

LANGUAGE PROBLEM ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

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ABSTRACT

Much of our resources that we dispense in foreign language learning and teaching at lower levels, learn into a loss when the skills acquired by the learners are not utilized because of lack of motivation and reinforcement to use such skills. With the exception of students who major in languages or area studies, or who study abroad, college graduates in Africa typically possess less non-English language proficiency than they had when they entered college while some of these students get to acquire some general skills and knowledge that will necessitate their professional development and career choices that will make them suit the requirements of the worldwide job market. Thus, African students lack multilingual language proficiency that is vital for their suitability across the various cultural boundaries.

Although language instruction is wide spread in Africa, it typically does not lead to high degree of proficiency or specialization. This paper aims at addressing the potential of learners in achieving advanced levels of proficiency, language use and meshing the students' language needs and interests in a wide array of curricula specialties. For this to happen students must have strong intra and inter personal skills, be good writers and be excellent public speakers, since most organizations now require that employees portray the correct image of their company. Even colleges and universities that define language requirements for pursue of various certificate courses, undergraduate degrees and graduate degrees by acquired proficiency rather than accumulated course credits fail to mandate continued use of those skills after students have demonstrated intermediate-level proficiency. Changes in perception on good language skills have impacted on changes of the language curriculum. Therefore, Language across the Curriculum appears to be the only way of sustaining multilingualism and other cross-cultural skills for pre and postsecondary students. Therefore, this paper proposes that students at all levels must have opportunities to employ their language skills by demonstrating that they can indeed communicate and interact acceptably in any circumstances for purposes of immediate and lifelong value.

KEYWORDS: Language Across the Curriculum (LAC), Foreign Language