

RESEARCH ARTICLE

# The Influence of Language Environment on The Development of Coherent Speech in Foreign Language Groups

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## Abstract

The development of coherent speech is one of the most essential aspects of language learning, especially in foreign language groups where learners are exposed to a non-native linguistic system. This article examines how the language environment influences the formation and improvement of coherent speech skills. It explores theoretical perspectives, types of language environments, key factors affecting speech development, and practical strategies to enhance communicative competence. The findings highlight that a rich, interactive, and immersive language environment significantly contributes to learners' ability to produce structured, meaningful, and fluent speech.

## KEYWORDS

Language environment, coherent speech, foreign language learning, communication, immersion, bilingualism.

## INTRODUCTION

In the process of learning a foreign language, students often face difficulties in expressing their thoughts clearly and logically. Coherent speech—defined as the ability to produce structured, connected, and meaningful discourse—is a key indicator of language proficiency. One of the most influential factors in developing this skill is the language environment in which learners are immersed.

The language environment encompasses all linguistic inputs and communicative interactions that surround a learner. In foreign language groups, this environment can either facilitate or hinder the development of coherent speech depending on its quality, intensity, and authenticity. This article aims to analyze the impact of the language environment on coherent speech development and provide insights into effective teaching practices.

## Theoretical Background

### Definition of Coherent Speech

Coherent speech refers to the ability to organize ideas logically, connect sentences meaningfully, and express thoughts clearly in oral or written form. It involves several components:

Logical sequencing of ideas

Grammatical accuracy

Lexical richness

Fluency and clarity

### Concept of Language Environment

The language environment includes all sources of linguistic exposure, such as:

Classroom instruction

Peer communication

Media and digital resources

Cultural context

Researchers emphasize that language acquisition is strongly influenced by interaction and meaningful communication rather than isolated grammar learning.

Types of Language Environments

Natural Language Environment

This occurs when learners are surrounded by native speakers and use the language in real-life situations. It provides authentic input and encourages spontaneous communication.

Artificial (Classroom) Environment

In foreign language groups, most learning takes place in structured classroom settings. While controlled, this environment can be enhanced through interactive methods.

Mixed Environment

A combination of classroom instruction and real-life exposure (e.g., online communication, media consumption). This is considered highly effective for developing coherent speech.

The Role of Language Environment in Developing Coherent Speech

1. Exposure to Authentic Language

Regular exposure to natural language patterns helps learners understand how ideas are connected in real communication. Listening to conversations, watching videos, and reading texts improve discourse awareness.

2. Interaction and Communication

Active participation in discussions, dialogues, and group activities enables learners to practice organizing their thoughts and expressing them clearly. Interaction is crucial for developing fluency.

3. Vocabulary Expansion

A rich language environment introduces learners to diverse vocabulary, which is essential for constructing coherent speech. Without sufficient vocabulary, learners struggle to express ideas fully.

4. Grammar in Context

Instead of learning grammar in isolation, exposure to real-life

usage helps learners understand how grammatical structures contribute to coherence.

5. Feedback and Correction

Constructive feedback from teachers and peers helps learners identify mistakes and improve their speech organization.

Factors Influencing the Effectiveness of Language Environment

Teacher's Role

Teachers play a central role in creating a supportive and communicative environment. Their strategies determine how actively students engage in speech production.

Student Motivation

Motivated learners are more likely to participate in conversations and practice their speaking skills.

Group Dynamics

A collaborative and non-judgmental group atmosphere encourages students to speak freely without fear of making mistakes.

Use of Technology

Digital tools, such as language learning apps, videos, and online communication platforms, enhance exposure to authentic language.

Challenges in Foreign Language Groups

Despite the importance of the language environment, several challenges exist:

Limited exposure to native speakers

Overemphasis on grammar and translation

Lack of speaking practice

Fear of making mistakes

These factors can hinder the development of coherent speech if not addressed properly.

Strategies to Improve Coherent Speech Development

1. Creating an Immersive Environment

Teachers should maximize the use of the target language in the classroom and encourage students to do the same.

2. Interactive Teaching Methods

Activities such as role-plays, debates, storytelling, and group

discussions promote active communication.

### 3. Use of Authentic Materials

Incorporating real-life materials like videos, podcasts, and articles helps learners understand natural language use.

### 4. Encouraging Continuous Practice

Regular speaking tasks and presentations improve fluency and confidence.

### 5. Integrating Technology

Online platforms provide opportunities for communication with native speakers and access to diverse linguistic input.

## CONCLUSION

The language environment plays a crucial role in the development of coherent speech in foreign language groups. A rich and interactive environment enhances learners' ability to organize their thoughts, use appropriate vocabulary, and communicate effectively. While challenges exist, they can be overcome through effective teaching strategies and active student participation. Ultimately, creating a supportive and immersive language environment is key to achieving communicative competence.

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