

like the skills of "cycling"  
"swimming". A person cannot  
master "cycling" or "swim"  
merely by memorizing the set  
rules which enables them to  
likewise he or she cannot be  
proficient speaker or writer of  
language or, for that purpose,  
and comprehend it fully, only  
by getting by heart the  
of a particular grammar.

Even if we are so  
in favour of the modern linguists  
the dilemma does not go away  
would be learners (and teachers also) -  
days are faced with a bewildering  
variety of competing methods  
Phonetic Method, the Structural  
the Native Method, the Eclectic  
etc." A teacher is in more of  
predicament regarding this.  
professionally involved he must  
his duty to be well informed

from whom he is to seek advice  
linguistic theory help? If he  
the professional journals he will  
with an array of conflicting  
He likely to be told by one  
that Generative Grammar has im  
for foreign language courses and  
(Cemadella) that it is a complex  
in language teaching. He will be  
one authority (Jacobovits) that  
drills" are without theoretical  
— and by other (Brown) that  
indispensable and in fact n  
to transformational or any other  
of Grammar. He will find a wi  
Koddis discovering to his surprise  
many of theories and techniques w  
currently attract epithet such as  
revolutionary' in fact owe their ge  
writers such as Sweet, Jespersen, or Pa  
writing over ~~a~~ half a century ago.

The learning of a language through the grammarian route memorizing and practicing adherence to the laid down rules of grammar (for example Panini's) modern day linguists at a majority of them opine that language is (at least the spoken) more a *muscle* than a theory proficiency in it can be through the drill method i.e. for a given expression again and till it manifests as one's reflex. This theory of language learning a language as a combination of four skills:-

- (i) Skill to comprehend
- (ii) Skill to speak
- (iii) Skill to Read
- (iv) Skill to write

All the above four skills, as they can and should be acquired through practice.





Challenges  
and Learning

## Language Learning: Some Ideas

Language is one of the main pillars of our civilizational development. Without the spoken expression, other than some set of postures and gestures, i.e., the spoken and written set of phonemes and symbols respectively, our world would certainly not have reached the level at which we find it today.

Given this prime importance that a language occupies in the world in general and in the life of a person in particular, "Language learning and language are fields of activity which engage a great and growing amount of human attention and energy. Thousands upon thousands of people make a living teaching languages and thousands of others spend scores of hours each, trying to learn."

A large number of materials, including books and aids etc, are churned out with language instruction in aspects. Some publishers derive considerable income from the language courses and spend a large sum in making audio-visual language programmes occupy a large part of the preparation of broadcasting and time in many countries and corporations like B.B.C and Welle have taken a lead in this endeavour.

Nevertheless, the language teachers do face a kind of dilemma in choosing the right method and whether to stick to the traditional way of teaching through grammar or to adopt the recently introduced "drill". Whereas the traditional method adopted by our ancient Indian Rishis lays emphasis