you how easy it is to learn a language.
 1. Data: But first, research has shown that knowing languages that are vastly different to your culture greatly improves your quality of life. This includes your day-to-day mental capacities, ability to remember smaller details for longer periods of time, allows you to think *miles* away from outside the limit of your comfort zone (Christopher 2014).
 2. Warrant: Life constantly has us thinking on our feet. As humans, we are gifted with the ability to think deeply, and language allows the potential of our brain to explode exponentially. With brighter people like us, we can become the impact that the world needs. All we need to do is think better.
- B. Claim: The world constantly requires us to be problem solvers, especially for us as students, and for all of us who work hard at our jobs. One of the biggest problems, however, is the barrier created out of distrust and fear amongst each other because of the

natural human tendency to become cautious of anything foreign (Latimer 2017). By learning foreign languages, we expand our view of the world, which will make us become more tolerant and flexible to unknown experiences.

1. Data: Speaking another language gives us exposure to other cultures, and fosters an appreciation towards the arts, history, and people associated with that language. This means we understand and can have greater “tolerance, empathy, and acceptance” of others. Studies have shown that children who have studied multiple languages grow up with positive implications. (Top Ten)
2. Data: Even in this classroom, we have people who like anime from Japan, bilingual classmates, people who work at Chick-fil-A where they speak in a fun way to greet their customers. This is all part of language which connects us all together.
3. Warrant: Therefore, we are all already gifted with learning more languages. Thus, we should constantly strive to communicate in more ways because we are already capable of doing so. Acquiring language, at first, can seem intimidating but why are we intimidated by something we are already good at?

Transition: That is why here are some solutions I propose each one of you start doing today.

III. Solution

1. State the Solution: Start by incorporating a language you want to learn into a hobby or fun activity.
2. Explain the Solution: Many of us here like to either play video games, watch movies, or play sports. Some of us may encounter teammates who speak a different language, or we see actors on a screen speak a language that we do not understand. What if *you* were the person surrounded by your group of friends after a movie who can say with confidence “Yeah, I understood what he just said”? Or what if *you* were the person to speak to that person on your team only to find out that they become your best friend and you find out that they are the most awesome person you have ever met?
3. Overcoming Possible Objections: Of course, there are always difficulty in trying to incorporate learning into a favorite pastime. Adding on something seemingly unnecessary may add to the difficulty and make us shy away from what we used to love.
4. Provide an alternative to behavior: That is why it is extremely important to have fun. Studies have constantly proved over and over that when we have fun, our minds open up and we soak in everything around us. We don’t even need to rely on study, because I am sure you can all remember the time when you had so much fun, you can remember every small detail of that day. By having fun with language, there will be not enough time to feel threatened by the premise of something foreign. That is why you can learn language from watching anime, learn important life skills from playing video games – contrary to popular belief.

IV. Conclusion

1. Restate Thesis: I have proved to you that you are more than capable of learning a new language starting right now this instant. You may all know Nelson Mandela. He said the following:
2. Reason to Remember: “If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his mother tongue, that goes to his heart.” (Nelson Mandela)
3. Kató Lomb – distinguished Hungarian interpreter and translator, also said the following which I would like you all to reflect on
"I like to say that we should study languages because languages are the only thing worth knowing even poorly. If someone knows how to play the violin only a little, he will find that the painful minutes he causes are not in proportion to the possible joy he gains from his playing. The amateur chemist spares himself ridicule only as long as he doesn't aspire for professional laurels. The man somewhat skilled in medicine will not go far, and if he tries to trade on his knowledge without certification, he will be locked up as a quack doctor."

Solely in the world of languages is the amateur of value. Well-intentioned sentences full of mistakes can still build bridges between people. Asking in broken Italian which train we are supposed to board at the Venice railway station is far from useless. Indeed, it is better to do that than to remain uncertain and silent and end up back in Budapest rather than in Milan."
(Kató Lomb – Hungarian interpreter and translator)

E. Final Thought: It's time to say goodbye. Next time we come together as friends from different backgrounds, what will we do? What will we say? Let us not allow language to become a barrier between us and instead allow us to grow stronger as people. *Ciao*.

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