

## Learning & Acquisition

### Language Acquisition vs Language Learning:

- **Language Acquisition** is a natural process through which learners understand and use a language by exposure, without formal instruction.
- **Language Learning** is a more formal process where learners study the language in a structured environment, often in a classroom setting.

### Theories of Language Acquisition:

#### Cognitive Theory:

- Learning is a process where new information is connected to what we already know.
- It involves selecting the right grammar rules, and vocabulary, and using language appropriately in different situations.
- With practice, learners can improve their understanding and usage of language.

#### Discourse Theory:

- Emphasizes learning language through communication and social interaction.
- It focuses on how language learners discover meaning in real-life conversations.
- Children should be encouraged to engage in activities that promote communication to help them acquire language naturally.

#### Chomsky's Universal Grammar Theory:

- Chomsky believes humans are born with an innate ability to learn language, which he calls **Universal Grammar**.
- Universal Grammar provides a set of rules that apply to all languages, making it possible for children to learn any language.
- He also introduced the concept of the **Language Acquisition Device (LAD)**, which helps children automatically understand language structure from their environment.

### Acquisition Strategies:

- **Inductive Method:** Learners first see examples and then try to figure out the rules.
- **Deductive Method:** Learners are taught the rules first, and then they apply them to examples.

### Learning:

#### Definition of Learning:

- **Richard E. Mayer:** Learning is a long-term change in a person's knowledge or behavior due to experience.
- **Susan Ambrose:** Learning is a process that leads to change, which enhances future performance and learning potential.

### Types of Learning:

1. **Motor Learning:** Learning physical activities like walking, driving, etc.
2. **Verbal Learning:** Involves language, and communication using symbols, sounds, and words.
3. **Conceptual Learning:** Involves higher mental processes like reasoning and understanding concepts.

### Stages of Learning:

1. **Acquisition:** Learning a new skill or task.
2. **Fluency/Proficiency:** Improving accuracy in the new skill.
3. **Maintenance:** Performing the task independently without further teaching.
4. **Generalisation:** Applying the learned skill in different environments.
5. **Adaptation:** Using the learned skill in new situations without guidance.

### Aspects of Learning:

- **Cognitive Aspect:** Focuses on intellectual skills and knowledge.
- **Affective Aspect:** Involves emotions, attitudes, and values.
- **Psychomotor Aspect:** Focuses on physical skills and coordination.

### Theories Related to Learning:

#### Piaget's Concept:

- Learning happens through adaptation, which includes **assimilation** (integrating new information) and **accommodation** (adjusting thinking based on new information).

#### Vygotsky's Concept:

- Learning occurs through social interactions. Knowledge is built through communication with more experienced individuals.

#### Pavlov's Classical Conditioning:

- Learning through association. Pavlov demonstrated this with dogs, showing how they can learn to associate a bell with food.

### Skinner's Operant Conditioning:

- Learning through rewards and reinforcement. Positive and negative consequences influence behavior.

### Inductive and Deductive Learning Methods:

- **Inductive Method:** Learners discover the rules by observing examples.
- **Deductive Method:** Learners are given the rules first, and then they apply them to examples.

### Key Differences Between Language Acquisition and Language Learning:

Language Acquisition	Language Learning
Fast, natural process	Slow, formal process
Subconscious process	Conscious process
Minimal effort	Requires more effort
Anxiety-free	Often stressful
Exposure to spontaneous speech is enough	Requires formal instructions

### English to Hindi Meaning of Tough Words:

- **Acquisition** – अर्जन
- **Assimilation** – आत्मसात करना
- **Accommodation** – समायोजन
- **Discourse** – संवाद
- **Innate** – जन्मजात
- **Proficiency** – निपुणता
- **Generalisation** – सामान्यीकरण
- **Adaptation** – अनुकूलन
- **Reinforcement** – प्रोत्साहन