

Human Development and Learning

Maj/B.Eds-104



Ms. Anam Noshaba


B.Ed (Hons) Secondary

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Unit 7: Language Development



What is Language?

- Language is a system of communication. We communicate our different emotions with others
- Language differentiates  human from non human
- Chuckling, grinning, and screaming are ways that are named as non linguistic communication. Generally all non human creatures exchange information.

Language Development

- Language development is the process by which children come to understand and communicate language.
- From birth up to the age of five, children develop language at a quick pace.
- After the age of five it generally turns out to be much difficult for the children to learn it.

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Two unique styles of language development are as under.

1. **Referential language development**

Children at first express only words and afterward join them together, at first into sentences comprising of two-word and later into sentences comprising of three-word. It is a style of right time learning of language in which children use language for the most part to label objects. This style is useful to young children because this way extends their understanding of vocabulary.

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2. Expressive language development


Kids first utter sounds like babbles. Another commonly known style involved in language learning is expressive  style. In this style little children apply language to discuss their specific emotions and requirements.

Components of Language

Components of language are:

1. Phoneme: It is the basic unit of language and is concerned with the sounds of alphabets. A phoneme can have a specific pronunciation in one word and a different pronunciation in another word.

For example, the word “hat” has three phonemes:

1- /h/ 

2- /a/

3- /t/

2. Phonology: It deals with the sounds in a language. Phonology includes the study of equivalent organizational systems of signs in language. The study of verbal communication structure within the language is known as the phonology

3. Morphology: It is related to the vocabulary building.

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4. **Syntax:** It deals with the structure of sentence and the sequence of words in it. Studying of syntax allows us to understand the rules about how language works. Syntax is a set of rules for constructing full sentences out of words and phrases.
5. **Semantics:** Semantics is the study of meaning. What is meaning? How is meaning created in language? How do people understand language and why do we understand it like we do? One of the main reasons we use language is to pass meaning from one person to another, and semantics deals with it. Grammatical structure of the language helps us understand the language.
6. **Pragmatics:** It studies human actions and their explanation by signs in language. Pragmatics refers to the ways the members of a community use the language.

Language development at Preschool and Kindergarten Level

- Language development starts from birth when baby produces sounds to realize its existence to others.
- During 0-3 months of age children reflect his emotions by listening to different sounds and smiles at viewing different personalities.
- During 4-6 months children show their reactions by yes or no and produce babbling sounds.
- 7-12 months is the age of fun and the babbling of children changes.
- Between 1-2 years of age, the children focus on pictures, they can indicate body parts and there is an increase in learning of words.
- During 2-3 years of age, comprehension of compound words develops, the child can differentiate different ideas and develops the capacity to have words for nearly everything.
- During 3-4 years of age, the children listen more clearly when we call and his structure of uttering sentences extends.

Factors Influence on Language Development

- Social interaction
- Cognitive skills
- Inheritance

