



THE IMPORTANCE OF LINGUISTICS TO EFL TEACHERS

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ANNOTATION

This writing aims to determine the function of Linguistics in English Language Teaching. It will discuss how important linguistics in English language teaching is. Linguistics and language teaching are closely related to each other. This is because language teaching goes hand in hand with language growth. How is it possible that a language teacher can practice language skills if he does not master linguistics itself, how can he train writing skills if he does not master spelling, morphology, syntax, semantics, and lexicology?

KEY WORDS: linguistics, early childhood development, memory development

INTRODUCTION

Linguistics is the study of languages, and as such, is of great importance to language teachers. Linguistics helps teachers convey the origins of words and languages, their historical applications, and their modern day relevance. Combined, this approach to teaching language helps students gain a better, more in-depth understanding of their assignments and work product expectations.

USES OF LINGUISTICS IN TEACHING

The use of linguistics in education is continuing to grow, and is often cross-disciplinary in nature. Not only is it utilized by language instructors, it is also used in early childhood development, psychology and anthropology education, as well. Linguistics is not only the study of language, but also includes the evolution and historical context of language, speech and memory development. It includes the structure and meaning of speech, and of written languages as well as an understanding of the context in which certain words are used.

Foreign Languages. When teaching a foreign language, linguistics is important to a language teacher in that providing historical context to word origins can help students better comprehend the language. This is especially important when it comes to comprehending the differences among conversational speech, formal speech, and abstract rules about word usage in different cultures.

This can actually overlap into regional dialects within the same country.

English Language. Linguistics is equally important to language teachers who provide instruction on the English language. Linguistics helps students understand regional dialects and colloquialisms. It also helps students identify the origins of sayings and phrases that have evolved over time, but sayings that may not have the same relevance or meaning in contemporary society. Linguistics can also help guard against self-embarrassment, using words that are common, but have historical context that may make them inappropriate or insulting in polite society.

Linguistics in Writing. When a language teacher provides instruction on writing and composition, understanding linguistics is important in helping students compose material that has its intended effect. For example, linguistics plays a role in making an argumentative essay compelling, if the writer can harness their knowledge of word use to better solidify and present a position. Likewise, an understanding of linguistics can help a creative writing student develop prose that speaks to the reader's senses and transports them to a different state of reality.

In a society in which people communicate more than ever before via electronic means, composition, meaning and even true exchange of ideas through the written word can



be lacking. Teaching and studying linguistics provides the tools necessary to preserve and advance the art of reading, writing and communication. This is essential in the educational arena, the workplace and in society.

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