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Teaching Arabic Language for Non-Native Speakers

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Abstract

The acquisition of language has always been a crucial issue for many language instructors and interested researchers. In this respect, teaching Arabic language as a foreign language to non-native speakers would involve further research that we seek to achieve in this present paper, which reviews and investigates the process of second language acquisition (SLA). In this paper, the researcher would question the principles and approaches that provides a framework to the teaching of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA).

The paper will rigorously define the concept of second language acquisition (SLA) and the way it can be different from foreign language pedagogy. It will also present a general overview on the studies that have been carried out within the area of Arabic learning and teaching as a second language (L2). In brief, according to various academic sources, foreign language pedagogy differs entirely from second language acquisition in that the former revolves around the various approaches, methods, and techniques of how a foreign/second language should be taught whereas the latter is more about how a language is learned. To put it differently, foreign language pedagogy focuses on the teacher's perspective, but second language acquisition puts the learner in the center of the teaching and learning process.

The paper also moves to discuss the formulation and execution of learning objectives in addition to the design of goal oriented instructional and teaching materials. Moreover, the researcher reflects on the major observations about second language acquisition in the past half century. The paper will conclude by some practical implications and findings on the process of teaching, textbook design, and testing.

Keywords: Teaching Arabic, Non-Native Speakers, language acquisition, Modern Standard Arabic.

Biography

Dr. Loay Badran Associate Professor at Zayed University. Dr. Loay Badran earned my BA in Arabic Language and Literature after which I received MA in Teaching Languages as a Second Language for non-native speakers. I completed my Ph.D. in 2013 in the field of linguistics. Over the last 6 years, I have worked as an Associate Professor at Zayed University. As for research, I am interested in Universal grammar and the relationship of language to thinking, and how we see the world through our languages.