

1.1.4 unit 2

UNDERSTANDING THE LANGUAGE BACKGROUND

Mother language.....

Cambridge English Dictionary....."Mother language is the first language that you learn when you are a baby, rather a language learned at school or an adult. "

Cambridge Advance Learner's Dictionary"The language that someone learns to speak first is his first/Mother language.

Nature....1) Mother language is known as language for socialization.

2) Mother language is a main language.

3) Innate.

4) It can help to learn 2nd or 3rd language.

5) Helps for free learning.

The importance of mother language

1. Cultural Identity: Mother language is closely tied to a person's cultural identity. It is a carrier of traditions, values, and customs passed down through generations. It connects individuals to their heritage and helps preserve cultural diversity.

2. Cognitive Development: Learning in the mother language fosters better understanding and mastery of concepts. It strengthens cognitive abilities, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. Children generally learn best when they can express themselves in their first language.

3. Emotional Expression: People are often able to express their thoughts, feelings, and emotions most effectively in their mother language. It provides comfort and clarity in communication, especially in situations requiring emotional depth or personal expression.

4. Communication and Social Connection: The mother language facilitates communication within families, communities, and social groups. It forms the foundation for building relationships and maintaining social bonds, which are crucial for individual well-being and societal cohesion.

5. Educational Success: Studies have shown that children who are taught in their mother language, especially in the early years, perform better academically. It provides a solid

foundation for learning additional languages and subjects, helping students excel in their education.

6. Language Preservation: When a language is spoken, it carries with it a wealth of knowledge, history, and unique ways of viewing the world. Preserving and promoting mother languages helps protect linguistic diversity and keeps endangered languages from disappearing.

7. Personal Empowerment: A strong command of one's mother language helps in navigating life and participating in society, whether in the workplace, in politics, or in cultural exchanges. It enables people to advocate for themselves and make their voices heard.

HOME LANGUAGE.....

A home language refers to the language spoken by a person or a group of people in their home or family environment. It is typically the language used for communication within the household and is often the language that children first learn. The home language may or may not be the dominant or official language of the wider community or country. It plays a crucial role in shaping cultural identity and can vary widely depending on the region, family heritage, and cultural practices.

Characteristics of home language.....The term "home language" refers to the language(s) spoken within a person's family or household. It plays a crucial role in shaping an individual's identity, communication patterns, and cultural ties. Here are some key characteristics of a home language:

1. Cultural Significance: The home language often reflects the cultural background of the family. It carries traditions, values, and customs specific to the culture or community the family belongs to.

2. First Language (L1): For many people, the home language is their first language, meaning it is the language they were exposed to from birth and is typically the most familiar and comfortable language for communication.

3. Informal and Conversational: Home language is usually informal and used for everyday conversations. It can include slang, idioms, and expressions unique to the household or region.

4. Emotional Connection: The home language is often deeply tied to emotions, as it is the medium of communication with loved ones, providing a sense of security and comfort.

5. **Multilingual Homes:** In multicultural or multilingual families, the home language can include a blend of languages, or family members might use different languages depending on the context or interlocutor .

6. **Influence on Identity:** The home language plays a critical role in shaping an individual's sense of self and community. It helps form identity, especially in relation to cultural and familial ties.

7. **Variety and Adaptation:** Depending on the household, the home language might have unique adaptations or variations, such as regional dialects or influences from other languages in the area.

8. **Language Development:** For children, the home language is crucial in the development of their cognitive and linguistic abilities, as it is the primary medium of early learning.

9. **Code-Switching:** In multilingual homes, people may switch between languages depending on the context or topic of conversation, a phenomenon known as code-switching.

10. **Language Maintenance and Change:** The use of the home language can vary over time due to migration, exposure to new languages, or societal changes. Families may either maintain or lose proficiency in their home language as generations

The importance of home language.....

1. **Cognitive Development:** A child's home language plays a critical role in their cognitive development. It serves as the foundation for learning new concepts, reasoning skills, and problem-solving abilities. Research shows that proficiency in the home language supports academic success, as it enhances understanding of more complex subjects in later years.

2. **Cultural Identity and Connection:** The home language is a vital aspect of cultural identity. It allows individuals to connect with their heritage, traditions, and community. Speaking a home language helps preserve cultural values and fosters a sense of belonging, especially for immigrants or children of immigrant families.

3. **Emotional Expression:** Being able to express thoughts and emotions in one's home language can foster stronger emotional well-being. It provides comfort and ease, especially in expressing complex feelings, and can improve communication within the family.

4. **Social Relationships:** Proficiency in the home language helps strengthen relationships with family and community members. It facilitates communication, bonding, and maintaining close ties with relatives, which is particularly important for emotional support.

5. **Multilingualism Benefits:** When children grow up learning multiple languages, including their home language, it can improve their overall linguistic abilities. Multilingual individuals often have better cognitive flexibility, problem-solving skills, and can adapt to different social and professional environments more easily.

6. **Language Transfer:** Mastery of the home language can support learning additional languages. Research shows that skills in one language, such as understanding grammar or sentence structures, can transfer to other languages, making language learning easier in the future.

7. **Academic Achievement:** Children who maintain their home language are often better able to succeed in school. Studies suggest that literacy skills in the home language can transfer to learning a second language, and bilingual students tend to perform better on cognitive and academic tasks overall.

School language.....

School language refers to the specific type of language used in educational settings, which includes the vocabulary, expressions, and structures that are employed in classrooms, textbooks, assignments, and assessments. It encompasses the formal language used for instruction, communication between students and teachers, as well as the academic language necessary for learning and understanding various subjects.

School language can involve both oral and written forms, and it often includes technical terms, academic discourse, and language that promotes critical thinking, problem-solving, and the mastery of subject-specific content. This type of language is crucial for effective learning, as it helps students navigate academic concepts and communicate their ideas clearly in an educational context.

Characteristics of school language.....

1. **Formal Register:** School language tends to use formal, standardized language that avoids slang, colloquialisms, and informal expressions. It focuses on clear, correct, and precise language.

2. **Academic Vocabulary:** School language includes specialized academic vocabulary and terminology. Students are expected to master these terms to communicate effectively in different disciplines.

3. **Complex Sentences:** School language often employs more complex sentence structures, including compound and complex sentences. This reflects the need for logical reasoning, explanation, and analysis in academic work.

4. **Expository and Descriptive Styles:** In written and spoken forms, school language frequently involves expository or descriptive language to explain concepts, share facts, or provide instructions.
5. **Impersonal Tone:** School language tends to be more impersonal compared to conversational language. It avoids personal pronouns unless necessary for the subject at hand, focusing more on the content and less on personal opinions.
6. **Objectivity:** In academic settings, the language is often objective and factual, especially when discussing theories, research, and established knowledge, rather than subjective opinions.
7. **Use of Jargon and Technical Terms:** In specialized subjects, school language may include discipline-specific jargon, requiring students to understand and apply these terms to demonstrate their knowledge.
8. **Explicit Instruction:** School language often involves direct and explicit instructions, whether written or spoken. Teachers provide clear guidelines and expectations to help students understand what is being taught.
9. **Cohesion and Coherence:** Effective school language emphasizes the use of cohesive devices and logical progression to ensure coherence in both written and spoken forms of communication.
10. **Learning-Centered:** The language used in schools is focused on facilitating learning, which may involve questioning, probing, explaining, or summarizing to aid comprehension.

Importance of School Language.....

1. **Facilitates Communication:** School language enables clear communication between teachers and students, as well as among peers. It allows students to express their ideas, ask questions, participate in discussions, and engage with the content being taught.
2. **Supports Learning and Comprehension:** The use of formal, academic language helps students understand complex concepts and instructions. Mastering school language enables students to better process information, think critically, and apply what they've learned across different subjects.
3. **Promotes Academic Success:** Proficiency in school language is closely linked to academic achievement. Students who are skilled in the specialized vocabulary and structure of academic language are more likely to excel in assessments, assignments, and projects, which are often based on this language.

4. Encourages Critical Thinking: The complexity of school language, especially in subjects like literature, science, and history, encourages students to think critically. It requires them to analyze information, form arguments, and articulate reasoning clearly, which are important cognitive skills.

5. Fosters Cognitive Development: School language helps students develop higher-order thinking skills. The ability to use and understand abstract language, complex sentences, and discipline-specific terms contributes to their intellectual growth.

6. Promotes Inclusivity and Equity: A shared understanding of school language ensures that all students have an equal opportunity to participate and succeed. It reduces language barriers that might hinder learning, ensuring that students from diverse linguistic backgrounds can access the curriculum.

7. Encourages Literacy Development: School language is closely linked to literacy. As students engage with reading and writing in school, they expand their vocabulary, grammar, and understanding of various genres, which helps them become proficient readers and writers.

8. Prepares for Future Careers: Many careers require specialized language skills, whether in science, business, law, or technology. Mastering school language prepares students for higher education and the professional world, where they will need to use technical language and communicate effectively in formal settings.

9. Supports Social Interaction: Effective use of school language allows students to participate in academic discussions, collaborate with peers, and build relationships with teachers and classmates. It is an essential tool for social integration within the school environment.

10. Strengthens Cultural and Academic Identity: The language used in schools often reflects the values, norms, and intellectual traditions of a society. By engaging with school language, students connect with academic culture and gain an understanding of their place in the broader intellectual community.

Standard Language.....

Standard language refers to the form of a language that is widely accepted as the norm for communication, education, and formal settings. It is characterized by consistent grammar, vocabulary, spelling, and pronunciation rules that are used in official, written, and spoken contexts. Standard language is typically taught in schools, used in media, government, and business, and serves as a unifying form of communication within a speech community. It is often based on a particular dialect that has been codified and standardized through dictionaries, grammar books, and other authoritative sources.

Characteristics Of Standard Language.....

1. **Codified Grammar and Syntax:** Standard language follows established rules of grammar, sentence structure, and syntax, which are widely accepted and taught in formal settings like schools and institutions.
2. **Uniform Vocabulary:** It uses a standardized set of words, ensuring consistency in meaning and usage. Regional variations or colloquialisms are typically avoided in favor of universally recognized terms.
3. **Standardized Spelling and Pronunciation:** The spelling and pronunciation of words in the standard language are regulated by dictionaries, linguistic authorities, and style guides, creating a uniform approach to writing and speaking.
4. **Formal and Impersonal Tone:** Standard language is typically more formal and impersonal than regional dialects or colloquial speech. It is often used in professional, academic, and official contexts where neutrality and clarity are important.
5. **Written Tradition:** The standard language is heavily associated with written forms of communication, such as books, newspapers, and formal documents. It is considered the "correct" language in official written communication.
6. **Neutrality:** Standard language is usually designed to be neutral, avoiding regional, social, or class-based variations that may occur in local dialects or informal speech. It serves as a common ground for communication across different regions or groups.
7. **Widely Accepted and Recognized:** The standard language is recognized and used by a broad segment of society, including institutions like schools, media, and government. It is considered the prestigious form of the language.
8. **Used in Education and Media:** It is the version of the language taught in schools and used in media broadcasts, helping create consistency in education and public communication.
9. **Prescribed by Authority:** The rules governing the standard language are typically prescribed by linguistic authorities, educational institutions, or language academies. It is enforced through dictionaries, textbooks, and other official language resources.

Importance of Standard Language.....

1. **Facilitates Clear Communication:** Standard language provides a common form of communication that can be understood by speakers from different regions and social backgrounds, reducing misunderstandings and enhancing clarity in both spoken and written contexts.

2. Promotes National Unity: By establishing a uniform language, a standard language helps unite people from different regions or dialect groups within a country. It serves as a common ground for communication, reinforcing a shared sense of identity and community.

3. Enhances Educational Access: In education systems, the standard language is typically taught, ensuring that students across different regions or social classes can learn the same material in the same way. It provides a level playing field for academic achievement.

4. Supports Professional and Formal Communication: Standard language is the preferred form of communication in professional, governmental, legal, and academic contexts. It is used in official documents, laws, business communications, and media broadcasts, ensuring a formal and consistent approach to communication.

5. Improves Literacy: Since the standard language is often the version taught in schools, it is crucial for literacy development. Learning the standard language helps students master reading, writing, and comprehension skills that are essential for academic and professional success.

6. Promotes Social Mobility: Mastery of the standard language is often associated with higher social and economic status. It is important for accessing higher education, advancing in careers, and participating fully in public life.

7. Preserves Language Consistency: The standard language helps preserve the stability and consistency of a language over time. It provides a fixed point of reference that minimizes the risk of language fragmentation, ensuring that the language remains intelligible across generations.

8. Standardization in Media and Publishing: The use of a standardized language in media, literature, and publishing ensures that content is accessible to a broad audience, regardless of regional dialects or colloquialisms, contributing to a shared cultural and informational experience.

9. Supports Cultural Identity: While regional dialects reflect local cultures, the standard language represents a broader cultural identity. It reflects the values, educational system, and governance of a society, helping to maintain cultural continuity.

10. Enables Global Communication: In some cases, a standard language (like English) has become a global lingua franca, allowing people from different linguistic backgrounds to communicate effectively in international settings, business, and diplomacy.

Slang Language.....

Slang language refers to informal, often playful or creative language that is used by specific groups or communities. It typically involves words, phrases, or expressions that deviate from standard language norms and may be specific to certain regions, social groups, or subcultures. Slang is often characterized by its casual tone, evolving nature, and the use of non-standard vocabulary or grammar. While slang can help create a sense of identity or solidarity within a group, it may not be understood or accepted in more formal or professional contexts.

Characteristics of Slang Language.....

1. **Informality:** Slang is typically used in casual, everyday conversations rather than in formal settings. It often reflects a relaxed or conversational tone.
2. **Creativity and Playfulness:** Slang often involves creative wordplay, new phrases, or repurposed meanings of existing words. It can be playful, humorous, or ironic.
3. **Group-Specific:** Slang is frequently associated with particular social groups, age cohorts, subcultures, or regions. It helps create a sense of belonging among group members and may not be easily understood by outsiders.
4. **Evolving Nature:** Slang evolves quickly and can change over time. Words or phrases that were once popular can fall out of use, while new slang terms emerge regularly.
5. **Non-standard Vocabulary:** Slang often involves non-standard or informal vocabulary, including shortened words, abbreviations, or entirely new expressions. These words may not be found in formal dictionaries.
6. **Expressiveness:** Slang tends to be expressive and conveys emotions, attitudes, or cultural values. It can be used to emphasize feelings, make strong statements, or add personality to language.
7. **Flexibility and Adaptability:** Slang terms often have flexible meanings and can change depending on context. A single slang word might have different meanings in different situations or communities.
8. **Exclusivity:** The use of slang can create an in-group feeling among those who understand it. It often serves as a marker of identity and can exclude people who aren't familiar with the terms.
9. **Taboo and Rebellion:** Some slang words may be rebellious or deliberately break linguistic norms. They can challenge social conventions, such as using more casual or even vulgar terms in place of more polite language.
10. **Regional Variation:** Slang can vary significantly depending on geographic location, with different slang terms used in different cities, countries, or cultures.

The role of a teacher in discouraging the use of slang language in the classroom.....

1. **Setting Clear Expectations:** Teachers should establish and communicate clear guidelines about appropriate language use in the classroom. This includes explaining the difference between formal and informal language, and the importance of using appropriate language in academic settings.
2. **Modeling Proper Language:** Teachers serve as role models for students. By consistently using proper language, they set an example that students can follow. This encourages students to mirror their teacher's language choices.
3. **Providing Education on Language:** Teachers can take the opportunity to educate students about the effects of slang, helping them understand how slang might be perceived in different contexts. They can teach students about the importance of using standard language in professional and academic settings.
4. **Encouraging Respect and Courtesy:** Slang can sometimes be disrespectful or offensive to others. Teachers can emphasize the importance of using language that fosters mutual respect and is appropriate for all situations.
5. **Correcting Inappropriate Language:** When students use slang inappropriately, teachers should address it in a constructive manner. Instead of simply criticizing, teachers can encourage students to rephrase their statements in a more formal or respectful way.
6. **Creating a Positive Environment for Communication:** Teachers should foster an atmosphere where students feel comfortable expressing themselves clearly and appropriately. This encourages better communication and reduces reliance on slang or colloquialisms that may limit understanding.
7. **Incorporating Language Skills into Curriculum:** Teachers can integrate lessons on vocabulary, grammar, and formal writing into the curriculum. By providing students with a solid foundation in language, they are less likely to resort to slang in academic contexts.

DIALECT.....

A dialect is a distinct form or variety of a language spoken by a specific group of people, often based on geographic region, social class, or ethnic background. Dialects can vary in terms of pronunciation (accent), vocabulary, and grammar, but they are still considered a part of the same language. Dialects can be seen in differences in how people from different areas or communities speak the same language, such as British English versus American English or the different regional dialects of Spanish or Chinese.

Characteristics of Dialect.....

1. **Pronunciation :** Dialects often feature distinctive pronunciation or accent differences. This includes variations in the sounds of vowels, consonants, or stress patterns.
2. **Vocabulary:** Dialects often have unique words or phrases that are not commonly used in other dialects of the same language.
3. **Grammar:** Dialects can differ in grammatical structures, such as sentence construction, verb tenses, or the use of articles.
4. **Spelling:** In written form, dialects may show regional spelling differences.
5. **Idiomatic Expressions:** Dialects often have unique idioms or expressions that reflect the culture or region.
6. **Speech Patterns and Rhythm:** The rhythm and flow of speech, such as speed, pauses, or pitch, can vary across dialects.
7. **Social and Regional Variation:** Dialects often correlate with social or regional backgrounds. People from different geographic areas, social classes, or age groups may speak different dialects. For instance, rural and urban speakers may use distinct dialects, even within the same country.

Learning dialects in the classroom is important for several reasons.....

1. **Cultural Awareness and Inclusion:** Dialects are deeply tied to regional, ethnic, and cultural identities. By learning and appreciating different dialects, students become more aware of diverse cultures and perspectives, fostering a more inclusive environment in the classroom.
2. **Communication Skills:** Understanding various dialects enhances students' communication skills by broadening their ability to connect with people from different linguistic backgrounds. This is especially important in multicultural societies where students may encounter speakers of diverse dialects.
3. **Promoting Language Development:** Exposure to dialects can improve language skills overall. It encourages students to be more adaptable in their use of language and helps them understand the nuances of grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation that vary across dialects.
4. **Critical Thinking and Linguistic Flexibility:** Learning dialects can sharpen students' critical thinking by making them aware of how language changes over time and across regions. It helps them recognize that language is dynamic and context-dependent.

5. **Respect and Empathy:** When students learn about dialects, they often develop a greater respect for speakers of non-standard or regional languages. This can reduce biases and stereotypes, promoting empathy and understanding.

6. **Academic Success:** In some cases, understanding the dialects used in a particular community can support academic achievement. It helps students to better understand local texts, literature, and even historical documents that use specific dialects.

The role of a teacher in teaching dialects in the classroom

1. **Facilitator of Understanding and Appreciation:** Teachers help students understand the importance of dialects by explaining their cultural, historical, and social significance. They promote appreciation for the diversity of language, encouraging students to see dialects not as "incorrect" forms but as valuable variations of language.

2. **Creating an Inclusive Environment:** Teachers play a key role in ensuring that all students feel represented and respected, especially those who speak dialects that may not be considered "standard" in formal settings. By incorporating different dialects in lessons, teachers show that all forms of communication are valid and worthy of respect.

3. **Building Communication Skills:** Teachers provide guidance on how to navigate various dialects, helping students learn when and how different dialects are appropriate. This can include understanding the nuances of communication, whether formal or informal, and how to adapt language use to different contexts.

4. **Promoting Linguistic Flexibility:** Teachers can encourage students to develop flexibility in their language use. By introducing dialects, teachers help students see the richness of language variation, and how mastering multiple forms of communication can make them more effective communicators.

5. **Encouraging Critical Thinking:** Teachers help students critically engage with language by discussing how dialects reflect social dynamics, identity, and power structures. This opens up discussions about linguistic prejudice and helps students develop a more informed perspective on language variation.

6. **Supporting Language Development:** In multilingual classrooms, teachers can help students navigate different dialects as part of language development. Understanding dialects can also enhance literacy, as it aids students in recognizing the differences between spoken and written language and understanding regional variations.

7. **Conflict Resolution:** Teachers who are aware of the linguistic backgrounds of their students can intervene when misunderstandings or biases arise due to dialect differences. They can create opportunities for dialogue and understanding, helping to prevent linguistic discrimination.

8. Modeling Respect: By valuing dialects and incorporating them into classroom practice, teachers model respect for linguistic diversity. This can encourage students to adopt a similar attitude toward others' dialects, creating a more positive and supportive classroom .

Learning dialects in the classroom presents several problems.....

1. Standard Language vs. Dialect: Many classrooms prioritize a "standard" or formal version of the language which can create a divide for students who speak a regional dialect. Students might feel stigmatized or judged for using their dialects, which can impact their self-esteem and confidence in language learning.

2. Lack of Resources: There is often a scarcity of instructional materials tailored to specific dialects. Many textbooks and learning materials focus on standardized versions of languages, which can leave students learning a dialect without adequate tools or practice in their everyday form of communication.

3. Teacher Expertise: Teachers may not be familiar with or proficient in various dialects, which can lead to challenges in understanding and accurately assessing students who speak those dialects. This may also hinder the ability to teach students who use non-standard forms of language.

4. Cultural Sensitivity: Dialects are often tied to cultural identities, and discussions around dialects may touch on issues of social class, race, or ethnicity. This can create sensitive situations in the classroom where students may feel their cultural identity is being questioned or diminished.

5. Miscommunication and Misunderstanding: Dialects can include unique vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation that might differ significantly from the standard form of the language. This can create confusion, especially if students are not taught how to switch between dialects and standard language in different contexts.

6. Assessment Bias: Standardized testing often favors the standard version of a language, and students who speak a dialect may struggle with these assessments, leading to unfair evaluations of their language abilities. This can result in inaccurate academic performance assessments.

7. Peer Pressure: In diverse classrooms, students may feel pressured by their peers to conform to the standard language. This social pressure can discourage students from using or embracing their dialects, which may result in the loss of their cultural heritage.

8. Linguistic Prestigious: Some dialects are seen as less prestigious than others, leading to negative stereotypes. Students who speak "non-prestigious" dialects might face discrimination, which could hinder their engagement and motivation to learn in the classroom.