THE ROLE OF WORKING MEMORY IN LANGUAGE LEARNING

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Abstract: Overall, working memory is much more useful nout only to our understanding but also it improves new skills and structures to learn other new languages. Additionally, working memory helps keep information for a long time.

Key words: working memory, linguistic information, listening activities, reading structures, billingual and multilingual learners.

Working memory is a cognitive system that temporarily holds and manipulates information. It plays a vital role in language learning, affecting how learners acquire, understand, and use a newlanguage. This essay explores the significance of working memory in various aspects of languagelearning.

In language acquisition, working memory is essential for processing new linguistic information. It enables learners to hold onto new vocabulary, grammatical structures, and sentence patterns while integrating them with existing knowledge. This temporary storage capacity is crucial for understanding and producing language effectively. During listening activities, learners must retain information from spoken language while deciphering its meaning. Working memory facilitates this by allowing learners to keep track ofmultiple elements, such as context and speaker intent. A robust working memory capacity correlates with better comprehension skills, enabling learners to grasp complex sentences andnuanced meanings.

Reading requires the integration of new information with prior knowledge, a process heavily reliant on working memory. As learners read, they must maintain the context of the narrative orargument, connecting various parts of the text. Those with stronger working memory capabilities tend to perform better in reading comprehension tasks, as they can effectivelymanage and synthesize information. Effective communication, whether spoken or written, demands significant working memoryresources. When producing language, learners must

plan their responses, organize their thoughts, and ensure grammatical accuracy. Working memory allows for the simultaneous management of syntax, vocabulary, and coherence, which is essential for fluent expression.

For bilingual and multilingual learners, working memory aids in language switching and managing potential interference between languages. This cognitive flexibility is crucial for effective communication in diverse linguistic contexts, allowing learners to navigate multiplelanguage systems seamlessly.

Working memory influences the application of various language learning strategies. Techniquessuch as rehearsal, chunking, and visualization benefit from a well-functioning working memory. Learners with higher working memory capacity often employ these strategies more effectively, leading to improved language acquisition outcomes.

There are notable individual differences in working memory capacity, which can impact languagelearning success. Research indicates that learners with better working memory tend to excel in language tasks, highlighting the importance of this cognitive skill in educational settings.

In conclusion, working memory plays a crucial role in language learning by facilitating information processing, comprehension, production, and the application of effective learningstrategies. Understanding its significance can help educators design more effective language instruction methods, catering to the diverse needs of learners. As such, fostering working memory skills may enhance overall language learning experiences and outcomes.

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