

THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING ABROAD FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

Oringalieva Uldaulet
Student of Faculty of Education
Lincoln University, Malaysia
e-mail: olya2004@email.com

Dr. Shazreena Khan
PhD of Lincoln University, Malaysia
Faculty of Education
e-mail: shazkhan@lincoln.edu.my

The importance of English communication skills has increased with globalization, and governments in various countries have encouraged students to go abroad for studying as well as gaining experiences, explore some differences between culture, education etc. However, the causal impact of studying abroad has rarely been investigated, particularly in non-European countries. Studying abroad for leaning foreign language is transformative experience that brings a wide range of challenges and personal growth opportunities in terms of language learning. As a student living in Malaysia, far from my home country, I have encountered cultural differences, language barriers, and emotional adjustments that have shaped who I am today.

The benefits of studying abroad are the same whether you are learning a foreign language, but the advantage of complete immersion (Involved) is also there. When learning a language, immersion gives a person daily exposure to native speakers who can help them practice speaking, listening, and thinking in that language. Learning a language can be accelerated, and you can become skilled in it much faster with this immersion than traditional classroom study. The following are some advantages of studying a foreign language overseas.

Language Exposer: Studying overseas allows you to acquire a language in its natural setting. The language is most frequently used when placing restaurant orders, doing grocery shopping, or conversing with locals. Your ability to learn the language more rapidly and with proper grammar and pronunciation will improve as a result of this exposure.

Cross-Cultural Immersion: Because learning a new language and experiencing a new culture are intertwined, studying abroad offers a special chance to do both at the same time. Learning the language will help you understand the customs, values, and rituals of the society. You might be able to learn the language and interact with people more successfully as a result of this cultural immersion.

Personal Development: Learning a language abroad requires you to step outside of your comfort zone and adjust to a new setting. This approach may be challenging, but it may also be quite fruitful. You can consequently develop into a more confident, strong, and self-sufficient person. You can also learn to accept individual differences and value diversity[2].

Since students will be studying in a foreign nation where they are unable to speak their native tongue, studying abroad improves language proficiency. In order to improve their fluency, students must grasp the language they are studying and communicate with others in it on a daily basis. It is important to acquire a second language since it can improve cognitive function, broaden cultural comprehension, increase educational alternatives, create new economic chances, and promote personal development. Also, getting films, books, and other works of culture from many countries might be simpler, which would improve travel experiences. By studying a second language, which encourages intercultural awareness, one may communicate more efficiently with people from different cultural backgrounds. Generally speaking, studying a foreign language is an investment in one's professional and personal development and a means of raising global awareness. [1].

Language also played a significant role in my adaptation process. Although English is widely spoken in Malaysia, accents and slang initially made communication difficult. With time,

practice, and the support of my peers and lecturers, I developed my confidence in English, which in turn improved my academic performance and social integration.

Living abroad taught me independence and resilience. Being away from family meant making decisions on my own, managing finances, handling homesickness, and building a new support system. These experiences helped me grow more mature and self-reliant.

Moreover, studying in an international environment exposed me to diverse perspectives. I learned to respect differences, celebrate diversity, and communicate effectively with people from different cultural backgrounds. This has been especially valuable as an aspiring English teacher, since understanding intercultural communication is essential in today's globalized world.

The impact of studying overseas on applied linguistics language competency has been the subject of a wealth of studies. An early edited book on this subject, released by Freed, including a number of case studies from various nations. Recent meta-analyses have found that study abroad experience and language competence improvement are generally positively correlated.[3]

Although the above-mentioned causal relationship between language proficiency and earnings has been proven in the economics literature, the effect of studying overseas has not been specifically examined. Few recent research have looked at how studying abroad affects language development and labor market outcomes using causal inference techniques.

The work by Parey and Waldinger is groundbreaking. As a tool for studying abroad for German university students, they employed department- and year-level differences in participation in the European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students (ERASMUS program). They discovered that studying abroad sparked students' curiosity about other cultures and inspired them to pursue careers abroad. Using the same instrument variable technique that students who studied abroad had a much higher chance of finding employment overseas.[6]

In conclusion, living abroad is not just about academic pursuit; it is a journey of personal transformation. Despite the initial difficulties, the experience fosters intercultural understanding, emotional growth, and global awareness. For students and professionals considering studying or working abroad, the rewards are well worth the effort especially in terms of learning foreign language. One advantage of learning a foreign language in abroad is the opportunity to develop a valuable and fulfilling skill that can open up new opportunities and experiences. Studying abroad is the ideal way to acquire a language quickly and efficiently since it provides chances for immersion, real-world language exposure, career advancement, and personal growth. By setting specific goals, practicing every day, integrating into the culture, finding a language partner, and enrolling in language programs, you can maximize your language learning experience overseas and rapidly become fluent.

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