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Hashtag  
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February - March 2020  
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# HASHTAG

Language Learning  
VS.  
Language Acquisition

*What Is the Difference?*

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University of Kashan

# HASHTAG

MAGAZINE

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## About us

With this issue, #Hashtag enters its sixth publication under the attempt and management of a group of diligent students who have endeavored for the production of this magazine from the beginning. Having fulfilled so prominent an objective by unifying and connecting ambitious and cooperative members to organize an academic community, #Hashtag is now more determined than ever to keep up its work towards a greater goal and a better future. This purpose in view, #Hashtag anticipates the expansion of its team to include new members who will passionately contribute to the further advancement of the magazine as well as the achievement of its primary goal, that is, to help us learn, grow, change, and share our experiences. In case you would like to join us, #Hashtag would be honored to use your company as an invaluable part of its family alongside your knowledge and skills congruent with its needs.

Furthermore, all your comments, recommendations, and criticisms concerning the development of this magazine are much welcomed. Should you have any questions or need any further information regarding how to join #Hashtag magazine, please do not hesitate to contact us.

 : @Hashtag\_Magazine



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*HASHTAG MAGAZINE*

# The Resemblance among Greek, Persian, and Indian Mythology

Mythological stories mostly involve heroes, gods, goddesses, and titans which have always been appealing topics. It is controversial to discuss that these features have many similarities in different countries among heroes. For instance, characteristics like love, revenge, jealousy, mourning, and depression between Persian, Greek, and Hindu mythology can be debated below.

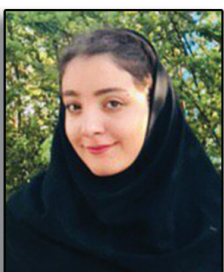
To start with, Uranus, the god of the sky, can be compared with Garshasb, the king of Persia, who claimed to have much authority among people and other kings. His son was Nariman who had a son named Sām. Sām had a son called Zāl who was hated by his father from the first moment of understanding his albinism. The same story is true about Cronus who hated his children and ate them all except Zeus.

Secondly, Achilles and Esfandiar are likely to be compared in terms of invulnerability and conflict with Hector and Esfandiar. Achilles the hero of the Trojan war who was invulnerable to any shots is similar to Esfandiār, Goshtasb's son who had the same story. There is one difference that Achilles was vulnerable to his heels, but Esfandiar to his eyes. Paris, the brother of Hector, managed to kill the hero with an arrow that landed on Achilles heel, the only vulnerable part of his body. The arrow was poisoned and some sources say that it was guided by the god Apollo, but in Rostam and Esfandiār's story the battle was related to the price and the hero which was ended in the death of Esfandiar by the help of Zāl and Simurgh.



Thirdly, Siavash the innocent prince of Toran is famous for his sincerity and passing through the fire to prove his chastity despite convicting by his step-mother and his father, Kay-Kavus. Soudabeh convicted the king that Siavash betrayed his father by having an affair with her. The same story is true in Hindu myth, about Rama who defended his sincerity. On the other hand, Soudabeh the villain wife of Key-Kavus is similar to Hera, Zeus's wife, and Kikeyi, Rama's sinister step-mother.

To sum up, myths have common features that reminds us the fact that history is being repeated again and again, so the didactic aspect is remarkable in myths if we learn from them., and do not make the same mistakes again.



Written by:

**Raziyeh Cheraghi**

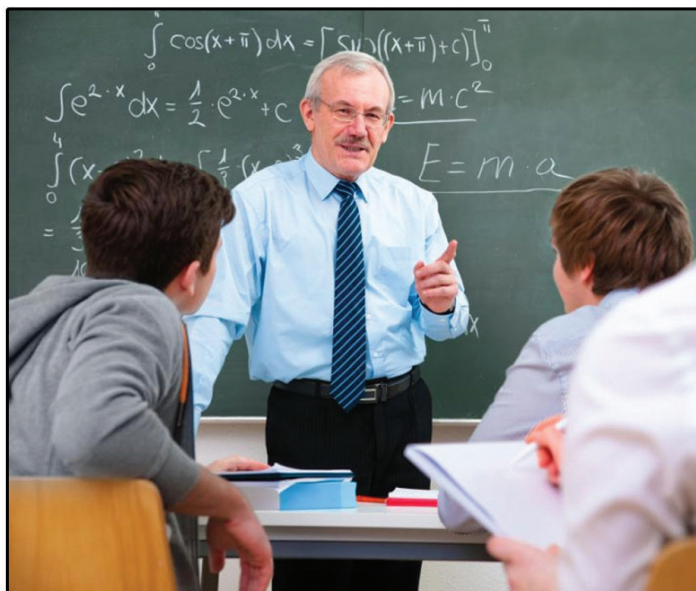
English Literature (96)

# A PERFECT TEACHER

A teacher has been clearly defined as a person who is capable of imparting knowledge that will help learners to construct, identify, and acquire skills that will be used to face the challenges in life. Teachers are also viewed as greatly influential individuals. As Henry Adams said, “A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops”. A great lesson can inspire a passion for a subject that lasts a lifetime, while lackluster teaching can kill any desire for learning. This essay aims to cover the importance and qualities of a great teacher.

To answer the main objective of this essay, we have to initially clarify who a perfect teacher is; and whether he/she even exists. These questions have provoked abundant heated discussions for years. Opinions are always subjective to be considered as authentic, especially when it comes to the matter of perfection. However, it is fundamental to have clear-cut answers about its existence. In reply to these controversial queries, many people have firmly-held beliefs that there is no perfect teacher, neither in the past nor in the present.

“Perfection is a goal that will remain impossible forever for any human being to achieve. Therefore, the only achievable goal is to only strive to become the best that you can be”. This succinct point quoted by Edmond Mbiaka utterly depicts the word best or great should be replaced with the word perfect when defining a teacher, so how to distinguish a great teacher? What are the qualities that make a good teacher?



In some religions, it is believed that prophets are exemplary great teachers and role models for human beings owing to their striving for accomplishing their missions in a good way. In the past, there was no specific criterion for choosing a great teacher because all the learned men of that time were considered as teachers. As time passes and in today’s globalized world, scholars and experts in some scientific fields such as psychology and sociology, have determined some qualifications needed for a teacher to be great.

According to what William Butler Yeats and Henry Adams have posited about the qualities of a good teacher, if any teacher possesses the following characteristics and qualities, he/she can become a very good teacher. These are the qualities that the best teachers universally possess:



1. Excellent communication skills
2. Superior Listening Skills
3. Deep knowledge and passion for the subject matter
4. The ability to develop strong relationships with students
5. Friendliness and approachability
6. Preparation and organization skills
7. A strong work ethic
8. The ability to build community
9. High expectations for all

Dr. Ponciano Andal Menguito, the director of the Philippines educational department, pointed out his perspective about a good teacher in a message that is worth mentioning here. “As a teacher, we are given a hundred and one opportunities to make an impact on the lives of people, from students to teachers, to principals and all other coworkers. Consciously or unconsciously, they imitate our thoughts and actions. Sometimes they end up as teachers like us, or in some way, live the life we have wanted to.”

Accredited authors like Kenneth Chastain also puts forward their viewpoints surrounding this issue. What can be elucidated from her theoretical book is that teachers must be prepared to establish clear and obvious objectives for each lesson, work to meet those specific pedagogical goals, and keep the material fascinating. They must have an encyclopedic knowledge of the curriculum in order to enable them to develop a strong rapport with all students. They should have a pragmatic approach to management matters in educational atmospheres.

It is crystal clear that all perspectives, even those by scientific figures, are relative, not absolute. In other words, all qualities, characteristics, and demeanors required for a teacher to be qualified enough are not complete. In light of above explanations, this well-known quote would best recap the main points mentioned above, “a teacher takes a hand, opens a mind, and touches a heart.”



**Written by:**

**Maryam Maghrour**

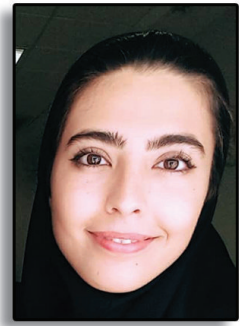
TEFL (97)

# LANGUAGE ACQUISITION VS. LANGUAGE LEARNING

Written by:

Maryam Azizi

English Literature (95)



During history, men have concerned with learning different languages for various aims. Some people learn a new language for living or studying in another country, while some others learn it because of their job or only their interest in a specific language and the culture of a country. This essay aims to clarify the difference between two methods; language acquisition and conscious learning.

Language acquisition generally relates to the idea of learning a language subconsciously, which is an unintentional process. To make it clear, a baby acquires his/her mother tongue unconsciously without being aware of the language rules, structures, and grammar. This happens through real communications, being among people who speak the language such as, mother, father, relatives, and society. They repeat whatever they hear without requiring a teacher or correcting them by explaining grammatical rules and structures.

On the other hand, language learning is the result of conscious and direct learning, which is often an intentional process. This means you are aware of the grammar rules and structure of the language. Additionally, there are many effective factors such as attitudes, motivation, mood, and age, which are significant in the learning process.

Age is one of the important factors that influences the second language learning. According to research, children are better at languages than adults. This is because not only they are good at imitating and expressing themselves confidently, but also using their both left and right hemisphere helps get fluent in a language.

In contrast, adults get into difficulties as a result of inhibition and self-image that had been made during the time. As you you have got the experience, learning a language is concerned with a high effort, studying, listening, and memorizing the information you achieve. Although, *acquire* refers to a natural way of gaining something in which you are the controller, not a teacher. In language acquisition, the learner goes beyond the classes and books, that is involved in outside real and informal situations. But in learning a language people are set in specific syllabus and plans.



As a second language learner you are provided with some theoretical knowledge of a language, whereas in language acquisition you are provided with practical knowledge. For instance, as a student, you may know the proper rules, vocabulary, and structures, but still not confident enough to communicate. In contrast, a child communicates and participates confidently without even knowing about the rules and structures of the language. Language learning is generally considered to be a slower process in comparison with language acquisition. You can find many people who are studying a language for years lacking fluency in it.

To sum up, both *learning* and *acquisition* have got their merits and drawbacks. There is no one hundred proving to the superiority of one to the other. Which one you prefer depends on what age you are, effective factors in your learning, and your aim of learning a language.

## A Successful Job Interview

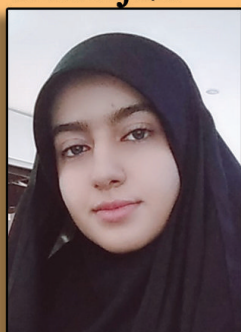
As soon as you find your dream job advertised, your application needs to be sent as well as your resume. Not only can an appropriate dressing, a firm handshake, and a constant eye contact help you to land the job, but there are also many other aspects of your behavior about which you had never thought with the capability of making a difference for you.

Lack of punctuality has been always regarded as a disqualifier. Although it is purely acceptable to be late once or twice, it must not occur regularly. Otherwise, your employer may consider that lateness as a habitual behavior on your part. If you are not punctual for your interview, it is time you provided a detailed persuasive explanation that your delay is just inadvertent, so people would not think that you are a person on whom they cannot rely.



Another factor that can play a devastating role in your job interview is being overly informal or too familiar. Even if the person by whom you are being interviewed is dressed informally, you are not permitted to be too casual. If the interviewer wants to be addressed by their first name, you will be invited to do that. If not, you should come to think of adopting better alternatives that are composed of using titles.

Before your next job interview, put these strategies into practice and follow these advantageous pieces of advice to see that they can take you a long way towards getting your dream job.



**Written by:**

**Shayesteh Kazemi**

TEFL (98)

# KHALED HOSSEINI

## Biography

*“Hosseini’s writing makes our hearts ache, our stomachs clench, and our emotions reel.” USA Today.*



When it comes to Afghan literature, Khaled Hosseini is one of the first names that comes up. Almost all Afghans and even the majority of Iranians have read his popular novels. When I was a teenager, I read *The Kite Runner* twice. As a woman from Hazarah ethnic, I found this book so racist, but it took time to rethink this idea. Nevertheless, there are many different interpretations of his books. Some consider them racist, and some not.



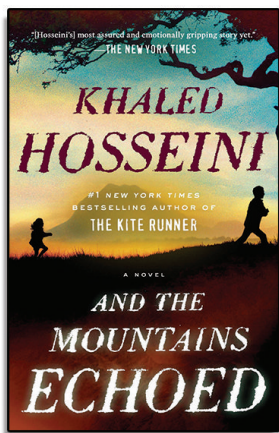
Khaled Hosseini was born in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 1965, and moved to the United States in 1980. Hosseini grew up in Kabul; his father was a diplomat and his mother a secondary-school teacher. In 1976 he and his parents moved to Paris, where his father worked at the Afghan Embassy. With the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, they found returning to their home impossible, and they moved to California, having been granted political asylum by the United States. Hosseini attended Santa Clara University, where he studied biology, and in 1989 he began attending medical school at the University of California, San Diego. He entered private practice as an internist in 1996, three years after receiving his medical degree.

He has published three novels, most notably his 2003 debut *The Kite Runner*, all of which are at least partially set in Afghanistan and feature an Afghan as the protagonist. Following the success of *The Kite Runner*, he retired from medicine to write full-time. All of his three novels became bestsellers. *The Kite Runner* (2003) spent 101 weeks on The New York Times Best Seller list, four of them at number one. *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (2007) was a Time Best Seller for 103 weeks, 15 at number one. *And The Mountains Echoed* (2013) debuted near the top of the Times list and remained on it for 33 weeks until January 2014.

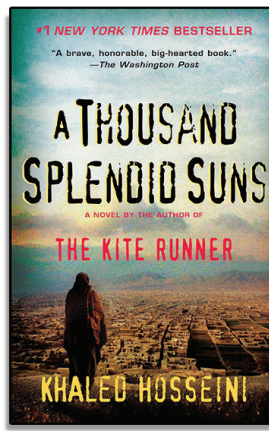


*The Kite Runner* was praised for its powerful storytelling, but it was, at times, dismissed by critics for elements considered melodramatic. Nonetheless, the novel soon gained wide popularity through the reader's word-of-mouth praise, and it

was eventually published in more than three dozen countries; a film adaptation was released in 2007.

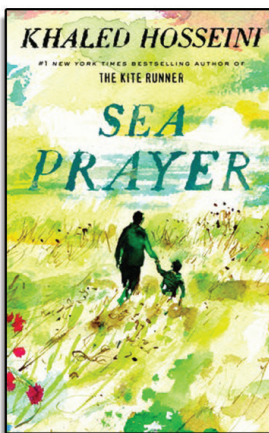


*And The Mountain Echoed* concerns a brother and sister separated when the latter is given up for adoption because of their family's straightened circumstances. The novel chronicles the decades following the siblings' divergence in 1950s Afghanistan.



Hosseini's second novel, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, was inspired by his observations of women wearing burkas during a 2003 visit to Afghanistan, his first since childhood. Continuing the overtly topical vein of *The Kite*

*Runner*, the book depicts the radical shifts in the political and social climate of Afghanistan through the relationship between Mariam and Laila, the first and second wives of an abusive husband.



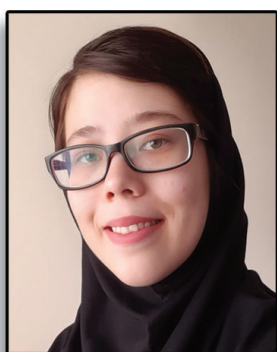
For his next work, the illustrated short story "Sea Prayer" (2018), Hosseini drew on the highly publicized death of a three-year-old Syrian refugee who drowned in the Mediterranean Sea in 2015. In the book a father reflects on his life as he and his son wait to

depart war-torn Syria.

Hosseini is also a U.S. Goodwill Envoy to the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and the founder of the Khaled Hosseini Foundation, a nonprofit that provides humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan.

"I heard these stories about what harrowing ordeal wintertime is for families in Afghanistan. People are afraid that they lose their kids. So with this background, suddenly this image came out of the blue, delivered with pristine, perfect clarity. And I was like: who are these people? Where are they going?" he explains during an interview with *Guardian*.

Hosseini he is one of the most famous Afghan authors that has done a great job about the history of Afghanistan and the difficulties people have suffered. Reading his books could be counted as a blameless source to know about the history of Afghanistan from the fall of the monarchy until the collapse of the Taliban regime.



**Written by:**  
**Masoumeh Jafari**  
English Literature (97)

*A Review on*

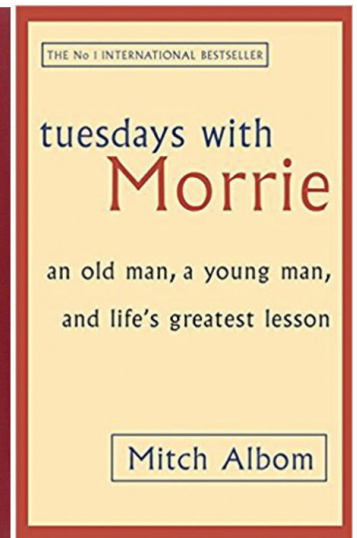
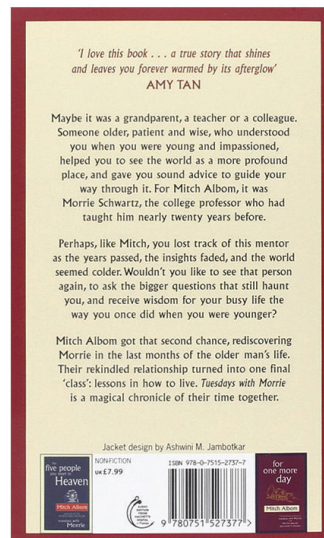
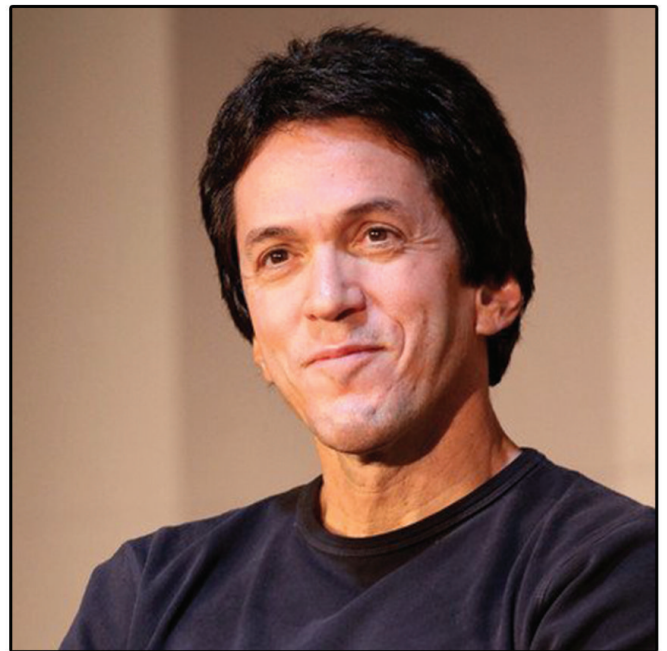
# TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE

*Tuesdays with Morrie; An Old Man, A Young Man, and Life's Greatest Lesson*, written by Mitch Albom was published in 1997. This book is highly known by many readers all around the world. It was on the New York Times bestseller list for 205 weeks. It is widely regarded as one of the most successful memoirs ever published.

Mitch Albom was born on May 23, 1958, in New Jersey. He attended Brandies University in Massachusetts. He began his career as a sports journalist. Later his visit with Morrie Schwartz led him to write *Tuesdays with Morrie*. This book moved him away from the sport and he began his career as an internationally popular author. He is best known for his books *Tuesdays with Morrie*, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, *For One More Day*, *Have a Little Faith*, *The Time Keeper*, and *The First Phone Call from Heaven*.

*Tuesdays with Morrie* is a small and easily digested book. A true story which is about Mitch Albom and his old professor who is dying from ALS. They meet each other every Tuesday and each Tuesday Morrie teaches Mitch a new lesson on life, from culture to aging, love, death, family, forgiveness, and different meanings of life. Their visits on Tuesdays continue for fourteen weeks up until Morrie's death. Before visiting Morrie, Albom's life was meaningless and repetitive, but after that, he experienced an epiphany.

This story is told mostly in a first-person narrative by Mitch Albom himself, as one of the two main characters. There are some sections that the point of view changes to the third person narrative, though. While most of the memoirs only include the opinion of the narrator,

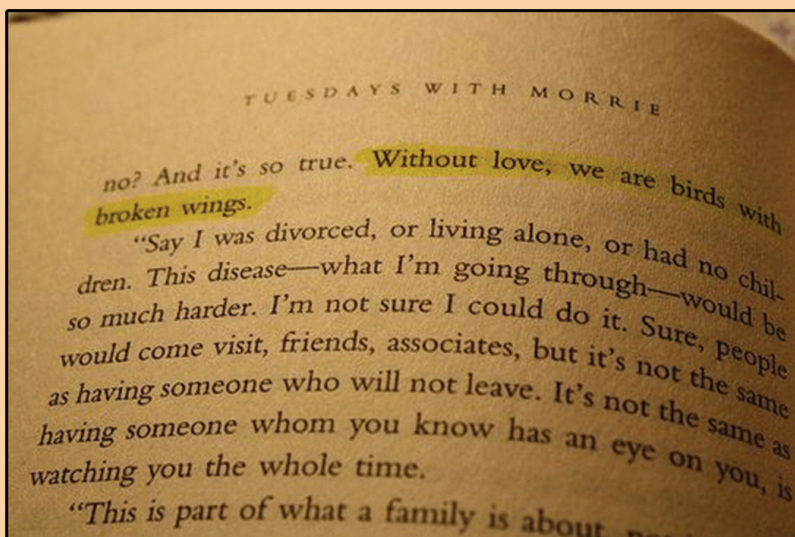


*Tuesdays with Morrie* includes perspectives from both the mentor and Mitch.

*Tuesdays with Morrie* is full of flashbacks. Very often Mitch and Morrie reminisce about their time at university. The flashbacks used in the story take the reader to the background of the story and exposes the true connotations of Mitch's experiences. Mitch invokes the past through the use of flashbacks to epitomize the inherent lessons that he learned from Morrie.

In this book, Mitch talks about the capitalist society of America in which business and vocation are the only logical ways to draw a veil over the lack of feelings and compassion among people. The society in which dreams are substituted by delusive and fictitious requirements. This critical attitude towards the capitalist and modern societies for sure is not the mere reason for this book's popularity.

It reminds us to slow down and appreciate each other. This is a book valuable for everyone, anywhere, and anytime. It is obvious that a work which is written in a way to satisfy all the people with different tastes and priorities, is not going to be a good one. But *Tuesdays with Morrie* is one of the few exceptions through which most of the readers are affected and it has kept its value as well.



An author should be the judicious one not to reduce the value of his work but to influence and lift the readers of different tastes at the same time. As a reader, you feel many emotions while reading this book, ranging from mirth to sadness. It makes the reader think about whatever relating to the life. Undoubtedly there is nothing greater than what makes you ponder and reflect on life.

Needless to say, the contrast between life and death is what you can see in most of the works written by Albom. On the surface *Tuesdays with Morrie* seems to be a story that talks merely about death, but by reading it you will see it is mostly about life.

All in all, this book will leave you satisfied with a new outlook on life. There are so many books and articles about subjects of life. But this one is different from all the others, for it is a true story and is experienced by someone. The lessons that you learn from this book will be things that you can take with you throughout your life and apply them every day.



**Written by:**

**Vafa Aradfar**

English Literature (95)

# A Film Review of **PARASITE**

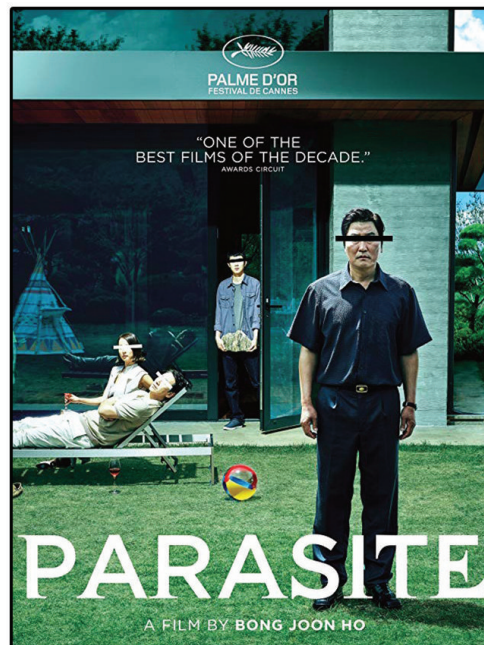
Written by:  
**Alireza Ahmadi**  
English Literature (96)



The four-Oscar-winning and the leading movie of 2019 is the South Korean satirical movie *Parasite*, brilliantly written and directed by Bong Joon-ho. The film was released on May 30, 2019 in South Korea and grossed over 177 billion dollars worldwide. *Parasite* does not contain a sole genre since it nearly has a hand involved in all genres. It starts with dark comedy and later on moves towards absurd comedy. It presents the severe distinction in the social class of South Korea's society or generally in every society. The main themes used for *Parasite* are satire and suspense.

*Parasite* gets darker second by second and it ends in total hazard; it ends where it starts, in the low-class half basement house of Kim's, where the windows are almost near the ceiling and barely visible, indicating hope is so little there. Kim's main source of income is through folding pizza boxes, certainly not enough for a four-membered family. They strive to survive, hunt for Wi-Fi signals around the house, and let the smoke from the public fumigation into their apartment for some free disinfectant.

They ultimately catch a lucky break when the son, Ki-woo (Choi Woo-Sik) scores a job tutoring Da-hye (Jeong Ji-so), the underage daughter of the wealthy Park family, with whom he later on starts an intimate relationship. He has her sister Ki-Jeong (Park So-dam) forge some documents in order to present himself as a sophisticated English tutor. The comedy begins here and when each member of the Kim family infiltrates the Park's mansion. Ki-Jeong becomes the art therapist to the Park's young boy, Da-song. The poor siblings use their cunning to fire the of Mr. Park's chauffeur and place their father, Ki-taek (Song Kang-ho) instead. Not long after, they place the mother,



Chung Sook (Jang Hye-jin) as the Park's housekeeper and displace the old one. Now they all walk around Park's mansion pretending only to know each other through peculiar networks, and representing themselves as sophisticated intelligent high-class people. The irony is where the untalented Da-Song notices that they all smell the same, which is the smell of the urban people. This smell is mentioned

several times throughout the movie. *Parasite* suddenly morphs from comedy into completely a new situation as a third family shows up.

When the Park family goes on a trip, leaving the Kim's enjoying the enormous house, the original housekeeper, Moon-Kwang (Lee Jeong-eun) returns knocking, imploring, and confessing that

that his husband had been hiding in the secret bunker of Park's house, hidden from loan sharks. One more time the story of upstairs and downstairs. The two families fight for their place, and temporarily the Kims win out, trapping Moon-Kwang and her husband, Kan-sae in the bunker. Meanwhile, the Parks get back home because of downpour. "What's the plan now?", the son asks Ki-taek, "It's not to have a plan at all son". The Kims survive the night and the next day they are asked to throw a party for the young Da-Song.

During the festivities the mad Kan-sae emerges from the bunker, stabbing Ki-Jeong and creating total havoc and pandemonium. Da-hye faints and the parents demand Ki-taek to drive them to the hospital even while his own daughter is bleeding out. It is when he realizes their lives are constrained by servitude. Thus he stabs Mr. Park and runs away. Now the new resident of the bunker is Ki-taek, hidden from the police and another wealthy family living upstairs; everything stayed the same.



When Ki-woo finds out the whereabouts of his father through Ki-taek's Morse codes, the camera goes back to Kim's half-basement apartment where he is writing a letter to his dad, saying he would get a job and make enough money to buy the house so that his father may walk upstairs free someday. The moving back of the camera to the half-basement makes certain that this kid is not going to get all that and nothing changes, that these are all hallucinations for false hope. Hope is the Parasite that Bong Joon-ho is trying to show.



All in all, *Parasite* was the wonder of 2019 and the lead in receiving the awards. Although many critics prized the movie as an insight, or a great satire of the time for showing class distinction in society, some of them called it a call for a revolting revolution. *Parasite* had three *Golden Globe* nominations and won one for the *Best Foreign Film*. It had six *Oscar* nominations and won four awards for *Best Picture*, *Best Director*, *Best Screenplay* and *Best International Feature Film*, making it the first foreign movie ever received the best picture award. *Parasite* won the only four *Oscars* that South Korea has ever received. As Bong himself indicates in the *Golden Globes*: "When you overcome the one-inch barrier of subtitles, you will be introduced to many great movies". *Parasite* was the non-English and non-negotiable winner of 2020 Oscars.

# The Effects of Age on Learning English



**H**ave you ever taken the view that your age can exert a notable influence on your language learning process? And if you have, what kind of impact can it have upon your learning style? According to recent researches your age tends to be considered as one of the noteworthy and remarkable elements in the second language learning process. In fact, countless underlying assumptions have been made in order to exhibit the strong bond between language learning age and level of fluency in the second language.

In accordance with the detailed observations, it has been proved that there's an exceptional phase in everyone's life which strengthens your understanding and comprehension and afterward, a dramatic reduction will be made in the language learning process. Therefore, it is recommended to make some operational alterations in our education system and let our kids start turning into bilingual individuals as soon as possible.

Language learning is an intricate process that is characterized by biological factors. Generally, the child's brain is more flexible than the adult's brain. Therefore, putting our kids in a situation that



Children are consciously interested in language learning and linguistics. They usually tend to be captivated by things that are much more straight forward to perceive. They have a natural impulse to

exposes them to learn a second language activates their neural systems and inherent functions of the brain. In addition, doing such a thing facilitates their language learning process. That's why in China they start training their children at the age of four. Furthermore, in European countries, in some states of Germany, children begin the learning stage at the age of five. It is reported that ductility and flexibility of the brain decline as we get older, so why not increase our chances of learning by creating the required situation and enhancing it?

take part in everyday social life and if they know the pronunciation of a word, they are likely to add it to their everyday spoken vocabulary. This practice gives them confidence in terms of social communication. Based on a proven theory of growth phases, children learn the language through sensory experiences. Thus, the educational method is needed to change in a way that enables the child himself to attend the activities and utilizes tactile tools and pieces of equipment to learn the language. As you know the English language has become a must-have for most people because of its high usage in

today's world. Unfortunately, some families cause their child to fail due to the lack of attention to this imperative issue.

To sum up, according to all the tips mentioned above, the effect of age on learning is clearly explicable and in terms of neurologic reasons, the language learning process is not acquired and is considered as an intrinsic potential. Consequently, we had better take into account all the do's and don'ts if we are willing to make it big and have a word to say in today's modern and technological world.



**Written by:**

**Zahra Khalifeh**

**English Translation (97)**

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