WHAT IS LANGUAGE?

Language consists of words which produce meaningful sound. Phonemes and morphemes are two important aspects of any verbal language. The words have their definite structure (morphemes) and create meaningful sound (phonemes) to communicate ideas and experiences.

'Ideas and feelings are the realizations but when these are revealed, through mouth is known as language.'

According to O. Jesperson, "Language is a set of human habit, the purpose of which is to give expression to thoughts and feelings, Bloch and Trager have defined language as, “A language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols by means of which a social group operates.”

CHARACTERISTICS OF LANGUAGE

The above definitions indicate the following characteristics of language:
1. Language is means or vehical for communicating ideas, thoughts, feelings, experiences and emotions.
2. Language is a verbal communication or verbal interaction of thoughts and ideas among the members of the society.
3. Some signs, cries, and body gestures are also used for communicating something. It is known as non-verbal language or body language, or non-verbal interaction. The verbal interaction takes place with the help of a verbal language.
4. Language is the God given gift or boon for human being on other animals and species can use a language. Man alone uses language for communication.
5. Language is signally system which employs vocal sounds and is based on man's abilities and skill to speak. The written language is derivative and secondary aspect of a language.
6. Language is speech which means the production of meaningful sound according to a system. It is an introduction to the study of speech.
7. Language is the system of systems which includes phonemes, morphemes, semantics - the study of language and syntax.
8. Language is a powerful instrument or tool which has made human civilization and meaning culture.
Language is a complex whole
1. Language is a complex whole.
2. It has clearly a kind of control.
3. It is always rational.
4. It is a dynamic and not a static phenomenon.
5. It is an arrangement of oral and written signs, symbols, and words.
6. Language is a unity. It is an organic entity and not a compartmental piece.

Human-beings preserve, develop and prosper their knowledge through language.
11. The nature of language differ according to its geographical, social and psychological bases.
12. It adopt two main, forms – oral and written.

Language is evolutionary in nature.
7. Language is evolutionary in nature.
8. Language is a means to communicate one’s thoughts, feelings, and experiences.
9. Human-beings preserve, develop, and prosper their knowledge through language.

Language is a medium of communicating ideas, feelings, emotions, and experiences.
13. Language is a medium of communicating ideas, feelings, emotions, and experiences. It is verbal interaction among the people.
14. Language makes use of non-verbal language or body language or silent language for effective communication or verbal interaction. The feelings and emotions are expressed effectively by using body gestures. Thus, verbal language and non-verbal language are complementary to each other from expression point of view and effective interaction in a group.

Language is the science or knowledge of alphabets, words, sentences, and grammatical relationships between words.
15. Language is the science or knowledge of alphabets, words, sentences, and grammatical relationships between words.
16. Language is a medium of communicating ideas, feelings, emotions, and experiences. It is verbal interaction among the people. Language is a verbal interaction among people of society.
17. Language is a system of phonetics, grammar, and vocabulary which themselves are systems.
18. Language is system of phonetics, grammar, and vocabulary which themselves are systems.
English Pedagogy

Language – Language is a medium through which one can express his ideas, thoughts and feelings.

→ Language is learnt by imitation Padalogy
→ The child learns to speak through observation.
→ Children who cannot express their feelings often show other kinds of challenging behaviour.

Different between acquisition & Learning

Acquisition - When the language is learnt in primary environment or learnt without practice it is acquisition.

→ Language acquisition is an active process and learnt naturally.
→ When someone learns their knowledge, skill, experienced in natural way without stress or tense.

Acquisition of language

When someone learns the language in a free environment without any grammatical rules. It is always informal.

for example – Mother tongue
- First language

Learning

When language is learnt in a specific environment through specific environment through practice it is called learning.

Learning a language

The process in which children develop their knowledge, skill, experience with a lot of practice and drill. It is always formal.

→ It involves systematic way.

Example:
1. When language is learnt naturally and without any systematic practice then it is called as
   A. First Language   B. dearth   C. acquisition   D. None of these
   Ans. C
2. “Language acquisition can be automatically attained” favoured by
   A. cognitivists   B. Behaviourists   C. Both of the above   D. None of the above
   Ans. A
**Characteristic of English language**

1. English in a progressive language. It has its present, past, future.
2. English is an ideal language.
3. English has its own system of words, phrases and sentences.
4. It has specific phonemes.
5. English has its own grammar.
6. English has its own script.
7. English has vast treasure of literature.
8. English is a living language because.
   a. Language, sound and sense are in perfect harmony.
   b. It has power to express abstract.
   c. It is medium to achieve ideal.
9. There are four main aspects of any language in its relation to society.
   a. It helps man to live in the society.
   b. It is an index of personality.
   c. It restores relationship between man and his environment.
   d. It is the median of literature.
10. It is a language of immense international importance.
11. English has its own phonology.
12. English has 26 letters and 44 sounds (20 vowel sounds and 24 consonant sounds). It has 12 single vowel sound.
13. The English grammar has the following salient Characteristics:
   a. In English a sentence can be of either a single word or a group of words.
   b. A sentence has two parts.
      1. Subject
      2. Predicate
   c. Subject usually precedes the verb.
   d. In English, sentence have the following grammatical structure.
      1. Subject – verb
      2. Subject – verb – object
      3. Verb – Subject – object
   e. Verb in English has no gender. It is same for males and female.
      1. He is eating.
      2. She eating.
   f. Interrogative sentences are framed by putting either an auxiliary verb before the subject or interrogative word/question word (who, what, which, when, where, why, whom, whose).
      (How, How many, How much, How long, How for).
   g. There are two kinds of auxiliary verbs helping verb 1. linking verb 2. auxiliary verb.
   h. Linking verb doesn’t have main verb. Ex- He is my best friend.
   i. There are two kinds of auxiliary verb:
      1. Primary auxiliary
      2. Modal auxiliary
Problem of teaching English in India

1. **Neglecting the aims of teaching English:**
   Many times, neither the teacher nor the student is acquainted (परिचित) with the aims learning English. The teacher only wants that his students should pass the examination.
   Q. What is the main aims of teaching English.
   a. Students should pass the examination
   b. Students should secure good marker so that they may get job.
   c. Students should get actual sense of his language and interpret easily.
   d. Student can read and write.

2. **Place of English in School-Curriculum**
   1. From which class should the Study of English start?
   2. Up to which class should it’s study last?
   3. Should English be a compulsory subject?

3. **Conditions of Classes**
   The following conditions of classes hinder the smooth teaching of English.
   1. Overcrowded classes
   2. Shortage of buildings
   3. Lack of furniture

   Que. Sometimes, teachers are unable to tackle individual problems well because:
   a. Lack of furniture
   b. Shortage of buildings
   c. Overcrowded classes
   d. Due to silly question of Students

   Ans: C

4. **Old method of Teaching English**
   In Indian schools, teachers are still using the old and faulty. ‘Translations cum – Grammar’ method of teaching.
   The new approaches – structural and situational – are not popular with our teachers.

   Que. Which method of teaching English used the most in Indian schools:
   a. Direct or Natural method
   b. Dr. west’s New method
   c. Translation-com-Grammar method
   d. Substitution method

   Ans: C
5. Low standard of Text-Books

The text books of English are needed to be of high standard. English text book need improvement in the following spheres:

a. Selection and gradation of (small changing) of vocabulary.
b. Good printing
c. Genuine illustration
   1. (picture, design, diagram)
   2. (Example or story to make things clear)
d. Suitable subject – matter
e. Language and style
f. Exercise and glossary (words or expression in an alphabetical list)
g. Abridgement of English stories to suit Indian conditions.

6. Less use of Audio-Visual – Aids

- Pictures chart, models etc.

7. Lack of Effective teaching

8. Traditional Examination System

Ques. You would like to take examination of your students.

a. written  b. oral  c. both written and oral  d. Through discussion among students

Ans: C

Principles of Language learning or Aims and objectives of teaching:

1. Principles of Naturalness
   a. Teacher should promote the Interaction with child in foreign language.
   b. Teachers should emphasize on oral work to introduce in activity.
   c. He should encourage the students in discussion and debate.

Ques. As a teacher, you teach language following the principles of naturalness. which one sentence is incorrect:

a. He should encourage the students in discussion.
   b. He should encourage in writing.
   c. He should encourage in oral work.
   d. He should promote in interaction with child.

Ans: B

2. Principle of Learning by doing:
   a. It is also known as ‘activity based principle;
   b. Four skills of language learning can only be achieved.

3. Principle of definite aim
   a. A definite aim should be hidden behind teaching any lesson.

4. Principle of planning
   a. Saves the time from wondering have effective.
   b. makes teaching interesting and effective.
The teacher should lay emphasis on the following three points under principle of planning.
1. Selection
2. Division – Devide the lesson into proper units.
3. Revision – (Practice makes a man perfect.)

5. Principle of Practice and Drill
   a. Drill is a regular exercise of a work.
   b. Stress, pause, correctness intonation.

6. Principle of Activity
   a. Students should be provided more opportunity.
   b. The students should be encouraged to express their views in English.

7. Principle of Motivation
   a. Motivation provides a kind of energy
   b. It creates an interest in students.

8. Principle of Interest
   Children learn those things easily and quickly in which they are interested.
   a. Colourful books and magazines are attractive to the children.
   b. Use of T.V. and radio also creates interest in students.
   c. Students should be encouraged to participate in co-curricular activities particular in debates, lectures and drama.
   d. Story telling helps to create interest

9. Principle of Oral work
   Skill of learning any language involves – listening, speaking, reading and writing.
   1. The child first listens
   2. Then tries to speak
   3. there after he tries to read
   4. and practice to write

10. Principle of Relating with life

11. Principle of vividness and flexibility

12. Principle of Concreteness (स्पष्टता) – the teacher should start with the concreate object.

13. Principle of Selection and Gradation

14. Principle of proper use of leisure – Utilization of leisure is very important