

Bilingual Brain

By Jessica Gamboa



To learn a new language is without doubt one of the most challenging things the human brain has ever accepted. Learning a new language could take just as little or as much effort, it depends on what the person is willing to do. As matter of fact, how it was said in the last version of ABClatino (Bilingual Contexts), learning and improving a foreign language depends on two main factors, the exposition and the dominance that the new language has in the context of the person who is learning. However, there are two techniques, both of them could look like the wrong path to follow if someone wants to learn a second language; but they actually are fundamental in the learning process.

First, put yourself in a real uncomfortable situation.

Most of the time it is believed that humans are lazy and always looking for the easiest way to do everything. But, the reality is that the human brain is the one who tends to follow patterns and directions familiar to it. In other words, when is needed to learn or improve a new language it is necessary to encourage the brain to get out of the comfortable zone, how is that possible? Initially, do not be afraid, it means, change your phone language, social media apps, T.V programs, and even the music. It is about to allow the technology to help you out, this is called virtual immersion and nowadays it is one of the most powerful tools because it lets the aim language becoming part of the learner daily routine.

Also, do not be afraid means do not worry about mistakes and lack of words. It necessary to noticed that the new language is something completely new for the brain and it cannot be learned as the native language. For instance, a Spanish speaker learns the language's grammar and punctuation. But the formal knowledge of a foreign language could not be as useful by the time of having a real conversation in a successful way. People who are learning a new language need to skip and do not care about the proper combinations of words, tenses, or grammar. It is required to understand that the communicative act goes further than the words. The oral expression is just one of the mechanisms which put together gestures, tone and movement. Then, to make mistakes is absolutely valid and the accent or

pronunciation does not have much relevance as long as the learner has a clear view of the final goal.

Second, to make that new language a secret code.

It is known that bilingual people usually develop different personalities and behaviors depending on the language they are talking at the time. This phenomenon occurs because a language certainly refers to a culture. In those terms, a foreign language allows people to make new friends; to be able to talk about topics that could be prohibited in the native language; and to have a private conversation in a public place. To explain, the second language could be used in public with kids or friends, a secret letter could be written, or even do some internet research about atypical topics.

To conclude, learning a new language requires a high level of interest. It does not matter if the person is learning in an academic, school, or the country where the language is spoken; at the end what matters is the individual process. That is why, the strategies are always trying to encourage people to work on their second language from home and their daily routines.

Noam Chomsky "there is not border between languages (...) Bilingualism and multilingualism is a growing reality"