

# HOME LANGUAGE

**Definition:-** 'A home language' is a language (or the variety of a language) that is most commonly spoken by the members of a family for everyday interactions at home. It is also called the family language or the language of the home.

## The Obstacles in promotion of Home Language in India-

1. There is a misconception that foreign languages are far superior to our home languages.
2. There is always a keen desire of the self to be associated with foreign culture.
3. There are provisions from Local Governments through privatizations, promoting the foreign language instead of home languages.
4. Centralized Examinations not handled in Home languages.
5. It is a false assumption that education being offered in the best schools can never be in-home language medium. Private Schools always aspire and propagate that a Foreign medium of education is best.
6. The books and other teaching learning material are scarcely available in the home languages.

## MULTILINGUALISM

Language acquisition is a very complex phenomenon. It is a process by which humans acquire the capacity to perceive and comprehend language. They produce and use words and sentences to communicate. Language acquisition involves structures, rules and representation.

Knowing two or more languages has become a prime need for communication among speech communities as well as individuals. Multilingualism can be defined as an occurrence where an individual speaker uses two or more languages or a community of speakers where two or more languages are used." Multilingualism arises due to the need to communicate across speech communities. Multilingualism has various advantages:

1. It gives access to knowledge of other cultures.
  2. Communication between different linguistic and cultural groups becomes easier.
  3. It increases job opportunities.
  4. A broader worldview is acquired through it.
- A multilingual person is generally referred to as a polyglot.

## MULTILINGUALISM IN INDIA

India has a rich culture and heritage, linguistic variety is a chief feature of Indian society. According to the Census (2011) of India, there are more than 122 major languages and about 1600 regional dialects.

The 8th schedule of the Indian Constitution lists 22 languages, which have been referred to as "scheduled languages." First four languages having millions of speakers are: Hindi, Bengali, Marathi and Telugu. This is a strong approval of multilingualism in India.

## TYPES OF BI- AND MULTILINGUALS

1. **BALANCED BILINGUAL:** The term balanced bilingual was first used by Lambert, Havelka and Gardner to describe individuals who are fully competent in both languages.
2. **RECEPTIVE BILINGUAL:** Receptive bilinguals are those who have the ability to understand a second language, though they are not able to speak it.
3. **DOMINANT BILINGUAL:** The term dominant bilingual refers to bilinguals who are dominant in one language. In the context of discussing dominant bilinguals, researchers will often refer to their less dominant language as the subordinate language.
4. **PASSIVE OR RECESSIVE BILINGUALS:** The term passive or recessive bilinguals refers to bilinguals who are gradually losing competence in one language, usually because of disuse.
5. **SEMILINGUALS, OR LIMITED BILINGUALS:** Semilinguals are those who have limited level of proficiency in both first and second language. The term semilingualism was first used by Hansegard.
6. **ELECTIVE BILINGUALISM:** Elective bilingualism is the acquisition of a second language by choice. The most usual motive for elective bilingualism is interest as the individual is not forced to learn the second language.