BENEFITS OF LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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The benefits of learning a foreign language are manifold and extending beyond just linguistic proficiency to encompass cognitive, social, and even economic advantages. Schools take up the opportunities of educating learners by teaching curriculums in foreign languages. In a globalized world today, several world cultures interact making the learning of a new language be a wonderful benefit. It is also a great advantage for studying in general and for career prospects abroad. Acquiring a second language enables us to develop various mental abilities. A foreign language is a whole new structure of rules and lexis. This means learners must be able to cope with complexity and absorb the new patterns. From personal enrichment to professional advancement, the advantages of learning a foreign language are myriad and impactful.

To begin with, learning a foreign language boosts brain functioning. A foreign language is a new structure of systems that should be compatible to an individual for learning to be effective. As our brains work out the meaning, endeavoring to communicate, we develop key learning skills such as cognitive thinking and problem solving. The main advantage is the executive function. This is the ability of the brain to allow you to control, direct and manage your attention as well as the ability to plan. It also helps you focus on what is important by ignoring irrelevant information. Since a bilingual person has a mastery of more than one language, the languages are activated automatically and subconsciously and therefore the person is constantly managing the interference of the languages. The person does not say the wrong word in the wrong language at any time (Olulade et al, 2016). Bilingual individuals are advantaged in metalinguistic awareness, it is the ability to think about language as abstract units of associations. Learning a foreign language is therefore impactful to the brain’s functionality.

Secondly, learning a foreign language in school gives learners a wide range of careers to choose from. It opens up numerous career opportunities by expanding your ability to communicate and socialize with different cultures and backgrounds. The skill is precious in fields of tourism, diplomacy, translation, interpreting, teaching, global media, international business, and many other professions. In these career markets, bilingual and multilingual individuals are in demand. Businesses need employees who can understand different languages because it is good for their wide market. The staff can sell more products or services to many people because he or she can communicate with wide network of cultures. By learning foreign languages, an individual has cultural awareness. The skill is essential for a good workplace experience. Bilingual employees are empathetic and tolerant to different language speakers (David and Inkson, 2017). Proficiency in a second language leads to diverse job roles and industries allowing individuals to pursue careers on a global scale. It opens up the spectrum of professional positions for learners.

Moreover, learning of new language boosts creativity. It pushes the brain to put words together in a creative way in turn stimulating the brain and boosting creativity. The change of languages in communication makes a concept to be more elaborate, flexible and original. A new language improves the level at which the brain thinks creatively. Somehow, the new linguistic system makes the brain to get familiar with diverse customs and cultures. With a new linguistic structure, one can explore vocabulary and cultural contexts which can stimulate creative thinking and imaginative ways of conceptualizing the world (Rosen, 2018). Getting exposed to a variety of linguistic patterns and expressions enhances good thinking allowing individuals to come up with solutions and different approaches on various perspectives. Additionally, bilingual people are adapted to code switching. This linguistic ability can cross over into other domains of creativity, helping these individuals to discover unconventional ideas and solutions.

Furthermore, learning a foreign language in schools gives students academic advantage. Proficiency in a second language gives students access to a wider range of educational resources used in research. It enables students deal with diverse theories and methodologies fostering cognitive skills such as creative thinking and analytical skills. Moreover, language proficiency give learners a chance to study abroad, exchange programs and even doing international attachments and internships. This equips students with vital academic skills and also gives them a chance to explore different cultures. Bilingualism is also associated with better performance in standardized tests as well as higher scores in reading, writing, and mathematics (Kroll & Bialystock, 2013). Learning a new language can also lead to academic specializations in fields such as linguistics and international relations offering pathways in career prospects. Students who engage with international peers broaden their horizons and become global citizens equipped to survive in the increasingly interconnected world.

In conclusion, the benefits of learning a foreign language are diverse and significant. At the forefront is intellectual development promoted by language acquisition. Learning a new language challenges the brain, improving memory, problem solving skills and cognitive flexibility. Moreover, it enhances academic performance by granting access to a broader array of educational materials. Additionally, language learning fosters cultural understanding by offering understanding of the values, beliefs, and traditions of varied cultural societies. Through language immersion and cross-cultural communication, individuals develop empathy and tolerance to different cultures. Furthermore, language learning promotes personal growth by cultivating tolerance, adaptability and self-confidence. The self confidence is not only limited to language learning but also empowers individuals to pursue their goals and aspirations with determination and courage. Moreover, language learning creates a sense of global citizenship for empathetic members of the global community.

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