

LINGUISTICS LEARNING STYLE AS INNOVATION: THE SUCCESSFUL OF ENGLISH FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDENTS

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Abstract

This research aims at revealing: the characteristic of the learning style for EFL; the advantages of the learning style for EFL; the innovation of the learning style for EFL. It is a kind of descriptive qualitative research aimed at revealing the linguistics learning style as an innovation for the English Foreign language. Linguistics learning research is still insufficient as an innovation for EFL; therefore, this research is significant to be conducted. The findings of the research can be described as follows: First, there are nine learning styles, namely; visual learning, auditory numerical, social group, visual numerical, kinesthetics, expressiveness oral, auditory language, social individual and expressiveness written. Second, the benefits of linguistics learning are improved language skills, better comprehension, increased engagement, flexibility, and better communication skills. Third, the innovations of learning style in EFL include language learning apps, interactive language learning platforms, AI-assisted language learning, social media use, multimedia-based learning, and content-based instruction.

Keywords: *Linguistics Learning Style; English Foreign Language; Innovation.*

INTRODUCTION

English language is one of the foreign skills needed for students. As a foreign language, the students struggle to master English¹. It means that, students need innovation in learning the English language. English as a foreign language study can positively affect a person's life, including access to more

¹Khoirun, Nisak. 2023. Interview of English Student STKIP PGRI Pacitan. Accessed on 17 July 2023.

academic and professional opportunities². The English language has a global impact and is taught in many countries. Communicating effectively in English is essential for EFL teachers who want to inspire their students to develop their language skills. It means that, English as a second language learning can present students with numerous challenges.

In learning the English language, students have different characteristics as educators cannot give a similar style in learning progress. Each student receives and processes information distinctively. Students take great pleasure in engaging in enjoyable activities in learning English³. Some students may be more visual, preferring to learn through seeing (e.g., reading, observing diagrams or illustrations). Others may be auditory learners who comprehend better by listening to information (e.g., through lectures, and discussions). Kinesthetic or tactile learners, on the other hand, benefit most from doing and movement (e.g., through role plays, and experiments). Some prefer a more logical or systematic approach to learning, focusing on the underlying rules and patterns. These distinct learning styles may manifest in various ways in English language acquisition. For example, some students may learn vocabulary more effectively through flashcards (visual learners). In contrast, others may remember new words better when used in context (auditory learners) (auditory learners). It means that, educators need to stress the importance of students knowing their preferred methods of absorbing information. Students who are self-aware about their learning styles are better equipped to take charge of their education.

²University of the People. 2023. *How Can Learning English as a Foreign Language Benefit You?* Accessed on 17 July 2023, 12.00 am o'clock. Retrieved from <https://www.uopeople.edu/blog/english-as-a-foreign-language/>.

³Kumaryati, Sri Endang. 2017. Exploring Students Interests in Learning English (A Descriptive Study in Elementary Schools in Kudus), *TEYLIN International Conference Proceedings*, p. 185-191.

Linguistics is how to know the meaning of language. Linguistic learning styles are an essential factor⁴. As each student has unique strengths and intelligence, the teaching process should, whenever possible, consider individual needs. Students become the center of attention during the learning process⁵. Styles of language acquisition are among the most influential determinants of how and how well students acquire a foreign or second language. It means that, A foreign language is a language that is studied in an environment where it is not the primary mode of communication and where exposure to that language is limited.

Learning styles and language learning strategies are the two most influential factors in determining how and to what extent students master a second or foreign language⁶. Their learning styles partly influence students' success in second or foreign language learning. Students' preferred information acquisition, processing, and dissemination methods can vary⁷.

Linguistics Learning Style is a relatively new concept investigating the intersection of linguistics and learning styles. It is based on the premise that a learner's comprehension and application of language's inherent structures and rules (i.e., phonology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics) may vary and that these differences can be exploited to optimize language learning. In learning the English language, students have difficulties, namely; The English grammar rules can be complex and challenging for learners; English has an extensive

⁴Adnan, Aruliva., Marlina, Leni. 2017. EFL Students' Learning Style in English as General Course at Universitas Negeri Padang, *Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research (ASSEHR)*, No. 110. p. 235-240.

⁵Risan, Rahmad. 2022. Identifying the characteristics of the student: An evaluation for English Teachers' Pedagogical Competence. *Journal of English Language Teaching*, 11(2): pp. 147-159, DOI: 10.24036/jelt.v11i2.116598

⁶Widharyanto, B., Binawan, Heribertus. 2020. Learning Style And Language Learning Strategies Of Students From Various Ethnics In Indonesia, *Cakrawala Pendidikan*, No 39 (2), p. 480-492.

⁷Ariastuti, Melani Dwi., Wahyudin, Achmad Yudi. 2022. Exploring Academic Performance and Learning Style of Undergraduate Students in English Education Program, *Journal of English Language Teaching and Learning*, No 3 (1), p. 67.

vocabulary and many words have multiple meanings; English has sounds that may not exist in the learners' native languages, making pronunciation difficult; and EFL students may have difficulty understanding native English speakers, particularly those babbling or with different accents⁸.

In learning the English language, the students should have specific techniques to make it easier to learn English, but the students feel bored and challenging to learn English. Few studies have examined the influence of the Linguistics Learning Style on the success of EFL students, despite the extensive interest and research into learning styles in language education. This gap in the literature suggests that additional research is necessary to investigate the potential of this innovative approach to facilitate language learning. In this context, the present study seeks to contribute to the body of knowledge regarding effective language learning strategies, focusing specifically on the Linguistics Learning Style as an innovative approach to enhancing the success of EFL students. The study was therefore designed to address the following research questions:

- 1) What is the characteristic of the linguistics learning style for EFL?
- 2) What are the advantages of the linguistics learning style for EFL?
- 3) How is the innovation of the linguistics learning style for EFL?

⁸Suryanto., Sari, Zahra Eka. 2020. Difficulties and Strategies in Learning English: An Analysis of Students from English and Non-English Education Department in Indonesia, *Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research*, No. 518. p. 313-331.

RESEARCH METHOD

It is a type of qualitative descriptive research with the purpose of revealing the linguistics learning style as an innovation for the English Foreign language. In qualitative research, the researcher explained the use of theories in the findings and discussion. The supporting sources include books, journals, and other materials pertinent to the subject.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Characteristics of The Linguistics Learning Style For EFL

According to Mkonto⁹, there are nine Linguistics learning styles for EFL, namely:

a) Visual Learning

Students with this learning style enjoy reading and benefit significantly from visual simulation”¹⁰. It means that, When information is presented visually, it is typically easier for visual learners to comprehend and retain it. They naturally tend to read and can effectively extract meaning and details from written text. They may appreciate books, articles, and other written materials as their primary source of knowledge. Additionally, visual simulations are highly beneficial for visual learners. These may consist of interactive multimedia presentations, virtual reality experiences, computer simulations, or any other form of visual representation that aids in comprehending concepts and ideas. Visual simulations offer these

⁹Mkonto, Nosisana. “Students’ Learning Preferences”. *Journal of Studies in Education*, Vol. 5. (3), 2016 212-235.

¹⁰Oxford, R.L. (2001). *Language learning styles and strategies*. In Marianne Celce-Murcia (Ed), *Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language (Third Edition)*, 359 – 366. USA: Heinle & Heinle.

students a dynamic and engaging way to absorb information, as they can observe and interact with visual content to enhance their comprehension.

b) Auditory Numerical

Students who learn best through listening to lectures or audio recordings are said to have an auditory learning style.”¹¹. These students have excellent auditory memories and can accurately recall details of information heard in conversations or lectures¹². People who learn best when they can listen to and repeat back information are said to have an auditory learning style.

c). Social Group

A social group consists of individuals who interact with one another, influence one another, communicate, share certain goals, and adhere to certain norms. Their relationships are structured according to a particular structure, which means that each person has a distinct role or position, and that these roles are hierarchically organized. Interdependence is a fundamental characteristic of a social group, as individuals depend somewhat on one another. Group-preferred learners prefer to study and learn in groups¹³.

c) Visual Numerical

Visual numerical denotes a learning style that requires seeing numbers or data to comprehend them. It is also a concept associated with data visualization and the capacity to make sense of semiotic resources in an

¹¹Al-Hebaishi, M. S. (2012). Investigating the relationship between learning styles, strategies and the academic performance of Saudi English majors. *International Interdisciplinary Journal of Education*, 1(8), 510-520.

¹²Marzuna, Lenny., et al. 2019. Learning Styles and English Proficiency of Undergraduate EFL Students at One State Islamic University in Sumatera, *Indonesia, Jurnal Pendidikan dan Pengajaran*, No 6, p. 214.

¹³Dörnyei, Z. (2005). *The psychology of the language learner: Individual differences in second language acquisition*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum. Associates, Publishers.

educational context¹⁴. The ability to comprehend and interpret visual representations of numerical data constitutes visual-numerical literacy. It utilizes visual aids such as graphs, charts, and diagrams to comprehend numerical information better¹⁵. The visual-numeric environment refers to classifying and validating visual-numeric data using reference models, methods, and tools.

d) Kinesthetic-Tactile

It prefers to move and manipulate objects that can be touched. They take frequent breaks and circulate the room¹⁶. Kinesthetic-tactile learning, also known as "kinesthetic learning" or "tactile learning," refers to learning styles that heavily rely on movement and touch. People with a kinesthetic-tactile learning style tend to learn most effectively when physically engaged in the learning process, whether through moving, doing, touching, or actively participating in an activity.

e) Expressiveness Oral

Expressiveness oral communication involves using tone, inflection, and other prosodic features of spoken language to convey meaning.¹⁷ It is a fundamental component of oral language skills essential for academic success. Expressiveness oral recognition accuracy and the application of prosodic features can all be measured in oral assessments.¹⁸.

¹⁴Tonnessen, Elise Seip. 2020. *What is Visual-Numeric Literacy, and How Does It Work?* Amsterdam: University Press.

¹⁵Spitaleri, Rosa Maria. 1994. Visual Numerical Environment: Reference Models, Methods and Tools, *Computer-Aided Design*, 26 (12), p. 907-916.

¹⁶Oxford, R. (2001) Language learning styles and strategies. In. M. Celce-Murcia, Ed. *Teaching English as a second or foreign language* (3rd ed.). US A: Heinle & Heinle.

¹⁷Sabu, Kamini, et all. 2018. *Automatic Detection of Expressiveness in Oral Reading*, *Interspeech*, p. 1489-1490.

¹⁸Morrison, Timothy., & Wilcox, Brad. 2020. Assessing Expressive Oral Reading Fluency, *Education Sciences*, 10 (3), p. 13.

Automatic detection systems have also been developed to evaluate further the expressiveness of a reader's reading aloud. Teachers need to consider their students' learning styles, such as whether they retain information better through oral or written communication, to help each student reach their full potential.

f) Auditory Language

This is the student who acquires knowledge by hearing spoken words. Particularly when attempting to comprehend new material, they may vocalize or move their lips or throat while reading. Hearing-learned words or facts will be easier to comprehend and recall. These students learn most effectively when presented with information orally¹⁹.

g) Social Individual

Individual social learning is acquiring new knowledge, abilities, or behaviors through social interactions with others.²⁰ This student gets more work done alone. When they have learned independently, they think and remember more effectively. The individual cares more about their ideas than those of others. This student will not be difficult to prevent from excessively socializing in class.

h) Expressiveness-Written

The student can demonstrate knowledge through well-written essays and test responses. When oral responses are required, they feel less

¹⁹Adnan, Aruliva., Marlina, Leni. 2017. EFL Students' Learning Style in English as General Course at Universitas Negeri Padang, *Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research (ASSEHR)*, No. 110. p. 235-240.

²⁰Yang, Yanpeng., Clement, Romain J G., Ghirlanda, Stefano., Porfiri, Maurixio. 2019. A Comparison of Individual Learning and Social Learning in Zebrafish Through an Ethorobotics Approach, *Original Research Artikel*, 6, p. 13.

confident, if not foolish. Their thoughts are better organized when written than when spoken.

The Advantages of The Linguistics Learning Style For EFL

EFL (English as a Foreign Language) students can benefit from the linguistic learning style, which involves learning through language. Here are a few benefits of the linguistic learning style for EFL students:

- 1) Improved language skills: Most linguists learn best through language, so teaching them through both written and spoken words can be advantageous. This can enhance language skills, such as reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
- 2) Better comprehension: Linguistic learners are typically adept at comprehending and utilizing language, facilitating their ability to comprehend and retain new information. This can be especially useful in EFL classrooms, where students must comprehend and use a foreign language.
- 3) Increased engagement: Reading, writing, and discussing ideas tend to be enjoyable activities for linguistically-inclined students, which can increase their interest in the learning process. This can result in a more optimistic outlook on learning and increased motivation to study.
- 4) Flexibility: Linguistics students can learn through various methods, such as lectures, reading, writing, and group discussions. This adaptability can benefit EFL classrooms where students have varying preferences and needs.
- 5) Better communication skills: The ability of linguistic learners to express themselves effectively through language can lead to enhanced communication skills. This can be especially crucial in EFL classrooms where students must communicate in a foreign language.

Reading, writing, listening, and speaking are the favored modes of instruction for linguists. They typically have excellent reading, writing, and storytelling abilities and retain information better when presented orally.

The following are some benefits of the linguistic learning style for English as a Foreign Language (EFL) students:

- 1) Enhanced Vocabulary Acquisition: Vocabulary expansion is essential to learning a foreign language, and language learners have a natural talent for picking up and remembering new words.
- 2) Strong Listening and Speaking Skills: Students of other languages often have a natural gift for the spoken word. These abilities are helpful in language learning and can improve listening and speaking skills.
- 3) Reading and Writing Proficiency: Linguistic learners may find it easier to read and write in the target language because they already possess these skills.
- 4) Grammar Understanding: Learners of a new language typically have a knack for spotting linguistic patterns and rules, which can facilitate their mastery of the language's grammar.
- 5) Memory Retention: They can successfully use memory techniques such as repetition, rhymes, and songs to learn and retain new linguistic material.

The Innovation of The Linguistics Learning Style For EFL

In the search results, the specific innovation of the linguistic learning style for EFL (English as a Foreign Language) students is not explicitly mentioned. Nevertheless, based on the available data, the linguistic learning style may be innovative in the following ways:

- 1) Language creativity: The linguistic learning style promotes creative linguistic expression, such as creating novel grammatical

constructions and patterns that adhere to established linguistic norms. As a result, EFL students can better express themselves and expand their linguistic horizons through their imaginative use of the language²¹.

- 2) Language proficiency: The linguistic learning style effectively improves EFL students' command of the English language because it emphasizes language-based teaching and study techniques. As a result, one's proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening can all rise²².
- 3) Adaptability: The linguistic learning style is adaptable to various instructional formats, such as classroom presentations, independent study, and group projects. This flexibility encourages creativity and innovation among EFL students as they experiment with various methods to improve their language skills.
- 4) Personalization: The theory of language acquisition considers each student's unique background and linguistic preferences. EFL students can make their studies of the language more efficient and creative if they take the time to identify and capitalize on their unique learning styles.

The "innovation" of English as a Foreign Language (EFL) linguistic learning style most likely refers to novel uses of this learning style in language teaching. "linguistic learning style" refers to the preference for verbal and auditory learning, such as reading, writing, listening, and speaking, in this context. The term "innovation" refers to newly developed techniques, tools, technologies, or methodologies that enhance the efficacy of EFL instruction, particularly for students with a linguistic learning style. These innovations may

²¹Sarifa, Najmus. 2020. Enhancing EFL learners' English Proficiency and Intelligence by implementing The Eclectic Method of Language Teaching, *Arab World English Journal*, No 11 (1), p. 103-113.

²²Deshors, Sandra., Gotz, Sandra., Laporte, Samantha. 2016. Linguistics Innovation in EFL and ESL: Rethinking the Linguistics Creativity of Non-Native English Speakers, *IJLCR*, p. 36.

include language learning apps, interactive language learning platforms, AI-assisted language learning, social media use, multimedia-based learning, and content-based instruction.

CONCLUSION

"Linguistics Learning Style" examines how linguistics can illuminate how people learn most effectively. It is premised on the possibility of individual differences in how students acquire and employ linguistic concepts (including phonology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics). "Linguistics Learning Style" is an emerging field that examines how linguistics can shed light on how people learn best. Individual differences in how students acquire and apply linguistic concepts are assumed (including phonology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics).

Students of English as a Foreign Language (EFL) may have difficulty understanding native English speakers, especially those who babble or have different accents, due to some factors, including but not limited to: the complexity of English grammar rules; the breadth and depth of the English vocabulary; the fact that many words have more than one meaning; and the fact that English contains sounds that may not exist in the learners' native languages.

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