The role of language in education: Arabic as case study

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Abstract

It is obvious that languages play an important role in various aspects of our daily lives. Their role is not only limited to communication, rather it extends into the vast branches of knowledge and human sciences. Languages are capable of developing human knowledge and extending it for the benefit of human kind. The general importance of languages justifies the need for a scientific and objective study of the relationship between languages and education. This research aims to identify a scientific methodology in the field of linguistics (living languages) which will assist researchers in determining the most expressive language in delivering knowledge and scientific facts - a language that is powerful, expressive, and influential. Despite the recognition of the importance of languages and their role in education, not much research has been done to investigate the various issues pertaining to this matter. True, studies on the relationship between languages and knowledge exist, but, there are few that elaborate upon the effects of languages on education. The following research attempts to present a foundational presentation of the effects of languages in educational development and how the positive effects may be incorporated towards the development of human resources. This task has been divided within three chapters:

1. Chapter one discusses the characteristics of languages that are influential in the development of education.
2. Chapter two presents a historical overview and analysis of the role of the Arabic language in the development of knowledge and human sciences.
3. Chapter three examines the role of the "logic of language" in formulating styles of thinking in education.

\textit{Key words:} Education, Education Language, Arabic language & Literature, Research Methodology, development of human knowledge

\section{1. Introduction}

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Languages play an important role in various aspects of our daily lives. Their role is not only limited to communication, rather it extends into the vast branches of knowledge and human sciences. Languages are capable of developing human knowledge and extending it for the benefit of human kind. The general importance of languages justify the need for a scientific and objective study of the relationship between languages and education.

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The following research attempts to present a foundational presentation of the effects of languages in educational development and how the positive effects may be incorporated towards the development of human resources. This task has been divided within three chapters:

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### Nomenclature

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1.1. Structure

**Chapter one: characteristics of languages that are influential in the development of education:**

The strengths of any language can be found in some collection or group of elements which may be called features; yet more important than those features is that these elements affect directly the role of a language in education process and progress. For an education to achieve its goals and purpose in better manner, a serious research must be done on the most influential language in the process of information transferring.

Now, we may say that the feature of the strengths of any language can be enclosed in the following:
First of all, the strongest language in terms of anatomical structure; sentences structures, ie, the strongest in terms of the potency of its grammars, style, idiom and literature. In this regard, we have Arabic language; and in order to demonstrate the strength of Arabic language in this area we will take an example of some aspects Jorjani’s hypothesis about structure of Arabic language, who is one of the most well-known scientists, specialists and excelled in the study of Arabic language structure. Jorjani has characterized theoretical structure of Arabic sentence into two levels, namely: the level of grammatical structure, and the stage of transforming information from the same root and source of form.

Secondly, the most influential language upon the listener or the reader: Importance aspect in the language is not the identical words spoken or written of the images and ideas expressed, but their impact on the listener or reader. Therefore, is not enough to limit the role of language into only means of expression of feelings or ideas from speaker to listener, but there are higher goals behind that; Since to influence an intellectual; whether listener or reader is also an important role of a language that suppose to be qualified as educational language.

Thirdly, richness of vocabularies and words: For a language to stand as most accurate one for education worldwide it must be very well-off with words and vocabularies. And here it is found that Arabic language lead in this regard. Furthermore, the reason of that it is because it has so many styles and means of presenting and express feelings, ideas, and hence meaning. As in Arabic there are all the following styles of enhancing it wellness:

1. "QIYAS".
2. "ISHTIQAQ": it is to drive various and different meaning from same form of words or nouns via some changes on its order.
3. "QUALB" Like the previous except that the changes here appear in the order of the form or the noun where as in the previous the changes accrue by having different form from the same root.
4. "IBDAL": here the changes of meaning approach of changing a letter instead of other.

Fourthly, the strongest language in terms of the characteristics of civilization.

Fifth, accurate language in terms of expression the suitable, well-mannered, decent and fitting meaning.

Sixth, ability of expressing the meaning with less words and vocabulary. And this element is owned by Arabic language due to the presence of several linguistic features, among them the following:
"KINAYAH"
"EJAZ"
"JINAS"
"TIBAK"
"MUKABALAH"
"TAWRIYAH" (see the only table).
Seventh, ability to resist factors of erasure, or removal from existence: Nevertheless, Arabic language possesses characteristics of surviving by its self. Here researchers have mentioned some historical facts; As both of Mongols and Napoleon tried to erased and hidden it, but could not. In additional to all that the colonist made very good attempt to force Arab of living Arabic they could not succeed. As we all remember the efforts of European in general and French in particular of taking off Arabic from Algeria but they have failed. All these historical facts indicate that Arabic language have enough element to survive regardless with whatever efforts to eliminate it.

This was a brief summary of some secrets of the supremacy of the Arabic language which made it the language of science, education and knowledge. And make it qualify to lead, develop and contribute through 14 centuries of time, and still this language to accommodate the enormous needs and required of today's scientific movements and developments in various field of human sciences.

Chapter two presents a historical overview and analysis of the role of the Arabic language in the development of knowledge and human sciences:

This Chapter studies History of Arabic Language after it has been shifted from local language to become an international language. This is because Arabic Language has been adopted by a great civilization that history has not witness it never ever; the researcher point out here Islamic Civilization.

To figure out the role of Arabic language in developing human knowledge and sciences the researcher will discuss the following:

Firstly, The impact of Arabic Language on other world languages:

No doubt that Arabic language became once in the history a key of success for education during Islamic civilization; hence it was an honor for students across the world to study Arabic language and to continue their education in Arabic. Moreover, from this point historians and linguistics came out with the fact that Arabic Language has effected other world languages. For example, Taylor say that there are more that thousand Arabic worlds in English and more than thousands English words derived from Arabic. In addition, there are around 405 Arabic world in Oxford dictionary, among which 283 are taking to English pocket dictionary. No wonder then that Arabic language has effects education and other languages in the world.

Secondly, Computer has discovered greatness of Arabic Language:

Computer has discovered that there are two advantages in Arabic language characterized Arabic to become eligible as a language of science and then has potency to affect learning process despite of the weakness of this process in Arab countries in general; in terms of lack of seriousness and financial support in Arab word toward developing computer sciences.

The first advantage is that the ability of deriving numerous of nouns, verbs, terminologies from single root of Arabic word. Researchers have shown that computer can provide us with hundreds of forms derived from only single form of Arabic.

The other advantage is that Arabic language has capability to be written as its spoken. In another word, Arabic language is written as it is spoken unlike like English, French or other languages. Since in English for example we write hundreds of words differently from the way we pronounce them.

Thirdly, The importance of Language for people and nations, and conditions of a language to be classified as historic language:
Language is a set of specific means, habits that take place upon each nation or society to express its purposes and needs by speech or writing, and language it is a means of providing statements of the meaning of words. if this is so, for any languages to accomplish its purpose three conditions must be fulfilled:
The first condition is that each sign, symbol must have its own meaning, and never give different meaning. Since that may lead to confusedness. The second condition is that the sign, can be changed and take another form based on the changes of the situation, condition and circumstances. The third condition is that the sign, symbol or word can be derived into so many forms and provide different meaning and expression accordingly. Based on the above, the terms of the real language that is fit to stand as educational language must fulfill three conditions as well.
The first is that its expression of the meanings, feelings, ideas must be strong enough. Second condition is that ability to avoid confuse and confusedness. The third condition is clarity, which is based upon the former two conditions.

Chapter three examines the role of the "logic of language" in formulating styles of thinking in education
It is well-known that methodology and the way of thinking is so related to a language logically. To ling this to education the researcher will discuss the following points:

First point is ability of Arabic language to effect a reader or listener as magic. In this point of view we must remember always that Arabic language has been described as a magic. This is because it has ability to convey wrong message as right and the right message as fault; due to its own way of expressing idea, meaning, feeling, message or information. They say in Arabic "inna minal bayani la sihra" meaning; truly ability to convey a message is like magic.

Now, the argument here is that, a language as such deserves more concern to become language of education; it can give a lot. However, it may be said that methodology of education is the one must be taken into consideration in the process of education, not a tool such a language. Yet, if it is true that an education can be developed while having good methodology regardless of the language used, it would be so obvious that using good methodology beside rich language and described features above will take the process of education to the further stage and stage of betterment.

Secondly, role of Arabic language in developing educational process: despite of all aforementioned facts in this article about Arabic language we are surprised that Arabic is not given such consideration neither in Arabia or anywhere else. Therefore, I would like to suggest that few points of making Arabic language a language of education if is not worldwide at least in Arabia, those suggestions are as follow:

1. Translating various human development programs into Arabic.
2. Linking learning and mastery of Arabic with citizenship right.
3. To relate economical development with Arabic language.
4. Create competition opportunities among organizations and companies to conduct a program of mastery Arabic.
5. To learn from other developing and civilized countries experiences of enhancing education through national language.
Thus, through those suggestions language may get its own in progress and importance in the promotion of education and scientific developments of knowledge.

**Thirdly**, the role of philosophy of language in contemporary educational processing:

Philosophy of learning and obtain education in Arabic can be summarized here in the following:

1. To follow steps of our experts in translation information and data, and to invent though education what is useful for mankind and humanity.
2. To review methods of teaching Arabic for Arab experts in particular and other scholars of non-Arabic speakers around the world.
3. To unite the decision made by Arabic language academics league and associations.
4. To acquire benefit of modern invention of technology and other commendation means.

However, from above discussion we may state that language has powerful role of obtaining education and enhancing it.

**Conclusion**

A study of this kind shows how people, nations, and civilizations are concerned with education and role of language of it. In addition, it demonstrates how wide and complicated this issue is, it reveals the challenges and responsibilities lying on the shoulder of scholars, thinkers, and researchers to change and correct education courses which have an impact on the life of people and their day-to-day events. However, serious attention must be taking into consideration pertain Arabic language and its features, and to which extent it can help to enhance education in Arabia particularly and worldwide in general.

1.2. **Tables**
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