

COGNITIVE FACTORS OF SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNING

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Abstract: This article analyzes the cognitive factors influencing second language learning. It focuses on mental processes such as memory, attention, perception, and thinking, and explains their role in language acquisition. The article also discusses individual cognitive differences and learning strategies that affect language learning success. Understanding cognitive factors is essential for improving teaching methods and achieving better learning outcomes.

Keywords: cognitive factors, second language learning, memory, attention, perception

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada ikkinchi tilni o'rganishga ta'sir etuvchi kognitiv omillar tahlil qilinadi. Xotira, diqqat, idrok va tafakkur kabi aqliy jarayonlarning til o'zlashtirishdagi ahamiyati yoritib beriladi. Shuningdek, individual kognitiv farqlar va o'rganish strategiyalarining o'rni ko'rib chiqiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: kognitiv omillar, ikkinchi tilni o'rganish, xotira, diqqat

Аннотация: В статье анализируются когнитивные факторы, влияющие на изучение второго языка. Рассматривается роль памяти, внимания, восприятия и мышления в процессе усвоения языка. Также уделяется внимание индивидуальным когнитивным различиям и стратегиям обучения.

Ключевые слова: когнитивные факторы, второй язык, память, внимание

Introduction

Second language learning is not a simple process of memorizing vocabulary and grammar rules. It involves complex cognitive activities that require learners to actively process, store, and use new information. Unlike first language acquisition, which occurs naturally, second language learning usually takes place in an academic environment and requires conscious mental effort. Modern linguistic research emphasizes the importance of cognitive factors in second language acquisition. Cognitive psychology explains language learning as an active process in which learners receive input, analyze it, and transform it into usable knowledge. Mental processes such as memory, attention, perception, and thinking play a crucial role in this process. The aim of this article is to examine the main cognitive factors affecting second language learning and to explain how these factors influence the language acquisition process.

Memory in Second Language Learning. Memory is a key cognitive factor in second language acquisition. It enables learners to store vocabulary, grammatical rules, and language patterns. Short-term memory helps learners hold information temporarily, while long-term memory allows them to retain knowledge for future use. Through repetition and meaningful practice, language information is transferred from short-term memory to long-term memory. Learners with stronger memory capacity often show better performance in speaking, reading, and writing.

Attention and Language Acquisition. Attention is the ability to focus on relevant language input. In second language learning, attention helps learners notice new linguistic features. Without attention, language input cannot be effectively processed. Interactive activities, such as discussions and task-based learning, increase learners' attention and motivation. As a result, attentive learners acquire language more successfully.

Perception and Language Input. Perception involves recognizing and interpreting sounds and structures of a language. Learners often face difficulties in perceiving

unfamiliar sounds in a second language, which can affect pronunciation and comprehension. Regular exposure to authentic language materials improves learners' perceptual abilities and supports accurate language use.

Thinking and Cognitive Processing. Thinking allows learners to analyze language rules and meanings. Learners compare the second language with their native language and form hypotheses about grammar and usage.

Critical thinking helps learners identify errors and improve language accuracy. Reflective learners usually achieve better learning results.

Individual Differences and Learning Strategies. Individual cognitive differences influence second language learning. Learning style, intelligence, and processing speed affect how learners approach language tasks. Learning strategies, including cognitive and metacognitive strategies, help learners manage their learning process. Effective strategy use leads to greater learner autonomy and success.

Conclusion

Cognitive factors play a vital role in second language learning. Memory, attention, perception, thinking, and individual differences all contribute to successful language acquisition. Understanding these factors enables teachers to improve instructional methods and helps learners develop effective learning strategies. Therefore, focusing on cognitive aspects can significantly enhance second language education.

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