

LANGUAGE ADAPTATION OF IMMIGRANTS



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Introduction

After the start of diverse conflicts in Middle East countries in 2011 and the unstable economy in the Least Develop Countries (LDCs), thousands of people had to migrate into Europe because of military power and for the desire to have a better future. For this reason, a lot of problems appeared due to the interaction between different cultures. One of these problems is Language.

Some immigrants don't speak fluently English or the local language of the place of emigration. These people have difficulties in their daily life. The people who don't know the language can't get an appropriate education. So they can't work in many places and have economical stability. Of course, they struggle to communicate with other people. The most important thing for adaptation is to learn the language of the place. Otherwise, adaptation becomes very difficult.

If you can't speak English as an immigrant, it will put you at a significant disadvantage and this will limit the job opportunities. It can also lead to social isolation. Some of the benefits of learning English are; it will help you in daily life, academic, and working life. When you learn a new language, you have new opportunities and new friends, you can learn about new cultures. You will effectively communicate with other people. In this article we are going to mention about difficulties of learning a language and how can we overcome these difficulties.

Learning Language Key to Integration From Young Refugees Perspective

Michel Barakat

Let's meet with Michel Barakat. Barakat is a child who is 14 years old from Syria. Michel and his family fled the war in Syria after his school bus narrowly missed being blown up. He had to emigrate to the Czech Republic because of the war. But he faced some difficulties. One of these was language. Learning to speak Czech is the key to successful integration.

“If you speak Czech well and you move among Czechs, they will help you, but if you are from an Arab country and spend all your time among Arabs, they can’t help you because they don’t know how things work in the Czech Republic. It’s better to really study Czech.” Says Barakat. “Learning Czech is vital. If you don’t speak the language, you can’t talk about integration. It’s impossible,” says Olivera Vukotic, regional integration officer in UNHCR’s Central European office in the Hungarian capital, Budapest.

Natalia Rami Haddad

Syrian refugee Natalia Rami Haddad, also aged 14. Natalia, who hopes to become a doctor, has formed a close friendship with Czech classmate Natalie Sembdnerova. The 12-year-old Czech girl says she is thrilled to have a Syrian friend. She improved her Czech language thanks to Natalia’s helps.

“It’s easier for young people to learn the language. When you start, you’re just like a young kid opening your eyes for the first time on a new world. Now it’s like my native language.” Natalia says. Natalia’s improvement shows us the importance of having a foreign friend.

Some Challenges of Learning A New Language

1. The Fear Of Learning a New Language

Not all people face this problem but most people yes. The greatest fear that they go through is the fear of failing. Learning a new language sounds fearful for them. If you are not doing anything to solve it, it may be fearful. But if you are trying and working to learn a language, it is not fearful for you. They fear from challenges of learning a language and they don’t do anything to overcome this situation. If you want to learn a new language, you have to leave your safe zone first and you should create a situation where you can learn English.

2. Fear of speaking with strangers

The most important thing about learning a new language is doing practice with strangers because you have to use words or sentences that you learned. If you are not using new words or sentences, probably you will forget them and you will need to work again and again. This may be challenging for new learners because speaking to strangers in a language that you don't know can be a challenge.

You must not forget that you are a new learner and already you can't speak perfectly. You should not hesitate to talk to the people you are going to practice with, because they know that you are a new learner, they know that you cannot speak perfectly. Nobody expects a perfect speech from you.

3. Loss of Motivation

Learning a new language is like a long-term project. You have to be patient. You can't earn a new skill in a week, earning a new skill takes a lot of time. The consequences of the study can appear after a long period, you must not rush. The expectation of a learner who is learning a new language will be easy causes a loss of motivation.

When you feel a loss of motivation, you should think about why did you start learning a new language. Maybe you have promised yourself to speak a new language, maybe you have to learn the language to get a job, or you want to study abroad. Remind yourself why are you learning a new language.

4. The Process of Getting Used to Different Cultures

Getting used to a different culture is a challenge for most immigrants. For this reason, learning a new language also becomes difficult. In this case, the learners can lose motivation and they can don't want to learn a new language. The learners must be aware this situation is temporary.

5. Limited Learning Environments

One of the most important things is to have an environment where know English well. If you don't have an environment that knows English, you may not learn to pronounce words, you can pronounce words wrongly.

For this reason, learners don't always hear people who speak English correctly. As a result, it becomes more difficult to learn a new language correctly. You can make new friends who speak English well. You can create situations to speak English.

6. Working With an Incorrect Technique

Before the beginning to study language, we should research some techniques. Which ones are useful for us, we should learn and we should determine which technique will we study. We should select a technique that we can execute. After we can start to study regularly.

Some Tips To Overcome The Difficulties of Learning a New Language

1. Get Out of Your Comfort Zone

One of the common mistakes that learners make is that they don't push themselves to use the language they're learning in real-world scenarios. If you want to learn a new language. You have to get out of your comfort zone. This will improve your new language skills.

2. Learn From Your Mistakes

Language learning is a slow process, so you will learn slowly, you will make mistakes. The most important thing at this point is learning from your mistakes. You should know that you will make mistakes but you should to aware that you are a new learner. You have to keep learning.

You can find your mistakes then you can fix them with a correct process. For example, If you are learning new words or new tenses when you forget some words, you must repeat them.

3. Watch Daily Videos on YouTube

There are so many resources to learn a language on the Internet. Most of them are on YouTube. There are a lot of courses. You can find some videos that include the target language. Definitely, You will find some videos that interest you. You can watch this video whether with subtitles or not. You can take note of words that you learn, you can get used to the daily conversation in the target language. My favorite YouTube channels are English with Lucy, Learn English with TV series, and POC English.

4. Read a Book In The Target Language

One of the best ways to improve your vocabulary is by reading a book in the target language. If you want to re-read a book, you should read it in the target language. This will improve your vocabulary and skills in making sentences. Since you read this book before, you can understand easier.

If you don't want to read a book that already you read, you can take a book that includes basic level English. If you want, There are a lot of ebook websites, you can download as PDFs. It will be so beneficial.

5. Follow Social Media Accounts That Can Help You

All of us are spending a lot of time on social media, In this time period, we can learn a lot of things. This method is the most fun way to learn something because while you surf on social media, you are learning a new language at the same time.

There are a lot of accounts for learning English, Some of these are BBC Learning English (Instagram), Pronunciation With Emma (Instagram), and English In General (Instagram).

6. Try Thinking In English

Have you ever tried to speak English in your inner monologue? Maybe This can be difficult for now, because most people are translating sentence by sentence in their mind when speaking a foreign language.

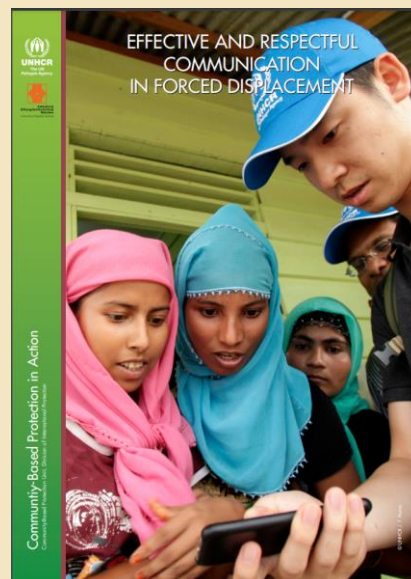
Whenever you catch yourself speaking your native language in your mind, try to switch your target language. So while you are cooking something, you can describe to yourself what are you doing now. Also, you won't feel embarrassed because no one can hear you, you can improve your skill of thinking in the target language with this method.

Some Guides to get more information about this topic

These articles include some information about migration. There are some graphs that give information about which people know which languages and who prefer which language.



<https://translatorswithoutborders.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Language-Comprehension-barriers.pdf>



<https://www.refworld.org>

Language barrier leaves refugees facing struggle to rebuild their lives

Lack of tailored English classes and job opportunities prevent people fleeing to the UK from integrating for many years, a new study shows



📷 Last year the British government pledged to bring in 20,000 refugees from the camps bordering Syria by 2020. Photograph: Delil Souleiman/AFP/Getty Images

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