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Abstract

Language Acquisition happens when someone acquires a language. Despite of the grammatical system and accent, a person is considered as an acquirer as long as he can understand the second language and use it in particular times. The result of language acquisition is different from one person to another. However, to know what language acquisition really is, and to get an example of a real acquisition, I did a qualitative research titled “English Acquisition among the Drivers of Caterpillar Jakarta District” in four months. The methods used to investigate the linguistic input, learners’ differences, learners’ process, language output, and situational factors and strategies are questionnaires, interview, and observation with 11 drivers of Caterpillar as the respondents. I found out that the drivers’ differences are age, status, ethnicity, working experience and motivation. They experienced English Acquisition when they enrolled an international working environment in which English was required. Although the drivers are weak in English grammar, they are capable in both understanding written and oral English, and giving responds properly. To overcome their difficulties in conveying the message righteously, they use dictionary, and ask for repetition if they can’t completely understand the delivered message. In summary, the English Acquisition among the drivers of Caterpillar is categorized as average.
Preface

This research was done to investigate the English Acquisition among the drivers of Caterpillar Jakarta. This thesis contains the theories of Language Acquisition, the Research Data Collection; questionnaires, interview, and observation, and the Research Findings.

By reading this thesis, I hope the students are inspired to maximize their English competence by being more courageous in speaking English, and more creative in overcoming their difficulties in learning English.

Jakarta, August 24, 2006

Nasya L. Said
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