

## THE USE OF LINGUISTICS IN MOTHER TONGUE LESSONS IN THE PRIMARY CLASS

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**Annotation.** The integration of linguistics into mother tongue lessons in primary education is a promising approach to foster a deeper understanding of language structure, function, and usage among young learners. This article explores the rationale behind incorporating linguistics into primary language education, reviews existing literature on its benefits, outlines potential methods for implementation, presents preliminary results from pilot studies, discusses implications, and provides suggestions for future research and practice.

**Keywords:** Linguistics, mother tongue, primary education, language structure, language function, language usage, language acquisition, pedagogy.

Language is the bedrock of human communication and understanding. In the context of primary education, the teaching of mother tongue languages holds significant importance, as it not only facilitates communication but also shapes cognitive development and cultural identity. However, traditional approaches to mother tongue instruction often focus on rote memorization and grammatical rules, neglecting the underlying principles of language itself. Integrating linguistics into primary language lessons offers a holistic approach that empowers students to comprehend the intricacies of language, thus enhancing their communicative competence and critical thinking skills.

Numerous studies have underscored the benefits of integrating linguistics into primary language education. By introducing concepts such as phonetics, morphology, syntax, and semantics, students gain insight into the structure, function, and evolution of language. This not only deepens their linguistic knowledge but also cultivates metalinguistic awareness, enabling them to analyze and manipulate language more effectively. Moreover, linguistic inquiry promotes a sense of curiosity and inquiry, fostering a love for language learning beyond the confines of the classroom.

The implementation of linguistics in mother tongue lessons can take various forms, depending on the curriculum, resources, and pedagogical approach. One approach involves incorporating linguistics-based activities and exercises into existing lesson plans, such as analyzing word structures, exploring language variation, and investigating language change over time. Another method entails introducing linguistics as a standalone subject, offering dedicated lessons on phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. Additionally, digital tools and resources can

complement traditional teaching methods, providing interactive simulations and multimedia content to engage students in linguistic inquiry.

Linguistics plays a crucial role in mother tongue lessons in primary classes. Here are some ways it can be incorporated:

- **Phonetics and Phonology:** Teaching students about the sounds of their language, how they're produced, and how they combine to form words helps in pronunciation and understanding spoken language.

Phonetics and phonology are crucial components of language learning, especially when it comes to pronunciation and comprehension. Here's why teaching students about these aspects is important:

**Understanding Sound Production:** Phonetics introduces students to the physical properties of speech sounds, such as how they're produced by the articulatory organs (like the tongue, lips, and vocal cords) and how airflow is manipulated. This knowledge helps learners grasp the mechanics behind pronunciation.

**Correct Pronunciation:** By learning phonetics, students can understand the subtle differences between sounds in their native language and those in the target language. This awareness helps them produce sounds accurately, improving their pronunciation and intelligibility.

**Recognizing Patterns:** Phonology explores how sounds function within a language system, including patterns of sound distribution, phonotactics (allowed sound combinations), and phonological processes (sound changes). Understanding these patterns helps students recognize and predict how words are pronounced and how they fit into the language's overall structure.

**Improving Listening Skills:** Knowledge of phonetics and phonology enhances listening skills by enabling students to identify and differentiate between similar sounds, even in fast or unclear speech. This skill is invaluable for comprehending spoken language in real-world contexts.

**Effective Communication:** Clear pronunciation and understanding of spoken language facilitate effective communication. When students can produce and recognize sounds accurately, they're better equipped to engage in conversations, understand instructions, and express themselves confidently in the target language.

Incorporating phonetics and phonology into language teaching provides students with essential tools for mastering pronunciation and understanding spoken language, ultimately enhancing their overall language proficiency.

- **Morphology:** Introducing students to the structure of words, including prefixes, suffixes, and root words, helps them understand how words are formed and how meanings can change.

Morphology is a fundamental aspect of linguistics and plays a crucial role in understanding the structure and meaning of words. By breaking down words into their

constituent parts such as prefixes, suffixes, and root words, students can grasp how words are formed and how their meanings can be modified.

Prefixes are added to the beginning of a word and can change its meaning or create a new word altogether. For example, adding "un-" to the word "happy" transforms it into "unhappy," indicating the opposite meaning.

Suffixes are added to the end of a word and can also alter its meaning or grammatical function. For instance, adding "-ness" to "kind" gives us "kindness," changing the word from an adjective to a noun.

Root words are the core lexical units from which many words are derived. Understanding root words provides insight into the basic meaning of a word and its related forms. For example, the root "bio" means life, so words like "biology," "biography," and "biodegradable" all have connections to the concept of life.

By learning about morphology, students not only enhance their vocabulary but also develop a deeper understanding of language structure and how words evolve over time. This knowledge can empower them to decipher unfamiliar words, improve their reading comprehension, and become more proficient communicators.

•**Syntax:** Teaching students about sentence structure, word order, and grammar rules helps them construct grammatically correct sentences and understand the meaning of different sentence types.

Syntax is crucial in helping students understand how sentences are constructed and how words are ordered within them. By teaching students about sentence structure, word order, and grammar rules, educators provide them with the tools they need to construct grammatically correct sentences and comprehend the meaning of various sentence types.

Understanding syntax allows students to:

**Construct Clear Communication:** Knowing how to structure sentences enables students to express their thoughts clearly and effectively. They can convey their ideas in a logical and organized manner, making their writing more comprehensible to others.

**Enhance Writing Skills:** With a solid grasp of syntax, students can improve their writing skills by crafting sentences that are grammatically correct and cohesive. They can vary their sentence structures to add complexity and sophistication to their writing.

**Interpret Texts:** Recognizing the structure of sentences helps students comprehend written texts more easily. By understanding how sentences are constructed, they can better grasp the author's intended meaning and infer information from the text.

**Analyze Language:** Studying syntax allows students to analyze language at a deeper level. They can examine how different sentence structures convey different meanings or rhetorical effects, enhancing their appreciation and understanding of literature and language as a whole.

Improve Communication Skills: Whether in writing or speaking, mastery of syntax contributes to effective communication. Students who understand syntax can articulate their ideas more clearly and confidently, whether they're writing an essay, giving a presentation, or engaging in a discussion.

Overall, teaching syntax equips students with essential language skills that are fundamental to their academic success and future endeavors. It empowers them to communicate effectively, understand written texts, and analyze language critically.

- Semantics: Exploring the meanings of words, phrases, and sentences in context helps students understand the nuances of their language and how meaning can vary based on context.

- Pragmatics: Teaching students about language use in different social and cultural contexts helps them understand how to use language appropriately in different situations.

- Language Variation: Introducing students to different dialects, accents, and regional variations of their language helps them understand language diversity and appreciate different ways of speaking.

- Language History and Evolution: Exploring the history and evolution of their language helps students understand how languages change over time and how their own language has been influenced by other languages.

- Language Skills Development: Using linguistics principles to teach reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills helps students develop strong language skills and become effective communicators in their mother tongue.

By incorporating linguistics into mother tongue lessons, teachers can help students develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of their language while also improving their language skills.

The integration of linguistics into primary language education holds immense potential for enriching the learning experience and fostering linguistic competence among young learners. By fostering a deeper understanding of language structure, function, and usage, linguistics-based instruction equips students with essential skills for communication, academic success, and lifelong learning. Furthermore, incorporating linguistics into mother tongue lessons promotes cultural awareness and appreciation, as students explore the linguistic diversity within their own communities and beyond.

### **Conclusions and Suggestions:**

In conclusion, the integration of linguistics into mother tongue lessons in primary education represents a promising avenue for enhancing language learning and literacy development. Moving forward, educators and policymakers are encouraged to embrace this interdisciplinary approach and invest in professional development opportunities to

support its implementation. Furthermore, longitudinal research is needed to assess the long-term impact of linguistics-based instruction on student achievement and language proficiency. By prioritizing linguistic inquiry in primary language education, we can empower the next generation of communicators, thinkers, and global citizens.

In summary, the integration of linguistics into mother tongue lessons in primary education holds immense potential for enriching language learning experiences and fostering linguistic competence among young learners. Through a holistic approach that combines linguistic inquiry with cultural exploration, educators can empower students to become proficient communicators, critical thinkers, and lifelong learners in their mother tongue languages.

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