

METHODOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF TEACHING SPANISH

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Abstract:

The article deals with significant information about Spanish language: its role in modern life and benefits of learning Spanish as a foreign language. On the other hand, effective strategies and methods for teaching and learning Spanish were discussed in the article.

Keywords: bilingual, native speakers, official languages, psychological benefits, time management, Language Exchanges, Online Spanish Tutor.

Introduction

In our increasingly interconnected world, the ability to speak more than one language has become a valuable skill. Learning a second language offers a multitude of benefits, from cognitive advantages to personal growth and enhanced career opportunities. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the numerous advantages of becoming bilingual or multilingual, provide practical tips. As Charlemagne stated "To have another language is to possess a second soul for language learning, and address common challenges along the way.." [1]. Today, Spanish is a global language with about 500 million native speakers, mainly in the Americas and Spain, and about 600 million when including second language speakers. Spanish is the official language of 20 countries, as well as one of the six official languages of the United Nations. With 442 million speakers, Spanish is one of the most common languages in Europe and America. Colonization played a prominent role in Spanish transmission across the globe, especially in Latin American countries. The popularity of a language depends on the extent of its spoken sphere. Spanish is a widely spoken language. Studies reveal that Spanish is also one of the fastest-growing languages in the world [2]. Advantages of learning Spanish:

- Spanish language learning helps boost your employability in your career.
 - It is the best language for travel prospect that has increased its craze among language learners.
 - It is quite easy to learn Spanish as part of the Indo-European language group, including English, with several common elements.
 - It is also useful for creative expression in learning Spanish cinema, art, and music.
 - The psychological benefits of being bilingual are numerous, including powerful concentration.
- So, learning Spanish is the best choice for the overall development of personality.

Spanish is the second most spoken language in the United States of America. Its acceptance and popularity can be assessed because most Americans don't see Spanish as a foreign language. The reasons are numerous to substantiate this statement:

- Many states and cities have Spanish names, like California, Colorado, Nevada, and others.
- Americans often use Spanish words in day-to-day life.
- You might be amazed to know that the USA is the largest Spanish-speaking country and has more Spanish speakers than Spain.



- Spanish culture is deeply rooted in American life.

Every Spanish learner must learn one basic fact about language learning that it needs time management and practice[3]. You must set a goal for yourself and make a sincere effort in learning Spanish in a decided time frame. Daily practice is beneficial for beginners to maintain the rhythm. Now, we will see some effective ways of learning Spanish language.

1. Start With Greetings- The best way to learn Spanish is to start using common Spanish greetings like **Hola** (Hi!), Buenos días (Good morning), Buenas tardes (Good Afternoon), **Buenos Noches** (Good Night), and others. Try to use these greetings in conversation. This is the initial step towards learning Spanish as a foreign language. It actually builds the foundation of Spanish learning. Try to speak Spanish phrases with your friends. A pocket dictionary will surely help to improve your Spanish vocabulary.

2. Language Exchanges: Best Way to Learn Spanish- The language Exchange Method is commonly used by native speakers of two different languages for learning any new language. This method provides two or more language learners with the opportunity to exchange lingual resources through different internet means.

3. Listening to Podcasts Is Another Best Way To Learn Spanish- Podcasts that are available on the internet and smartphones are another best way to learn Spanish. When you proceed from the above-mentioned levels, you should start listening to podcasts available in Spanish.

Present-day, text-chats, meetups, and video-chats are frequently used for foreign language exchange. To learn Spanish quickly, it's best to use a variety of methods because there's no perfect way to learn. For example, beginners might benefit from a textbook or a language app to start learning the basics. But to improve understanding and pronunciation, it's better to find authentic Spanish content, such as YouTube videos or songs. Because many people want to learn Spanish, there are tons of resources available. To save you time, we compiled this list of effective resources. We follow a strict testing methodology to make sure any products we recommend are high quality and worth your time.

4. Use the Best Spanish Apps- Language apps are a convenient way to learn Spanish, especially if you are a beginner. Most offer short lessons that you can do at home or on the go. There are different kinds of apps. Some are interactive and make learning into a game, while others are more academic, but may help you more in the long run. Rocket Languages, Pimsleur, and Babbel are 3 of the best apps to learn Spanish. They have comprehensive courses that will help you build a solid foundation.

5. Take an Online Spanish Course- Online Spanish courses are a good choice if you prefer a guided way to learn. Courses lay out their curriculum in a clear manner and build upon what you have already learned. They're easy to do because you don't have to think about what to study next, and you can just focus on learning. Three of the best Spanish courses are Spanish Uncovered, Gymglish: Hotel Borbollón, and Udemy. Any of these are a convenient and effective way to learn.



6. Find an Online Spanish Tutor- Taking classes with an online Spanish tutor is the best way to practice speaking and conversation. Taking lessons online is beneficial because you are still practicing with a native Spanish speaker, but you can take lessons from the comfort of your home when it's convenient for you. I like to use platforms like Baselang, Lingoda, and italki. These are well-established so they are a safe and secure way to take classes.

7. Using Spanish books is the most traditional way to learn a language on this list, but it's effective. And thanks to sites like Amazon, it's easy to find a book that others have used and enjoyed. The three books on this list, Practice Makes Perfect, Easy Spanish Step-by-Step, and Spanish for Dummies are popular choices because they are proven to be effective. If you want to see even more options, check out our Spanish book guide.

8. Watch Spanish YouTube Videos- Watching YouTube videos is fun and addicting, so why not use it to improve your Spanish? You can watch instructional videos that explain important grammar and vocabulary topics or watch videos that interview native Spanish speakers so you can hear native pronunciation and practice understanding. The three YouTube channels below have many subscribers and their videos are educational and interesting. For even more options, check out our Spanish YouTube guide[4].

Around 85% of everyday Spanish vocabulary is of Latin origin. Most of the core vocabulary and the most common words in Spanish comes from Latin. The Spanish words first learned by children as they learn to speak are mainly words of Latin origin. These words of Latin origin can be classified as heritage words, cultisms and semi-cultisms[5]. Most of the Spanish lexicon is made up of heritage lexicon. Heritage or directly inherited words are those whose presence in the spoken language has been continued since before the differentiation of the Romance languages. Heritage words are characterized by having undergone all the phonetic changes experienced by the language. This differentiates it from the cultisms and semi-cultisms that were no longer used in the spoken language and were later reintroduced for restricted uses. Because of this, cultisms generally have not experienced some of the phonetic changes and present a different form than they would have if they had been transmitted with heritage words.

In a summary it should be highlighted that Spanish is the world's second-most spoken native language after Mandarin Chinese; the world's fourth-most spoken language overall after English, Mandarin Chinese, and Hindustani (Hindi-Urdu); and the world's most widely spoken Romance language. The country with the largest population of native speakers is Mexico. Spanish is spoken across all continents^[17] and is used as an official language by many international organizations, including the United Nations, European Union, Organization of American States, Union of South American Nations, Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, African Union, among others.

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