Argumentative Writing Task 1 (Week 7)

Name: 张鸿琳 Student ID: 2019012137

**Directions:**

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

***With rapid improvements in machine translation and speech recognition technologies in recent years, we don’t need to learn other foreign languages.***

Please write an argumentative essay in about **300-350 words** to express your view based on your own knowledge and experience. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

A soccer game was held in Scotland in 2020. Everything was going well until the AI camera could not tell the referee’s bald head from soccer. Just like this interesting news, though technologies are advanced nowadays, they are not always reliable. It’s still of great importance to learn foreign languages. The benefits of speaking foreign language instead of relying on translation technologies could be summarized into three parts. They are convenience for daily use, positive effects on our brain and wage increase.

First of all, learning other languages offers us opportunities to know more cultural knowledge personally. Equipped with the ability to speak foreign language, we can get rid of translation technology and dive into personal connections with foreigners. As Nelson Mandela said, “ If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.”

On top of that, it has positive impacts on our brain as well. According to a research conducted by a group from Canada in 2010, those who can speak more than one language tend to suffer from Alzheimers Disease five years later on average than those who can not.[[1]](#footnote-1) The switch between two languages seems to reinforce the executive functions of brain, said Giovanna Bubbico, the first author of this research.

Last but not least, learning a foreign language may bring you a rise in wages. Language expert and CEO Ryan McMunn stated that learning a second language boosts your salary anywhere from 10-15%.[[2]](#footnote-2) The reason for the rise is clear. Job seekers that come with ability to speak a foreign language tend to stand out from the crowd and therefore catch the attention of hiring managers. In fact, 9 out of 10 European recruiters consider bilingualism critical to hiring new employees.

All in all, learning a foreign language would never be out of date. This capability would provide a platform with a better vision for you. Moreover, it is much cooler to speak a fluent foreign language than typing on your phone to use machine translation.

1. Markham Heid, “Why Learning a Foreign Language Is the Ultimate Brain Workout”, Medium. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Economist. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)