

THE USE OF MOTHER TONGUE, A HINDRANCE TO LEARNING ENGLISH

by:

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Use of their mother tongue, impaired English learning English learners, despite their diverse backgrounds, face challenges in learning English as a second or foreign language. However, we know that native English speakers face a common problem when using articles in English. This may be due to the nature of the Arabic article system and its impact on Arabic-English learners. Such problems have been found to be caused by interference from the native language. Native language interference refers to the influence of the learner's language on the second/foreign learner. The problem of mother tongue interference arises when teaching English as a second language. Another challenge is the cultural disconnect between students and classroom practices and curriculum content. Learning your mother tongue is a great way to instill a sense of patriotism in your students. Using your mother tongue has a positive effect on your child's development. According to Jim Cummins, his professor at the University of Toronto, Canada, children exposed to two or three languages grow up and develop a deeper understanding of how sentences and expressions are formed. His research shows that native-speaking children have fixed attitudes about their ability to communicate. Professor Cummins pointed out that children who speak multiple languages develop critical thinking because it becomes a skill which language to use at a particular event. When using their mother tongue, students must face not only language barriers, but socio-linguistic barriers as well. Additionally, research has found that an English learner is at risk of failing academically at her K-12 level of reading and math. The Philippines ranked last in reading among 79 participating countries in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) in 2018, with an average reading score of 340 (OECD, 2019).

The use of English as a medium of instruction also contributed to the controversy in understanding the text due to poor reading comprehension among the students. Integrating the use of the native language as a means of instruction is of great help to young students. They like to learn better because lessons are easy to understand. However, there are certain grade levels that children should already be advancing in learning English. We should stop translating math and science into Filipino. This is also one of the reasons why he scored the worst in PISA. Children have so much potential that it would be a great sin to lock them in a box because of certain policies. Yes, policies are created and imposed on schools in the country. However, follow-up is required to see if it is effective. Perhaps we are all lacking in this area. Starting a project is not enough. It is common knowledge that a schedule must be followed to conduct certain assessments. Educational management should be clearly integrated to be a beneficial process for both students and teachers. We don't want to be known as a country that doesn't understand this. It's not fair that this country is labeled as one with its low IQ. This is not fair to our current generation. We adults need to take a stand on whether certain policies work. I don't mean to make fun of the current curriculum, but I would like to reiterate that there may be better ways to implement it. After all, it's better to make mistakes and admit them than to make mistakes repeatedly.

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