

Learn a language is like building a house. ¿Where to begin?

I. MATERIALS NEEDED

There is no house without foundation and the deeper and stronger the foundation the more resistant will be the house. After the foundation, it comes the structure (steel, concrete, bricks) which will hold the rooms or interior spaces. Finally, the rooms or spaces will be designed according to the needs of people who are going to use them. However, there is still something essential missing. Nobody could live in that house without water, electricity, stairs, elevators, etc. That is, with those things which make a house functional. After all these elements are in place, people can move in: the house is habitable.

A house foundation is the grammar of a language. If we want to advance in a language we need solid grammar knowledge. First, we will study the more simple elements: the words, which are the rooms of the house, and we will place those words in a structural grammatical frame. Finally we will make those words functional applying them to the three levels of a language: reading, writing and speaking.

Now that we know the elements needed to build a house, ¿how are we going to build it? ¿How are we going to learn and comprehend a language?

II. HOW TO LEARN A LANGUAGE

Learning is achieved through neuronal interconnections which, once formed, facilitate the process of future learning and of the memory. These neural structures get reinforced by repetition, intensity and velocity of the stimuli. Any interference in the incoming path will make learning more difficult. The repetition of a stimulus will activate a memory circuit; the intensity or concentration makes possible that a stimulus can arrive to its destiny without the interference by others stimuli, and the velocity is necessary because if the intervals between two stimuli is big, either they arrive weaker (attenuated) or they don't arrive..

The Keyi System applies the following methodological principles to facilitate the process of learning:

1. **REPETITION.** Repetition reinforces learning. The Keyi books use a minimum number of vocabulary and grammar rules in each lesson to anchor deep what has been learned. The reading and composition are short and repetitive. The conversation patterns are very simple and easily repeatable and easy to remember.
2. In the Keyi System words are learned by visual and audio repetition until they are impressed (grabadas) in the memory. The recognition of sinograms (Chinese characters) constitutes one of the key principles of the Keyi System and the more it is practiced the more the words will be remembered. The conversations are also repeated until they are anchored in the memory.

- 3. INTENSITY AND CONCENTRATION.** Unlike the laser beam which applies all the energy to a point, the human vision, even when it focuses in a point, sees also what it is around; therefore, to learn a language easily nothing must interfere with that language, no other words in other languages, nor drawings, pictures, photographs, graphics nor any distractive elements. An image is worth one thousand words; if an image is placed next or near a word, the image always wins; the student will remember the image, not the word. In the Keyi books there are no images, photographs, graphics nor other elements except the language to learn.

The Kěyǐ classes are not interrupted in order to achieve a maximum concentration. All the students participate in the class continuously, which makes them to be very attentive and concentrated.

- 4. VELOCITY OF THE STIMULI.** Learning is not achieved, or it is harder to achieve, when the stimuli enter in the brain slowly and at a wide time intervals. Therefore, to read and to speak in a language must be done fast.

The Kěyǐ System focuses in a fast reading and conversation, which, in turn, reinforce the concentration. The students read and speak in the fastest way possible so they will acquire the reading comprehension and conversation needed for the fluency in a language.

III. HOW TO COMPREHEND A LANGUAGE

The learning of a language has as its main objective the communication. To achieve that there is something else needed besides memorization: a process of analysis and synthesis.

PROCESS OF ANALYSIS AND SYNTHESIS. Both are essential for the learning process. As important is to see the tree as the forest. To focus in one of the two processes will delay the learning.

The study of the words and the arrangement in grammatical structures reflected in the reading corresponds to the analytical part of the process. But the synthesis is essential because a language is mastered when one is able to express in that language one's thoughts, ideas and feelings. The exercises are designed for the students to be able to communicate as a whole in the language they are studying. The exercises to be done by the students must consider the language as a unity, not in their disconnected syntactic and grammatical units.

Thus, the best method to learn a language is by doing reverse translations, which require a deep knowledge not only of the grammatical and stylistic rules but also of the cultural concepts expressed through that language. The students of Keyi System will start doing the reverse translation from the first lesson.

IV. THE KĚYĚ SYSTEM GOLDEN RULES TO LEARN, COMPREHEND AND COMMUNICATE

To learn. Once the information is committed to memory, this can be recover better if the storage has been made in an orderly and simple manner. Order is essential for learning and order is facilitated by simplicity.

To comprehend. It is easier to comprehend the simple and ordered. A tangle (mess?) of ideas will require of a big mental effort while the simple will be easily understood.

To communicate. We learn a language to communicate with people who speak that language. Our final objective is to understand their ideas and concept and to express ours in that language. This will be possible if the concepts are clear and they are express with simplicity.

The Kěyě System frames its methodological principles in its three golden rules:

1. Simplicity
2. Simplicity
3. Simplicity

The simplicity of its books and the functional order of its classes allow a concentrate, but at the same time relaxed, learning, which constitutes the key of the Kěyě System success.

In practicing these principles, the learning of a language with the Kěyě System will be easy and the communication a reality.