

How we Learn Languages

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Of course, all know of the prodigy, born in Europe, whose first words were in Japanese, remained self-taught, became more fluent every day in that vocabulary until he was ten. Since the parents coddled the tyke, he learned nothing of their native language, customs those years. Then, he meets this pretty girl, uses his infinite I.Q. to learn the family tongue, lore, in ten days. He and family live happy ever after,
at least until the boy met that geisha.
Now, everyone won't stop talking.

In other recorded history, without exception, the baby has imitated the care givers, accepting their language, faith, heritage. If they mispronounce fish, detest broccoli, worship on Thursday, you can bet your pennies, that child will emulate their example;
at least until meeting that geisha.

So, geishas aside, what are the influences on vocabulary, dialect, the very language on which children build life? Here it is. Teaching from elders, friends on the street, pen pals, reading, and would you believe, writing? For in the latter, words are chosen, where in dialogue, the first word to mind is (blubbered) orally. Who has not said, "Where did you get that dress?" when meaning to say "Where did you get that dress".

It is written, "If you want to write, write" It's equally important to be reminded, that if you want to write, you must read the well written, the Bible, Classics, Shakespeare, periodicals like the New Yorker.

Do I have your attention? You disagree? Yes, you may.
Get a small Memo slip. Keep you comments brief, write within the Memo's border. Don't expect pleasantries in response.

Signed, The Queen's English Professor.
I'm Sorry, the signature, in Urdu, is illegible.