

Re: Let's talk about langages (Advice/Help)

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2004-08/1584.html>

From: LEE Sau Dan (danlee_at_informatik.uni-freiburg.de)

Date: 08/17/04

Date: 17 Aug 2004 23:27:26 +0200

>>>> "Jan" == ?ystein <oystein@nettkjenning.com> writes:

Jan> Another point is that it is easier to learn a language the
Jan> more you are exposed to that language. I think this is an
Jan> important explanation why people in The Scandianivian
Jan> countries and the Netherlands generally speaks better English
Jan> than in onter countries on the European continent. The use
Jan> subtitles instead of dubbing English speaking movies and tv
Jan> programs.

Maybe, the English speakers should start consider adding English subtitles to their English movies, so as to improve their capability of spelling English correctly? :)

Jan> Within the numbers of languages you refer to it is probably
Jan> true that it comes easier to learn new languages the more
Jan> languages you allready know. It is limited how many languages
Jan> the human brain is capable of learning though.

Has this limit been scientifically found? Has its existence been even proved?

(Of course, human beings have a limited lifespan. Assuming one can live up to 140 years and one can learn one language in a year, that would still give a limit of 140. Definitely a finite number. But don't forget that most parts of our brains are still underutilized.)

Jan> Most people will have great difficulties learning say more
Jan> than 10 languages fluently. I also think that it is easier to
Jan> learn another language if you know another language with
Jan> fairly the same grammar to begin with.

I don't have problems learning and keeping to know 10 or more computer languages. The problem with human languages seems not the complexity (quantity), but the size (quantity). You need to learn a lot of words, often groups with subtle differences. You need to learn a lot of idiomatic expressions, etc. Otherwise, you can't do much with a

sci.lang: Re: Let's talk about langages (Advice/Help)

language. Without computer languages, you can be already quite expressive and productive (within the problem domain) with a very limited vocabulary.

--

Lee Sau Dan

+Z05biGVm-

~{@nJX6X~}

E-mail: danlee@informatik.uni-freiburg.de

Home page: <http://www.informatik.uni-freiburg.de/~danlee>