TRANSFORMATIONAL LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TECHNOLOGY OVERVIEW IN LEARNING (TRANSTOOL)

DEVELOPING STRATEGIC LEARNING COMPETENCIES: EQUIPPING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL LANGUAGE LEARNING

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Abstract

Developing students' cognitive and communicative skills is crucial for their success in language learning. This paper explores the role of strategic learning competencies in enhancing language learners' abilities. The paper examines the pertinence of teaching strategic learning skills at the postgraduate level, highlighting the perspectives of both students and instructors. Additionally, it discusses the benefits of incorporating social cognitive learning strategies to support students' language development and communicative competence. This study conducted a literature review to investigate the development of strategic learning competencies in language learners. The review explored how the cultivation of strategic learning skills can empower students to take an active role in their language acquisition and ultimately achieve greater proficiency.

Keywords: *Strategic Learning, Language Learning, Cognitive Skills, Communicative Competence, Social Cognitive Theory*

1. INTRODUCTION

Learning a new language can be a challenging endeavor, particularly for students who lack the necessary strategic skills to navigate the complexities of language acquisition. Effective language learning requires more than just memorizing vocabulary and grammar rules; it involves the development of strategic competencies that empower learners to take control of their own learning process (Abad & Baradaran, 2013). Strategic learning, as described by , refers to the ability to learn with full awareness of the influence of the environment and the skills within the learning context. While this approach to learning has gained traction in both basic and college education, it is often overlooked in the context of distance education programs, as demonstrated by the findings of a case study that explored the perspectives of students, professors, coordinators,and specialists (Cuadrado & Lobaton, 2018).

Strategic learning is important because it empowers learners to take an active role in their own language acquisition process (Rotanova et al., 2018). By developing strategic competencies, students can become more self-aware, adaptable, and proactive in their approach to learning (Hattie & Donoghue, 2016). This allows them to navigate the complexities of language learning more efficiently, identify and implement appropriate strategies for their individual needs, and ultimately achieve greater language proficiency and a stronger sense of learner agency. The effective use of learning strategies has been consistently linked to improved learning outcomes, as it enables students to take control of their learning, monitor their progress, and adjust their approaches as needed. Cultivating strategic learning competencies is crucial for equipping language learners with the tools necessary to succeed in their educational endeavors.

Researchers have consistently highlighted the importance of learning strategies in language acquisition, suggesting that the effective use of strategies can lead to improved learning outcomes and greater learner autonomy. However, many language learners, particularly non-native speakers, struggle to identify and implement the appropriate strategies for their individual learning needs. Developing strategic learning competencies is crucial for empowering students to take an active role in their language learning. By equipping learners with a repertoire of effective strategies, they can become more self-aware, adaptable, and proactive in their approach to language learning. This allows them to navigate the complexities of the language acquisition process more efficiently, ultimately leading to enhanced language proficiency and a stronger sense of learner agency. This study aims to explore the significance of strategic learning competencies in the context of language learning, providing insights into the relationship between learning strategies and their impact on the learning process.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This study conducted a literature review to investigate the development of strategic learning competencies in language learners. It examined research on the various learning strategies and approaches that can help language learners become more self-directed and effective in their studies. The review explored how the cultivation of strategic learning skills can empower students to take an active role in their language acquisition and ultimately achieve greater proficiency. The literature review included a synthesis of studies focused on the relationship between learning strategies, learner autonomy, and language learning outcomes.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. The Importance of Strategic Learning Competencies in Language Acquisition

The literature review revealed that strategic learning competencies play a critical role in the language acquisition process. Vocabulary learning strategies, for instance, are a subset of general learning strategies that can significantly impact a language learner's success. Effective vocabulary learning strategies, such as the use of mnemonic devices, repetition, and contextual analysis, can help students acquire and retain new words more efficiently (Weerasinghe et al., 2022).

Additionally, research has shown that successful language learners tend to be those who are aware of and able to employ a variety of learning strategies. These learners have a strong metacognitive understanding of their own thinking and learning processes, which allows them to select and apply the strategies that best suit their individual needs and the demands of the task at hand (Zaini et al., 2023).

Cultivating strategic learning competencies can also foster greater learner autonomy, as students become empowered to take charge of their own learning journeys. Learning strategies can help students develop the skills and mindsets necessary to become independent, self-directed learners, ultimately leading to improved language proficiency (Oxford, 1989).

3.2. Factors Influencing The Development Of Strategic Learning Competencies

The literature review also highlighted several factors that can influence the development of strategic learning competencies in language learners. Collaborative instruction of learning strategies, for instance, has been shown to play a key role in promoting learner autonomy and shaping students' beliefs about language learning. Additionally, the sociocultural context in which language learning takes place can also impact the acquisition and application of learning strategies.

Furthermore, the review found that many language learners, particularly non-native speakers, often struggle to identify and implement the most effective learning strategies for their individual needs. This underscores the importance of providing explicit instruction and support in developing strategic learning competencies, to ensure that all language learners have the tools necessary to succeed (Bajrami, 2015).

In conclusion, the findings of this literature review emphasize the crucial role that strategic learning competencies play in the language acquisition process. By equipping language learners with a diverse repertoire of effective strategies, educators can empower students to take a more active, self-directed approach to their learning, ultimately leading to enhanced language proficiency and a stronger sense of learner autonomy (Pavadai & Shah, 2019).

3.3. The Role of Strategic Learning Competencies in Improving Language Proficiency

The literature review revealed that strategic learning competencies play a critical role in the language acquisition process. Vocabulary learning strategies, for instance, are a subset of general learning strategies that can significantly impact a language learner's success. Effective vocabulary learning strategies, such as the use of mnemonic devices, repetition, and contextual analysis, can help students acquire and retain new words more efficiently. Additionally, research has shown that successful language learners tend to be those who are aware of and able to employ a variety of learning strategies.

These learners have a strong metacognitive understanding of their own thinking and learning processes, which allows them to select and apply the strategies that best suit their individual needs and the demands of the task at hand (Nemati, 2013).

Developing strategic learning skills can empower students to take control of their own academic progress, leading to increased autonomy. By utilizing effective learning techniques, students can enhance their abilities to become self-reliant learners, resulting in enhanced language proficiency. This process encourages students to actively engage in their educational journey and to take ownership of their learning outcomes. By incorporating strategic learning competencies into their study routine, students can cultivate critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, which are essential for academic success. Additionally, fostering learner autonomy can contribute to a deeper understanding and retention of knowledge. Encouraging students to be more autonomous in their learning can promote a sense of responsibility and accountability, pushing them to actively participate in their academic endeavors. Building strategic learning competencies can also lay the foundation for lifelong learning skills, benefiting students beyond their current educational pursuits. In essence, empowering students to drive their own learning can lead to more meaningful and lasting academic growth.

4. CONCLUSION

The findings of this literature review emphasize the crucial role that strategic learning competencies play in the language acquisition process. By equipping language learners with a diverse repertoire of effective strategies, educators can empower students to take a more active, self-directed approach to their learning, ultimately leading to enhanced language proficiency and a stronger sense of learner autonomy. The review also highlighted the importance of providing explicit instruction and support in developing strategic learning competencies, to ensure that all language learners have the tools necessary to succeed.

To further support language learners, teachers could incorporate explicit instruction on learning strategies into their curriculum, guiding students in selecting and applying the most appropriate strategies for their individual needs. Additionally, future research could explore the long-term impacts of strategic learning competency development on language proficiency and learner autonomy, as well as the best practices for effectively cultivating these essential skills in the language classroom.

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