



हिन्दी वाणी (HINDI VOICE)

HINDI VAANI—NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON HINDI SCHOOL

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Issue 11 December 2009

LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Taken from The Press 21.7.09

The best time to learn a foreign language: Between birth and age 7. Missed that window? New research is showing just how children's brains can become bilingual so easily, findings that scientists hope eventually could help the rest of us learn a new language a bit easier.

"We think the magic that kids apply to this learning situation, some of the principles, can be imported into learning programmes for adults," says Dr Patricia Kuhl of the University of Washington, who is part of an international team now trying to turn those lessons into more teachable technology.

Each language uses a unique set of sounds. Scientists now know babies are born with the ability to distinguish all of them, but that ability starts weakening even before they start talking, by the first birthday. Kuhl offers an example: Japanese doesn't distinguish between the "L" and "R" sounds of English – "rake" and "lake" would sound the same. Her team proved that a 7-month-old in Tokyo and a 7-month-old in Seattle respond equally well to those different sounds. But by 11 months, the Japanese infant had lost a lot of that ability.

Wait a minute – how do you test a baby? By tracking eye gaze. Make a fun toy appear on one side or the other whenever there's a particular sound. The baby quickly learns to look on that side whenever he or she hears a brand-new but similar sound. Non-invasive brain scans

document how the brain is processing and imprinting language.

Mastering your dominant language gets in the way of learning a second, less familiar one, Kuhl's research suggests. The brain tunes out sounds that don't fit.

"You're building a brain architecture that's a perfect fit for Japanese or English or French," whatever is native, Kuhl explains – or, if you're a lucky baby, a brain with two sets of neural circuits dedicated to two languages.

It is remarkable that babies being raised bilingual – by simply speaking to them in two languages – can learn both in the time it takes most babies to learn one. On average, monolingual and bilingual babies start talking around age 1 and can say about 50 words by 18 months. Italian researchers wondered why there was not a delay, and reported this month in the journal *Science* that being bilingual seems to make the brain more flexible.

The researchers tested 44 12-month-olds to see how they recognized three-syllable patterns – nonsense words, just to test sound learning. Sure enough, gaze-tracking showed the bilingual babies learned two kinds of patterns at the same time – like lo-ba-lo or lo-lo-ba – while the one-language babies learned only one, concluded Agnes Melinda Kovacs of Italy's International School for Advanced Studies.

While new language learning is easiest by age 7, the ability mark-

edly declines after puberty.

"We're seeing the brain as more plastic and ready to create new circuits before than after puberty," Kuhl says. As an adult, "it's a totally different process. You won't learn it in the same way. You won't become (as good as) a native speaker." Yet a soon-to-be-released survey from the Centre for Applied Linguistics, a non-profit organisation that researches language issues, shows US elementary schools cut back on foreign language instruction over the last decade. About a quarter of public elementary schools were teaching foreign languages in 1997, but just 15 per cent last year, say preliminary results posted on the centre's Web site.

What might help people who missed their childhood window? Baby brains need personal interaction to soak in a new language – TV or CDs alone do not work. So researchers are improving the technology that adults tend to use for language learning, to make it more social and possibly tap brain circuitry that children would use.

Recall that Japanese "L" and "R" difficulty? Kuhl and scientists at Tokyo Denki University and the University of Minnesota helped develop a computer language program

continued on page 2

Learning Foreign Language cont'd.....

(continued from page 1) that pictures people speaking in "motherese," the slow exaggeration of sounds that parents use with babies.

Japanese college students who had had little exposure to spoken English underwent 12 sessions listening to exaggerated "Ls" and "Rs" while watching the computerized instructor's face pronounce English words. Brain scans – a hair dryer-looking de-

vice called MEG, for magnetoencephalography – that measure millisecond-by-millisecond activity showed the students could better distinguish between those alien English sounds. And they pronounced them better, too, the team reported in the journal *NeuroImage*.

"It's our very first, preliminary crude attempt but the gains

were phenomenal," says Kuhl. But she'd rather see parents follow biology and expose youngsters early. If you speak a second language, speak it at home. Or find a play group or caregiver where your child can hear another language regularly.

"You'll be surprised," Kuhl says. "They do seem to pick it up like sponges."

Belated Diwali message

हिंदी स्कूल की संचालिका सुनीता नारायण जी स्कूल की अध्यापिकाओं और प्यारे बच्चों ।

आप सब को दीपावली के शुभ अवसर पर बधाई । आपका स्कूल हिंदी के क्षेत्र में उलेखनीय कार्य कर रहा है । जिस के लिए आप सब बधाई की पात्र है । हिंदी न केवल संसार की सर्वधिक बोली जाने वाली भाषा है अपितु यह हमारी संस्कृति की पहचान भी है । आप सब संसार की इस प्राचीनतम भाषा के दीप न्यूज़ीलैंड में जला कर एक महाकार्य कर रहे हैं जिस पर भारत की आने वाली पीढ़ियों को गर्व होगा। आपके स्कूल में आकर मैंने पाया की जिस लगन से आप हिंदी की पढ़ाई कर रहे है और जिस लगन से आपकी अध्यापिकाएं पढ़ा रही है उस से हिंदी का भविष्य उज्ज्वल रहेगा । आप अपनी इस प्रयास में किसी तरह की कमी न आने दे । आप को न्यूज़ीलैंड के बच्चों को भी हिंदी और भारत के बारे में ज्ञान देना चाहिए ।

सुनीता जी के इस प्रयास की जितनी भी प्रशंसा की जाये कम है ।

आओ एक दीप से अनेक दीप हम प्रज्वलित करे । इस विषय में नया इतिहास हम लिखे ।

शरद कुमार
पूर्व द्वितीय सचिव
भारत का उच्चायोग, सूवा, फीजी द्वीप समूह

कविता

समय का पल्लू

एक दिन मेरे पास समय था
सिर्फ काम करने का
परिवार को पालने का
लेकिन परिवार कौन?

सोते परिवार को छोड़ कर जाना
सोते परिवार को आ कर देखना

मुझे नहीं पता था मेरे बच्चे कब पहली बार हंसे,
कब पहली बार चले
उनका बिगड़ना और उनका सुधरना
कितना कम समय था मेरे पास

मेरे बच्चो की प्यारी प्यारी बाते
उनकी खिलखिलाहट और शरारते
उनके इतने सारे सवाल
समय नहीं था मेरे पास देने को जवाब

फिर एक दिन मेरे पास सम आया
और आते गया.....
अब बहुत समय है
लेकिन ये मैं क्या देख रहा हूँ?

समय का पल्लू दोह रा या
अब मेरे पास समये ही समय है
लेकिन मेरे बच्चो के पास कम है
उन्हे नहीं पता उनके बच्चे कब पहली बार हंसे,
कब पहली बार चले
उनका बिगड़ना और उनका सुधरना
कितना कम समय है उनके पास?
समय का क्या कहना कभी आए कभी ना
अपने परिवार को जानो और आज ही जानो
क्या पता समय का पल्लू दोह रा ए या ना?

कश्मीर कोर, केलसन

Our People.....

In this issue, we introduce 2 senior teachers - our role models and inspiration



Mrs Nirmala Mishra started her teaching career in early 60s. She taught in various schools in Fiji until retirement in mid 90s. She moved to Auckland where she lived for a few years before moving to Wellington. Mrs Mishra joined Wellington Hindi School in 2007 and has loved it since.

'The best thing about being in Hindi School is communicating with, and teaching the little ones develop skills in the use of Hindi language and culture. The most challenging thing I find teaching Hindi in New Zealand is about making the learning stick!

'I'm proud of my culture and love my language and enjoy sharing my knowledge and learning with others.'

Mrs Mishra is our students Siddharth and Rahul's *āji* (dadi).

Mrs Mahadevi Munit joined our school in 2006. Prior to this, Mrs Munit was a pre-school teacher in Fiji and a teacher aid for Years 1 & 2 in Auckland. When asked why she joined Wellington Hindi School she said, she wanted to volunteer and help our children maintain their mother tongue. As the school's student dynamics changed from Hindi speaking background to speakers of other languages, Mrs Munit has taken on the challenge and enjoys being there. She notes that speakers of other languages are keen and learn very fast. "This is very satisfying", she says. Mrs Munit is our students Sonika & Shanaya's naniji.



Aunties Mrs Mishra & Mrs Munit – we love you. Thank you for being with us. From the staff and students of Wellington Hindi School .

School Represented at Lower Hutt Citizenship Ceremony



Supriti and Satpreet steal the show

Supriti Singh (8) of the Lower Hutt Branch and her cousin Satpreet Kaur (7) recently did a breath-taking bollywood performance at a Citizenship Ceremony at the Town Hall in Lower Hutt. They were greatly admired and adored by the Deputy Mayor, Roger Styles, the 69 new citizens and their friends and families.

Supriti's mum Kashmir Kaur was part of the official party and a guest speaker at the ceremony. Her speech emphasised the importance of keeping one's language alive. She told the new citizens from 19 different countries "Language is the key to your culture, to your

history, to your own uniqueness.

Language is what will help your children and indeed your children's children to identify with where you all came from. And as your children grow, it is language that will instil pride of having experienced growing up in a family that shares at least two languages and perhaps two cultures".

Both Supriti and Satpreet cherished this new experience and had a great time chatting with some of the new citizens after the ceremony.



Kashmir with the young performers



Students Brave Rain To Support Community

Wellington City branch students Krisha, Kiriti, Ashley (left), Drsana, Anjali, Sonika (right), Alisha & Shanaya (middle) danced to "Jai Ho" number from Slumdog Millionaire to support fundraising for the extension of the Brooklyn Community Centre.

Our People (cont'd).....

Do I know my Hindi Varnmala?



Students challenge themselves putting the Varnmala jigsaw together. Seven of them completed it in just below 6 minutes. Team work was another skill being applied!



Taking shape

Behind the scenes

Since our first publication in February 2006, our Hindi Vaani has received raving reviews. Meet the person who puts it together for you.

Arunesh Singh has been an instrumental figure at our Hutt Branch since its inception in 2005. She has not only been a founding parent but looks after the administration of the Hutt Branch and brings our Vaani to you. Our readership extends to Australia, Beijing, Canada, Fiji, India, Malaysia, Netherlands, Singapore, USA, Dubai

My special thanks to Arunesh for making this possible.

Sunita Narayan, School Coordinator



Arunesh Singh

Adult Hindi Class



Hum sub āthh week se Hindi seekh rahe hain. We have all been learning Hindi for the past eight weeks. The class was a mix of people from all different backgrounds, who had different reasons for wanting to learn Hindi. We learnt pronunciation, basic grammar and a fair bit of vocab in a fun and relaxed 2 hour lesson each Wednesday evening. Big thanks to Sunitaji and Shyamji for this excellent introduction into Hindi language.
by Georgiana Lowe

Participants celebrating with food at the end of the programme.
Standing from left: Olivia Christmann, Nick Henry, Georgiana Lowe, Shyam Agrawal (Tutor)
Sitting: Karthik Subramani, Trifon Daniel, Darshan Naran, Anna Sunter.
Absent: Kamlini Pulandran, Shiva, Yogesh Ramji, Matt Wennersten

Jokes, Recipe, Lesson.....

JOKES

Letter writing:-

"I am well here and hope you are also in the same well."

Actual letter written for application of leave:

"My wife is suffering from sickness and as I am her only husband at home I may be granted leave".

Wellington Regional Hindu Conference to focus on Community Development

The Hindu Council of New Zealand Inc. (HCNZ) is organising the Wellington Regional Hindu Conference on Saturday, 27th February 2010, in Lower Hutt, Wellington. The theme of the conference is **"Community Development – A Hindu Perspective"**.

For more information, please contact:

Dr Rajiv Chaturvedi, Coordinator, Wellington Regional Hindu Conference, Joint General Secretary, Hindu Council of New Zealand Inc.

Phone: 021 079 5036

Email: hinduconference@gmail.com

RECIPE

JEERA PALAU

Ingredients

1.5 cups basmati rice
2 tblsp ghee
1 tblsp cumin
¼ onion paste
1 tsp ginger garlic paste
Cloves, cardamoms, cinnamon
Salt to taste, chilli (optional)

Method

Heat ghee in a pan. Add cumin seeds, the 3 spices, onion paste, ginger and garlic paste, rice, salt and mix well. Add 3 cups of water and cook till done.



Important dates:

Wellington Hindi School terms 2010

Term 1—31 January– 28 March

Term 2—18 April– 27 June

Term 3—18 July– 19 September

Term 4—10 October—12 December

Maha Shivratri—12 February

Holi—28 February

Ram Navami—24 March

Hanuman Jayanti—30 March

2010 enrolments

Enrolments for 2010 are now open. Enrolment form is available on our website and on page 6. If you are interested in sending your children, please fill this in and return to the address on the form. This will enable us to plan for classes next year. Classes start on 31st January 2010



LESSON CORNER Parts of the body

English	Hindi	English	Hindi	English	Hindi
finger	ungli	teeth	dāñt	Chin/beard	dāhdi
hand	hāt	eye	āñkh	moustache	mūñhe
finger nail	nākhun	mouth	muh	back	pēth
head	sir	neck	gardan	cheek	gāl
face	chehra	heel	edī	elbow	Kuhani/kohani
nose	nāk	stomach	pat	legs	paer
ear	kān	knee	ghutnā	hair	bāl
lips	oñth	throat	galā	shoulder	kāndha

**WELLINGTON HINDI SCHOOL
STUDENT ENROLMENT FORM
YEAR _____**

1.	Surname		
2.	Given names		
3.	Date of Birth	Age	Gender Male Female
4.	Address		
5.	Postal Address (if different from above)		
6.	Telephone (home)	Mobile:	
7.	Email:		
8.	Languages Spoken at Home (eg Hindi, English, Marathi):		
9.	Mainstream School attended during week-days:		
10.	Student's Year Level at Mainstream School		
11.	In Case of Emergency, the School should contact:		
12.	Name:		
13.	Address:		
14.	Telephone (home)	Mobile	
15.	Medical Information (include medication needed to be taken while at school):		
16.	Circle the appropriate skill. My child can SPEAK..... READ WRITE UNDERSTAND....COPY.... the Hindi Language:		
Will you be happy for your child to participate in events, representing Hindi School?			
YES		NO	
Name of enrolling parent/s (please print):.....			
Signature of Parent:			
Date:			
Placement: Year /level at Hindi School -		Date:	

Please complete and email to: info@hindischool.wellington.net.nz OR Post to 38 Priscilla Crescent, Wellington.