Advantages and disadvantages of teaching english as a second language in a spanish-speaking country: A case study at the coastal zone in Ecuador

Ventajas y desventajas de la enseñanza del inglés como segunda lengua en un país de habla hispana: Un estudio de caso en la zona costera de Ecuador

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Abstract: This research shows the results of major “Pedagogía de los Idiomas Nacionales y Extranjeros” (P.I.N.E.), whose purpose is to identify the advantages and disadvantages that exist in the teaching of the English language from Ecuador as a Second Language, where apply different sources of primary investigation (observation, interviews, etc.) and secondary (scientific journals, books, etc.). During the period of data collection, it’s achievement to detect the different advantages and disadvantages that exist in the teaching and learning of the foreign language such as English, the same that were appllicated to students and teachers of the Universidad Estatal Península de Santa Elena through surveys. To conclude, it was analyzed the results of each collected data during the investigation in its different dimensions, like this way it can be deduced the bases of discussions and conclusions for the development of the investigation in relation whit the importance of the teaching of the English language in Ecuador.

Keywords — Advantages, disadvantages, second language, learning, Ecuador.

Resumen: Esta investigación muestra los resultados de la mayor “Pedagogía de los Idiomas Nacionales y Extranjeros” (P.I.N.E.), cuyo propósito es identificar las ventajas y desventajas que existen en la enseñanza del idioma inglés desde Ecuador como Segunda Lengua, donde se aplican diferentes fuentes de investigación primaria (observación, entrevistas, etc.) y secundaria (revistas científicas, libros, etc.). Durante el período de recopilación de datos, es

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el logro de detectar las diferentes ventajas y desventajas que existen en la enseñanza y el aprendizaje de la lengua extranjera como el inglés, las mismas que se aplicaron a estudiantes y profesores de la Universidad Estatal Península de Santa Elena mediante encuestas. Para concluir, se analizaron los resultados de cada dato recogido durante la investigación en sus diferentes dimensiones, de esta manera se pueden deducir las bases de discusiones y conclusiones para el desarrollo de la investigación en relación con la importancia de la enseñanza del idioma inglés en Ecuador.

**Palabras clave** — Ventajas, desventajas, segunda lengua, aprendizaje, Ecuador.

**INTRODUCTION**

English language is a basic tool for all professional, this language is important for the country’s development. Is for this reason that MINEDUC (Ministerio de Educación) implemented since 2016 a new curriculum where said that all students of initial education, basic education and high school must receive obligatory classes to develop linguistic competences at early age, but some teachers do not have B2 level that require the Ministry of Education of Ecuador.

The English is one of the most useful language that has a great impact around the world, therefore it is necessary for our Ecuadorian childhood, youth and teachers to dominate it, to develop productive linguistic competences (speaking and writing) and receptive ones (listening and reading), to interact efficiently.

- Let’s define the meaning of Second Language. According to (Susan & Larry, 2008) “Second Language acquisition is the process of learning another language after the native language has been learned”. Apart from that, (Muriel, 2012) says, “I have broadly defined the scope of SLA as concerned with any phenomena involved in learning an L2”.

- According to (Ali & Elham, 2015), “When learners of second language want to write or speak in the target language, they tend to rely on their first language structures. If the structures are different, then a lot of errors occur”, this disadvantage happens with most of the students at the moment of learning a new language and when students mix L1 and L2.

- Another disadvantage for learning English to students; (Ali & Elham, 2015) says, “A learner has difficulties in second language such as phonology, vocabulary and grammar due to the interference of habits from L1 to L2”.

- On the other hand, some experts mention that by using L1 is a big advantage for learners who want to learn a new language as English. (Manoj, 2014) mentions, “When children receive forma instruction in their first language throughout primary school and then gradually transition to academic leaning in the second language, they learn the second language quickly”.

- The teaching of English language in schools has an educational function, and the older learner who deliberately sets out to learn English has a clear instrumental intention: he wants to visit England, United States, etc., to be able to communicate with English-speaking, tourists or friends, to be able to read English in books and newspapers.

- In Ecuador, an English teacher must have B2 level according Common European Framework (CEF), so that SENESCYT carried out an investigation where they mentioned that only the 74% of the Ecuadorian teachers have A1 and A2 level, this means that students do not develop the linguistic skills requires because their teacher do not have the necessary skills to teach in class, it is the biggest problem in our country about the knowledge of a second or different language.
(Sudesh, 2015) says, “As we know very well that language learning is a great fascination experience specially the learning of a foreign language or second language, but the influence of mother tongue has become very important”.

**Methodology**

Regarding the methodology followed in the project, firstly a theoretical framework will be provided, in which all the basis about the topic. It is important to mention that it will have a quantitative approach, due to the resources used for its development.

After that, the body of the essay will be developed, that is, transfer, both positive and negative. This will be divided between the advantages and disadvantages of teaching English in our country. Culture would be also considered within of teaching, as they are intimately related with the education. The resources used are surveys made to teachers as well as ten students who have different levels of language proficiency. All with the aim of knowing both points of view.

The conclusions with the main ideas, concepts and suggestions will be given. This will be followed by all the bibliographical references employed for the development of the essay.

**ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF TEACHING ENGLISH IN ECUADOR AS A SECOND LANGUAGE**

Being bilingual greatly enhances your ability to find work in certain fields, especially where international business is concerned. Also, in areas where immigrant populations dominate, knowing that language greatly increases your chances of success in finding a job. Employers want the biggest bang for their buck, so finding an employee who both performs the job function and understands a necessary second language is much more valuable than finding and paying two employees.

During the study of a second language in Ecuador, it is very sure that are going to exist obstacles on the way, the brain will don’t adapt quickly and the resources and infrastructure are not going to be enough to support this type of subject. The first problem is that the native language of this country is Spanish what it means that the opportunities to apply the English language is very low, unless we lived in a very touristic area where we can interact with the tourist that speak the target language whit not be afraid of making mistakes. Even though, there are studies affirming that the people who has knowledge of this language they are not capable to use it in complex discussions to resolve problems, the simple sentences and phrases remain strong in the English talkers.

Another problem that causes the teaching of this language is that when we mix both languages in the class (English to Spanish and vice versa); there are side effects like slowing down the learning process and the fluidity of speaking it. “If keeping one language straight seems hard enough, bilingual speakers sometimes find that they confuse words and grammatical structures from each language. Oftentimes, a mash up of the two languages is used, for example, some Americans are familiar with Spanglish, the mix of English and Spanish”. (Bradford, 2017)

The government is a problem itself because it not pays too much attention on focusing in the English teaching development in the public institutions; on the contrary, the private institutions are more serious about this, because they hire teachers that belong to other countries that speak English as they mother language. According with (Cronquist & Fiszbein) “The educational system is simply not producing students with adequate levels of English proficiency. Schools are often unable to provide the necessary English classes, while those that do exist are often of poor quality.” The government was aiming to meet this deficit through recruitment and professional development initiatives.
Even with all these problems teaching the English language in Ecuador give a lot of positive results like the globalization to another cultures, the obligation of the teaching of the English language in all the public institutions and the teachers have the opportunity to explain even in English like Spanish to achieve a better comprehension. According to (BBC, s.f.) “Learning a second language improve our brain’s health too, researchers from York University in Canada carried out tests on 104 people between the ages of 30 and 88. They found that those who were fluent in two languages rather than just one were sharper mentally”.

RESULTS

STUDENTS SURVEY

Objective: Analyze advantages and disadvantages of the teaching–learning of the English language.

1. Do you think your Spanish affects the English classes?

2. Do you think that the use of ICTs helps the process of learning English?
3. Do you consider important to teach English in Ecuador?

![Bar chart showing agreement levels]

Made by: the authors

TEACHERS SURVEY

Objective: Analyze advantages and disadvantages of the teaching–learning of the English language.

4. Which of these resources do you use to improve your students’ skills?

![Bar chart showing resource usage]

Made by: the authors

5. Do you think the translation from English to Spanish affects the teaching English language process?

![Bar chart showing agreement levels]

Made by: the authors
6. Do you think the lack of didactic materials affects the teaching a foreign language?

During the collection of data through surveys and research about the advantages and disadvantages of teaching English, it follows that there are several limitations to the development of the educational process, although there are also positive points of the great work of teaching:

- The lack of pedagogical resources does not allow improving teaching in a new language, because students need different materials to be able to practice and develop English skills.

- The translation in a class affects when it is developed, because the teacher does not increase the interest of the new language if he/she is speaking in his/her mother tongue, but it produces the opposite in the students because they consider that English is difficult to learn, so the translation is the only way to understand and acquire a new learning.

- The programs offered by the government of Ecuador, was an aid to improve and even change the vision of teaching and learning English. This caused the system that was being carried out to have a positive impact on the students.

- The use of ICT is important as teaching resources in the development of the class, it is related to the technology that students in this new era use and that serves to get the attention of the learners.

In the teaching of a foreign language we observe pros and cons that will help to take stock of what is or is not being done in education. Teachers use their own pedagogical resources, which allow that classes are not interrupted for any situation; that is the role of the educator, to find strategies for a correct formation.

**Discussion**

It becomes necessary designated teachers for teaching English class must have a professional degree to exercise their competence and get a specialized preparation to cover the needs of his/her students to achieve a second language in the education field, within the educational institutions, it should be provided with trained personnel like professionals who completely master the language.

The implementation of didactic resources as the use of ICTs provides great support and innovation to the teacher during the teaching process; it will help the teacher to motivate the students more easily. In the classroom the teacher should be sure that the students develop the four skills of the English language and only translate if it is necessary.
CONCLUSIONES

Based on the objectives established at the beginning of the research and the knowledge acquired as a result of research the English language is considered very important due to its benefits.

It is necessary the incentive of teaching it to achieve a greater linguistic diversity through a bilingual education. Although the level of awareness towards the students is relatively high, and the intervention of the institutions is more than relevant.

Taking into account the strategies implemented by the government which contribute positively to the teaching of the English language, there is a need to establish a tactic to obtain better results and take advantage of these tools.

There is also a need to learn and teach English in our country because one of the most important incomes for a country is tourism and knowing this language that is the universal language helps to encourage and strengthen that aspect helping to improve the main tourist activities such as hotel services, restaurants and museums.

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