

Current Issues and Themes in Education

A Handbook for Practitioners

Edited By:
Suhailah Hussien



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Chapter 6

THE ROLE OF LEARNING STRATEGIES IN LEARNING ARABIC SPEAKING SKILLS

Sueraya Che Haron

INTRODUCTION

“Gaining a new language necessarily involves developing four modalities in varying degrees and combinations: listening, reading, speaking and writing” (Oxford, 1990:5). These modalities are known as the four language skills. Amongst these skills, listening and reading skills or commonly known as interpretive skills develop much more quickly than expressive skills, which are, speaking and writing skills. In fact, the ability to *speak* the second or foreign language fluently requires the longest period of growth. Therefore speaking skill should receive primary attention by both teachers and learners especially if the new language is learnt in a non-native environment. The native environment is rich with cultures of the natives, thus enabling the learners to acquire almost a complete package of foreign language. They would be better speakers as a result of extensive involvements with the natives and exposure to the language at work. As for the non-native environment, more efforts are required to enable the learners to use it as a tool for communication. Hence, the role of learning strategies is considered important in teaching a foreign language as it helps in ensuring the success of second language acquisition.