

## THE CONCEPT OF COMPETENCE IN LINGUISTICS AND THE ROLE OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF COMPETENCE IN ACQUIRING A SECOND LANGUAGE

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### ABSTRACT

The main subject of the very article is competence in language teaching and learning, as well as its essence in effective communication in a second language. In the article it is possible to find the definition of the term competence, along with its types. Scanning the article, it is clear that not one type of competence is vital in communication, but each type possesses their own place in effective transmission of message.

**Keywords:** competence, linguistic, pragmatic, socio-linguistic, strategic, language teaching, language acquirement, second language, utterance, linguistics and non-linguistic factors, dynamic meaning, lexical/grammatical capability, communicative competence, context, contextual meaning, communication problems.

### INTRODUCTION

It is a fact that language teaching and learning have been a hot point for the majority of discussions and researches by scientists in the latest decade, since language acquiring has seen a new development. It is not a secret that nowadays every one of us possesses a willing of learning an international language as language opens doors in the corridor. Considering the facts aforementioned, teachers are developing as easy as possible ways of learning a second language, one of which is developing language competence. The following article also looks into the term ‘competence’ as well as the types and importance of it in language acquirement.

### MAIN PART

As for a brief definition of ‘competence’ in linguistics, it presents a meaning that an individual’s subconscious knowledge of the rules governing the formation of speech in a language.

There exist a number of types of competence in linguistics, which are linguistic, pragmatic, socio-linguistic and strategic competence.

### **What does linguistic competence mean to you?**

According to David L. Chiesa, Ph.D. Ulugbek Azizov, Ph.D., linguistic or grammatical competence – is the ability to be able to apply grammatical, lexical, syntactical, and stylistic rules to oral and written utterances. Linguistic competence is important since it explains how utterances and sentences are structured – structural conceptualization of language. However, these rules are not enough to accomplish a communicative goal since non-linguistic factors play a role in constructing social meanings.

To me personally, linguistic competence means the usage of a particular language with the help of expressing and interpreting concepts, opinions, feelings with the purpose of oral or written performance. Linguistic competence for me really significant in a lesson, due to the fact that when teaching vocabulary and grammar, I refer to linguistic competence as it is really effective in teaching new words and new grammatical rules in context. Linguistic competence refers to teaching vocabulary or grammar which should be presented in context. Without doubt, follow-up activities should give way to learners to put the words into practice either in the form of speaking or writing.

### **What does pragmatic competence mean to you?**

Based on David L. Chiesa, Ph.D. Ulugbek Azizov, Ph.D., pragmatic/discourse competence is an ability to interpret and convey meaning in context. To understand a dynamic meaning depends on time, space, and social context. While communicating people not only exchange meaningful structures and semantics but they transfer intentions. An utterance carries within itself such intentions of a speaker. This intention is tied to time, space, and social context. To able to interpret these intentions in communications is to possess a pragmatic/discourse competence.

As it is universally known, in the study of linguistics, pragmatic competence refers to the ability to use language effectively in a contextually appropriate fashion. Pragmatic competence is a basic aspect of a rather general communicative competence. From my point of view, on the one hand, linguistic competence consists of grammatical and lexical capability (including comprehension of phonetics, semantics, syntax, or intonation); on the other hand, pragmatic competence means the capability to use the language in an effective way so as to achieve a particular goal or comprehend language in context.

### **What does sociolinguistic competence mean to you?**

As per David L. Chiesa, Ph.D. Ulugbek Azizov, Ph.D., sociolinguistic competence is being aware of how culture(s), shared social rules and norms affect the way we describe things, objects, and processes within a society. Sociolinguistic competence targets at developing students' ability to understand how different cultures choose different grammar, syntax, semantic, stylistics in describing the same objects, subjects, and processes. It also tries to understand how something is spoken appropriately in a social context.

In my opinion, sociolinguistic competence means that someone is capable of using appropriate language in a social context, which explains norms, beliefs, values and behavioral patterns of a culture.

### **What does strategic competence mean to you?**

In agreement with David L. Chiesa, Ph.D. Ulugbek Azizov, Ph.D., strategic competence is while lacking knowledge in linguistic, sociolinguistic, and

pragmatic competences, strategic competence is being able to overcome such a shortage of knowledge by delivering a message from one language into another one with the help of means other than those in linguistic, sociolinguistic, and pragmatic competencies. While communicating with different people in a foreign language we are not always aware of certain words. To be able to deliver the meaning of these unknown words without using these words themselves implies the possession of strategic competence. In my point of view, strategic competence is really significant in the way that it creates the chance of effective usage of the language when there appear comprehension and communication problems. Rebecca Oxford has developed 6 categories:

1. Memory strategies
2. Cognitive strategies
3. Compensation strategies
4. Meta-cognitive strategies
5. Affective strategies
6. Social strategies

### **CONCLUSION**

To sum up all the views of point above, it can be concluded that different types of competencies play a fundamental role in language learning. It is somewhat impossible to call one of them more vital, since all share own responsibility in learning and transferring a

language. I can say linguistic and strategic competencies play essential role in imparting a message to a native speaker, whereas, socio-linguistic and pragmatic competencies take a part of catching speech of speakers.

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