

Communication and Language Preferences of IT Professionals

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Abstract

Most of the papers presented at this conference regard application of ICT in the process of language acquisition from the point of view of students and teachers. This paper aims at showing the other side of the same reality. We would like to investigate a few aspects of language use and acquisition from the perspective of IT professionals whose work require not only high technical knowledge, but also longer hours spent with IT tools replacing direct human contact. This means that we would like to see if there is any impact of work environment with high information technology component on the preferences in use of native language and learning foreign languages. We believe that daily tasks of IT professionals influence their preferences regarding way of communication and facilitate the process of learning English. It is common knowledge that IT jobs require a lot of time spent in front of computer and simultaneously reduce time dedicated to direct social interaction. Our basic question is if virtual and indirect contact is a need of work or IT professionals prefer it also when they are free to choose between different channels and ways of conveying meaning. From behavioral point of view we analyze choices and strategies IT professionals are ready to make in terms of language use and effective communication. We are surveying both IT and non-IT sector in order to grasp clear similarities and differences regarding preferences in use of language and communication habits.