

Mother Tongue Influence On The Development Of Communicative Competence Among ESL Learners

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Abstract

The learner's first language (L1) significantly influences their communication skills in English as a Second Language (ESL). This research looks into how influence from a first language (L1) affects important parts of language, such as phonology, syntax, vocabulary, and linguistic competence. For example, it shows that L1 can either help people learn other languages or get in the way because of differences in structure and culture. Using data from several studies, the paper examines how these factors influence language use, potentially leading to mistakes or gaps in understanding. In addition, it lists common ESL student issues like mispronouncing words, using incorrect grammar, and using inappropriate language. For better ESL learning and communication, the paper ends with suggestions for successful teaching methods that aim to reduce negative L1 transfer. These include targeted language instruction, contrastive analysis, and practice in real-life situations.

Keywords: *Mother Tongue Influence, Development, Communicative Competence, ESL Learners.*

Introduction

The interaction between the learner's first language (L1) and the target language (L2) shapes the complicated and ever-changing process of language acquisition, especially when multiple languages are involved. Knowing how people develop their communicative competence (Hymes, 1972)—that is, their ability to use language correctly and successfully in a variety of social settings—depends on how they interact with others. A person's first language often significantly influences their learning of English as a Second Language (ESL). This effect, known as "language transfer," can either be beneficial or detrimental. Although positive transfer can help learners by finding patterns in language that help them bridge the gap between L1 and L2, negative transfer can cause mistakes that slow them down. Studying these factors is essential for teachers, linguists, and program

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