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Why You Should Start Learning A New Language

A Czech sociologist and philosopher named Tomás Garrigue Masaryk famously stated, "As many languages you know, as many times you are a human being." It is hard to contest the profundity of these remarks. Every language is more than simply a set of grammar rules and constructs that help you comprehend others; it is also a reflection of the mentality and way of thinking of the people who speak it. The best way to learn a language is to study its home country's culture and history, delve into its current environment, and trace its development in addition to learning a plethora of new terms. Believe it or not, your parents and environment, as well as your native language, have all influenced your personality. By understanding paradigms that are different from your own, you can broaden your perspective and become more open-minded. You will also be able to read between the lines, improving your ability to communicate with others not only in a regular—verbal—way but also in the dimension of gestures, circumlocutions, allegories, etc. The more languages you know, the more diverse and profound of a person you can become. Every time you go further into a new language, it's like adopting and integrating a new personality in your head.

Of course, learning a foreign language has more practical than intellectual justifications. People who could speak with strangers have been highly prized since antiquity. If there were no individuals with the ability to communicate with the representatives of other countries, commerce, diplomacy, and cultural exchange would be challenging or perhaps impossible. Even though there are many computer-assisted translation tools available today, the situation has not substantially altered. You will quickly see how inadequate Google Translate and other more sophisticated programs are in comparison to a professional translator or interpreter if you try communicating with a Japanese corporation just utilizing one of these tools. Given that so many businesses are now expanding internationally, there is a huge need for competent individuals who can speak at least one foreign language. You will still be highly regarded at work even if you won't be traveling often (Fluent-in-3-Months). Additionally, you will have an easier time locating a work abroad.

There are several more motivations for studying a foreign language in addition to your work. Have you ever found yourself in a scenario when you are traveling alone in a foreign country, unable to locate your accommodation after two in the morning, and absolutely speechless in the language of this nation? You try to show people your map as you walk up to them with a silly smile on your face that, while appearing friendly, is actually rather suspicious. Some people ignore you, while others nod and begin speaking quickly while pointing their fingers in all directions, but you are unable to understand them. After some searching, you locate a taxi driver who agrees to assist you; as a result, your journey takes roughly five minutes and costs $100. As strange as it may seem to someone from an English-speaking environment, the majority of the world's population does not speak English. You can find people who can communicate in English in some countries, like those in Europe, but typically, the further you travel to the South or East, the fewer English-speaking people you will encounter. Consider how wonderful it would be to visit China and engage in the following discussion:

*– Hello! Could you help me, please?*

*– Wow!*

*– What?*

*– You have good Chinese skills!*

*– Yeah, a little.*

*– I've never met a foreigner who can speak Chinese, so that's cool.*

*– I guess I just enjoy learning new languages. What kind of transportation should I use to go to this hostel (which you have marked on your map)?*

*– You don't need transportation; the hostel is only two blocks away. Simply continue down this route until you reach the intersection, turn right, and it should be there.*

*– Great! I appreciate your support.*

*– Thank you very much. Enjoy your time there.*

We assume that a visitor will speak English when they ask for directions when we are at home. However, in other countries, people are more appreciative when you try to speak their language, and you might get even more support than you are necessary. Sometimes, we cringe because of their accents or poor grammar.

Additionally, learning a foreign language can help you save a lot of money and/or time. If you're an English-speaking traveler, you have two alternatives for getting from the airport to your destination: either take the sluggish shuttle (and wait a long time for another one if you miss one for whatever reason), or take a cab, which may be very expensive. However, by striking up a conversation with someone in the airport, you can frequently discover a substitute. For instance, you can hear of a more affordable local bus or meet someone who would offer to drive you to the city for no charge or for much less than the cost of a taxi (FluentU). This works particularly effectively in developing nations when the populace is ready to make some additional money.

Not to mention the ease with which you may meet new acquaintances from abroad. Even if you are a quiet or reticent person, you must interact with others in order to enjoy your trip and support yourself while you are away from home. Additionally, the ambience of many strangers from all over the world congregated in one location when living in a hostel or guest house typically encourages and facilitates conversation. Sometimes the connections you create while traveling might develop into friendships, business contacts, or even love relationships over the course of several years. If you don't speak a foreign language, none of this is feasible (or would be considerably more difficult to do) (Lingholic).

Foreign language study is very advantageous for one's personal growth. It not only helps you comprehend various cultures and mentalities better, but it also gives you fresh perspectives and increases your open-mindedness, both of which are incredibly useful in today's society. Additionally, being able to communicate in at least one foreign language will greatly enhance your travels, enable you to establish friends overseas, and help you begin professional or personal connections. Foreign language speakers are also more highly appreciated by their employers and frequently have the opportunity to work abroad. It is undoubtedly true what Tomás Garrigue Masaryk once said: "As many languages as you speak, as many times you are a human being."

# Works Cited

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