Your name

Tutor's name

Course

Date

Foreign Language Learning Problems

Learning a foreign language is an aspect of education in almost every educational institution all over the world. Knowing at least one foreign language is a great advantage in a modern society. That's why so much attention is paid to it. In many colleges and universities, learning a foreign language is required for students to graduate. It a key to understanding people all over the globe, since countries cooperate more than ever in a globalized world. It is also a great way to broaden an outlook, learn more about a foreign culture, and develop the necessary skills that can be used in other areas of life.

On the other hand, some people may find it difficult to learn a foreign language. According to Robin L. Schwarz, it can be a stressful and humiliating experience to a person who has particular difficulties in mastering a foreign language. That was the main reason for numerous research studies that were aimed at identifying the main reasons for learning disabilities regarding foreign language learning.

There are numerous reasons that are believed to cause some students trouble with learning a foreign language. One is anxiety; in other words, a person may be afraid to make a mistake when writing or speaking a foreign language. A student may also be afraid to have incorrect pronunciation or to fail to remember the language vocabulary.

According to Dr. Dinklage, many students are good at all the subjects, except foreign languages. For a long time, it was believed that the main reasons for troubles with foreign language studies for such students were lack of motivation and lack of effort in learning a language. However, the problem is that such students show high results in other subjects, so there should be no reason to state that they have a lack of motivation or effort. Dr. Dinklage suggested that such students are learning disabled (LD) in regard to foreign languages. He also states that, in some cases, the anxiety described above is not the reason for problems with learning, but often a consequence of LD.

Research shows that students with LD have some phonological difficulties in their own first language. So, to tackle the problem in pronouncing foreign phonemes, a student must learn all the phonological aspects of the first language and improve their pronunciation. That way, by improving phonological skills in one language, a student can master it easier in a foreign language. Apart from that, a great way to help students master foreign language more effectively is to reduce their curriculum to the essential elements, reduce the required vocabulary demand, spend more time on explaining new material, and at the same time use as many multi-sensory elements as possible while teaching, to help students comprehend it better.

Works Cited

- Dinklage, Kenneth T. *Inability to Learn a Foreign Language* in G. Blaine & C. MacArthur, eds. *Emotional Problems of the Student*. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 185–206.
- Robin L. Schwarz, M.Sp.Ed. *Learning Disabilities Language Specialist Learning Skills Program*. Coordinator The English Language Institute, American University Washington, DC October. 1997.