

## Recitation E

### **The Importance of Language Learning**

Why study a foreign language? Why is this important? Aside from the political and commercial value of foreign languages, there is another reason why language learning is important – the human factor. Language is our main way to communicate. Without language it is difficult to get our ideas across. Although our gestures and facial expressions can help us make our basic intentions understood, they cannot replace words. Ideally we would learn every language, so that we could speak with all the people of the world and connect with them. Realistically, of course, this is not possible, but our goal should be to acquire at least one foreign language.

Learning another language is important, because we can communicate with people of a different country and learn more about their culture. But the real importance of learning another language goes even deeper. It makes us realize the relativity of our values, whether they are cultural or linguistic. In this way, we come to understand that our way of looking at reality is not the only way, and that our values may not be the only ones. Learning a foreign language is a double experience: as we learn the new language, this new knowledge makes us discover more about our own language.

Speaking only one language can be compared to living in a room with no windows and no doors. It is safe, but it is dark and closed. A foreign language brings new light into the room. With an elementary knowledge, we can look out of the window and see a different view. With a better knowledge, we can walk through the new door and explore a new world. The discoveries we make bring richness and depth to our lives. As we explore fascinating new environments, we begin to understand the importance of language, the greatest human creation.

( 306 words )