FOR A TONGUE SO INTRIGUING

Conventional Classroom Method
Apart, New Ways Of Language Learning are Coming Up These Days

Vinayashree J@timesgroup.com

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f you have a love for languages and a flair for picking up complex tongues quickly, it could very well help you carve out a career path. While the demand for foreign languages has always been there in India, new methods of learning are coming up. Technology has come into the forefront through online video chat sessions on language learning for those who are in urgent need of picking up a foreign tongue or those who have to go abroad.

"There is a change in the way learning is happening. More and more people are getting into teaching now and doing it from home through online interactions. Students too are more open to learning in video chat sessions. Learning is not just happening in the class but outside also," said Zenobia Lanka, founder-director of InWord centre for languages, Chennai. This could also be an option for those who may not find enough time to attend classes.

But this does not lead into a fall in demand for conventional classroom learning. In fact, centres for language learning could even get a higher inflow of students in the future with the three-language formula set to be introduced in CBSE schools by 2020.

With the formula mandating Indian languages to be picked as the second and third language, foreign languages may well be on their way out for a large number of schools, unless they offer them as electives. However, whether students will opt for a fourth language along with their academics remains to be seen. In such a scenario, enrolment in private centres could be on the rise, say experts.

The good part about securing a career in this field doesn’t require you to have only language degrees. Nivedita V, a translator with Alliance Francaise in Chennai, says even without an UG degree, proficiency in the particular language can help students pursue a postgraduate degree which is crucial for jobs. "Students can always enroll in a certificate course and get a good understanding of the language before pursing a PG degree," she added.

A tourism degree at the UG level with a language degree could be a good combination too. However, experts say a minimum of a B1 level in language certification is required, especially in MNCs which need translators and interpreters to interact with clients overseas.

With several engineering aspirants pursuing studies in Germany and also continuing to work where language centres have seen huge demand for German.

While French too continues to see high demand, Spanish also is becoming important now with a lot of trade between India and Latin American countries, said centres.

Meanwhile, Mandarin also has seen a demand for business as well as students who wish to broaden their career opportunities.

For instance, say Chinese is a hard language to learn, it might be a better choice to take up Spanish or German. However, if you are an engineering student, Mandarin could be a good option.

Choosing a course after school can be confusing as a simple 'no' or 'yes' can be career-changing. While a plethora of options at hand is convenient, reaching an informed decision could be cumbersome. To help students make a better choice, TOI lends a helping hand with 'Mission Admission'. We conclude the series with Foreign Languages.

SAY WHAT YOU WANT

German, French, Spanish and Mandarin are some of the languages high in demand.

WHERE TO GO

Courses vary from certifications for three months to five year master degrees.

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<td>Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi</td>
<td>BA in French, German, Korean, Chinese, Spanish, Italian, Russian PK &amp; PG also available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madras University</td>
<td>BA in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian PK &amp; PG also available</td>
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WHAT'S TAUGHT

- Language and communication skills under reading, writing, speaking and listening
- Translation and interpretation skills
- Language and literature courses

Fees:

Degree courses range between Rs 50,000 to Rs 6,000. In certificate courses, students need to have a minimum of B1 level in the chosen language. This is approximately Rs 50,000.

Proficiency in a particular language is sufficient for students to pursue a postgraduate degree. Students can always enroll in a certificate course and get a good understanding of the language before pursing a PG degree.

TOI replies to readers' queries on career options.

- I am studying my BSc in computer science. I want to learn game designing and development. Can you help me with course options? I have low fees! ARAI RAJ

There are several colleges that offer full time courses in game development like The Indian School of Gaming (Hyderabad) and Global Institute of Gaming (Chennai). If you are looking for an economical option you could consider doing certificate courses or diploma courses and do research online for these options.

- I wanted to know the scope and job opportunities for BSc Agriculture? Smita Agarwal

State department agricultural officer; officer in banking, manager in agricultural industries, agricultural cooperatives, and estates are some of the scope areas. There are around 33 types of master degree programmes in agriculture like Krishi, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Comorin.

- I have passed 10th and taken science with computers and want to do engineering but I am confused about what type of engineering I should select so please suggest a good course? Dushyant Batala

Engineering in Mechanical, Civil, Electrical, IT, etc. are very popular options along with very popular science courses. However, you should check your stream depending on what kind of engineering you are interested in.

Quick Counsel

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