Abstract

Acquiring a second language is often fraught with difficulties and challenges. While some are able to more or less master the language, many however are unable to do so, especially for adult learners. Findings have also reported that even if second language learners are fluent in the language, it can never be on a par with the competency of first language speakers.

In view of the rise of China, this thesis chooses Standard Chinese Language as the target second language for foreigners. Using a Singapore variety program ‘It’s a Small World’ as my case study, the writer takes on a descriptive approach, focusing on the problems faced by four individual foreigners from the perspective of Pronunciation, Grammar and the Usage of Vocabulary. This thesis also discusses the problems encountered in language acquisition and hopes to gain insight in understanding how some foreigners can effectively master the language as compared to others.