

Children's Corner



Importance of Mother Tongue

Salaam dear young friends; hopefully you are fine and in the best of health by the Grace of Almighty Allah.

We at Kayhan International are really proud to have such a wide readership of our Children's Page, as is evident from the browsers who visit our website, and of course, the Emails we receive from Iran and from many world countries.

It is obvious that our youthful readers hail from various ethnic backgrounds and speak different languages as their mother tongue, but what binds us together is the language of our newspaper, through which we convey the facts and realities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including its rich culture. We also provide a window to them for glimpsing the basic truths of events and happenings in other countries, away from the tainted views, false reporting, and biased propaganda of the West's Zionist control media and its affiliates in the so-called 3rd World.

Well youngsters, speaking of languages, yesterday February 21 was the International Mother Language Day (IMLD). It was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2008, after almost a decade of being celebrated as such by the UNESCO since 1999. The day marks the anniversary of the 21 February 1952 mass demonstrations of students and staff of Dhaka University for recognition of their mother tongue, Bengali, as second official language, in what was then East Pakistan and which in 1971 became the independent country of Bangladesh – of course with the help of India's military forces.

Language reflects the culture of people who speak that tongue and through it convey to the world their thoughts, their feelings, their way of life, their traditions, and their contribution to the collective development of mankind's progress in the fields of art, architecture, science and technology. Every person is proud of his/her mother tongue, and strives to protect it from fading into oblivion, since the death of a language means the death of part of human culture and civilization.

The IMLD ceremonies are organized by UNESCO in member states. This year, the opening ceremony was held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France. The theme for IMLD 2017 is "Towards Sustainable Futures through Multilingual Education."

UNESCO Director-General, Bulgaria's Irina Georgieva Bokova, considers mother languages as the identity of humans and says: "By safeguarding them we actually preserve ourselves." She said in her message on IMLD 2017: "I request that multilingual education is recognized through the executive and educational system, cultural translation, cyber space, trade and other fields."

In this regard, the UNESCO website, reads: In order to pave the way for sustainable development, students should be taught their mother language – in addition to other languages. It is through good command of the mother language that acquisition of basic skills including reading, writing and mathematics become possible. Local languages especially minority or native languages are considered the gate for transfer of cultures, values and traditional knowledge.

Today people throughout the world speak 6700 different languages. Half the number of these languages are in danger of extinction, and over the past 60 years, some 200 languages have disappeared. According to experts by the end of the 21st century, half of these languages will be no more.

A psychologist says: the mother language is the means with which a child builds its identity. It is the only and first communication means of a child with its immediate relatives, i.e. parents, siblings, grandparents, etc. The personality of every person takes shape right from childhood through communication with closest relatives and expression or exchange of sincerity with them in the mother tongue.

The importance of mother language is further revealed by the late South African president Nelson Mandela's statement: "If you speak to a person in a language that he/she knows, your words will find way to his/her brain. But if you speak to someone in his/her mother language, it will penetrate the heart."

We in the Islamic Republic of Iran are a good example of unity in lingual diversity, since, beside our national language "Persian", which is also the national language of Afghanistan and Tajikistan, our compatriots speak Azeri, Arabic, Kurdish, Baluchi, Tukomani, Gilaki, Mazandarani, and Luri – not to speak of the world languages that Iranians have mastered such as English, French, German, Spanish, Urdu, Chinese, Japanese, Malayo, Swahili, etc.



RIDDLES

Dear youngsters, could you answer the following questions.

1. I have no voice but I can teach you all there is to know. I have spines and hinges but I am not a door. Once I've told you all, I cannot tell you more. What am I?
2. I always have to work with something in my eye. What am I?
3. I am bought by the yard but worn by the foot. What am I?
4. I never was but always will be. No one ever saw me but everyone knows I exist. I give people the motivation to better themselves every day. What am I?
5. I go up and down at the same time. Up towards to sky and down towards the ground. What am I?
6. I am a sharp looking horse with a flaxen tail. The longer I run the shorter my tail becomes. What am I?

Answers to last week questions:

1. Scale
2. Water
3. Chair
4. Postman
5. Elevator
6. Breath

Send your jokes. Heard any jokes lately? Well, try and make us laugh too! Don't hesitate! Mail it to us. Kayhan International address: Ferdowsi St., Shahid-Shahcheraghi Alley, Tehran. Email: kayhanintl@yahoo.com

JOKES

Teacher: What do you call a priest that becomes a lawyer?
 Student: A father-in-law
 Teacher: Why are the Irish so wealthy?
 Student: Their capital is always Dublin!
 Teacher: What did the baby computer say when he saw his father?
 Student: Data
 Teacher: Why shouldn't you tell an egg a joke?
 Student: It might crack up!

A man and his wife go to the doctor's office. After the doctor sees him he calls in his wife and she asks "Is my husband okay Doctor?"

The doctor replies "Well, he will be if you do everything I say. You have to prepare all of his meals for him every day. You also have to do all of his chores, never nag at him, and most importantly you must massage him three times a day. Do this for about a year and he will live."

Later in the car the husband asks his wife what the doctor said and she replies "He said you were going to die."

Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS)

"Beware of the flight of blessings, for nothing that runs away is returned"

The Dog in the Manger

A Dog looking out for its afternoon nap jumped into the Manger of an Ox and lay there cozily upon the straw.

But soon the Ox, returning from its afternoon work, came up to the Manger and wanted to eat some of the straw.

The Dog in a rage, being awakened from its slumber, stood up and barked at the Ox, and whenever it came near attempted to bite it.

At last the Ox had to give up the hope of getting at the straw, and went away muttering: "Ah, people often grudge others what they cannot enjoy themselves"

MORAL: "Ah, people often grudge others what they cannot enjoy themselves"

