**Why Language and Culture are Inseparable**

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“*To speak a language is to take on a world, a culture*.” ― Frantz Fanon

Among many reasons as to why people fail in their language learning pursuits is that they attempt to learn a language by using artificial, traditional methods such as memorizing grammar rules or simple translation exercises.

While such methods can “help” to a certain extent, they lack in culture, which is the driving-force of language: language and culture go hand-in-hand. Without culture, learning a language becomes school-like repetition resulting in a boring and ultimately numbing experience.

Languages are living things. They’re constantly evolving. This is due to, in large part, the cultures that utilize these languages: the areas in which these languages flourish.

No fault of the immigrant communities living elsewhere, however, no longer living in an area in which that language is predominant, it often remains stuck in time, and even changes as a result of coming in contact with a new culture and different language.

A particular language generally points out to a specific group of people, and when you interact with that language, it means that you are also interacting with the culture that speaks the language. You will understand another culture much greater if you utilize the language of that culture.

Language plays an integral part in one’s cultural and group identities. For a few examples, you could look at the political movements advocating for sovereignty in Catalonia, Corsica and Québec: among other reasons, language is at the forefront of such sentiments.

This is evident in how events are told and history is portrayed by different cultures through their respective languages, giving greater insight into the perspectives of those cultures.

It comes as no surprise that diverse cultures view things differently, however much of these different perspectives are learned when engaging in the culture directly in the respective language.

Learning about particular perspectives that exist within a culture and the proper words or phrases that are used go a long way in the language-learning process as well as enhancing one’s intercultural communication skills.

Without the cultural aspects that drive a language, it will be an incredibly dreadful and artificial experience of learning that language, memorizing words and phrases without having a real “why”. Those who truly learn another language enter into the cultural atmosphere, in which the language exists.

Everyone has different circumstances that can impede the ability for travel, but travel is not always necessary in one’s pursuit in learning a new language and culture.

Given the wonderful technological advancements we possess at our disposal today, it is easier than ever to immerse yourself in a new language and the accompanying culture flourishing there from the comfort of your own home.

Social media is a universal tool – it takes less than five seconds to transport yourself and connect with people in another part of the world.

All-in-all, you truly learn a language through meaningful engagement with culture. It will open up a new world for you.