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Lingoda publishes new report on inclusive language learning

How important is the usage of inclusive language to language learners?

MIAMI, June 2, 2022 - [Lingoda](#), the leading online language school, recently released a new report on inclusive language learning. For this comprehensive study, Lingoda collected quantitative data from 1,385 language learners to measure the importance of learning inclusive language when learning a new language. The [Lingoda study](#) found that people's awareness of gender-inclusive language and how much importance they place on it can vary by gender, country and situational context. The following highlights some of the most interesting findings from the report.

Women are overall more familiar with gender-inclusive language than men

Respondents who identify as female indicated that they are more familiar with gender-inclusive language than respondents who identify as male. Female respondents also place greater importance on it, in some aspects with significant differences. The difference between gender is greatest (14 percentage points) when it comes to raising children (49% women, 35% men), followed by 13 points difference within the education system (55% women, 42% men) and 12 points difference in daily life (46% women, 34% men).

Language learners from the US are more familiar with gender-inclusive language

Around 57% of US-based language learners from the survey reported having moderate to high familiarity with gender-inclusive language. Of all respondents, only 44% reported that level of awareness, compared to 49% of students in France and 44% of students in Germany.

A drill-down into various aspects of life revealed that survey respondents from the US were the most likely to agree or even strongly agree on the importance of gender-inclusive language in daily and professional life, and within the education system.

Only with regard to raising children were respondents in Germany slightly ahead: 48% ranked it as important, compared to the 45% of US study participants.

55% of US-based language learners consider gender-inclusive language in the education system important

Lingoda's study found that over half of US-based language learners think that teaching gender-inclusive language in the education system is important. That's compared to 29% of respondents who agreed with this idea overall. Even so, while 64% of US-based female respondents agreed with this idea, only 36% of US-based male respondents did.

In the workplace, the importance of using inclusive language rose for men

Women still placed greater importance on the matter with a difference of 11 percentage points: 55% of all female respondents compared to 44% of all male respondents stated use of inclusive language in their professional life was important to them.

Learners of German are more likely to consider gender-inclusive language important

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Around 30% of respondents learning German said learning inclusive language was very or extremely important to them, compared to 26% of Spanish learners, 23% of Business English learners and 22% of English and French learners, respectively. Overall, 26% of all respondents considered learning inclusive language as important.

“Overall, the Lingoda report shows that there is a high awareness of inclusive language usage already. Language learners are also putting more emphasis on wanting to learn everyday language that is inclusive to everyone. Inclusive language is important to us at Lingoda. We want all learners to feel represented in our materials. And that is why our new learning materials use and teach inclusive and gender-neutral language and we’re working to establish this as the standard in every Lingoda class,” says Philippa Wentzel, Curriculum Team Lead at Lingoda.

To find out more about Lingoda’s survey on inclusive language learning, the full report can be found [here](#).

METHODOLOGY

For this study, Lingoda collected quantitative data from 1,385 language learners on the platform. All students had a currently active Lingoda account and could opt into the survey through the My classes, lesson detail screen and class log part of their user area. Over the period of Nov 29, 2021, to Dec 3, 2021, participants answered questions regarding the familiarity with gender-inclusive language, the importance they placed upon it overall as well as in different aspects of life, and their use of gender-inclusive language when speaking their native language. Of a total of 1,385 respondents, 400 were based in Germany, 199 in the USA, 74 in France and 712 from other countries.

ABOUT LINGODA

[Lingoda](#) is one of the top online language schools. Founded in Berlin, Germany in 2013, we provide convenient and accessible online language courses in German, English, Business English, French and Spanish to over 100,000 students worldwide. Our small group and 1-on-1 private classes are taught by over 1,500 qualified, native-level teachers. With almost 550,000 classes available per year and accessible 24/7, our mission is to build bridges around the world through language learning. By speaking someone’s language you learn about them, their culture and their ideas. Breaking down the language barrier bridges cultural differences, fosters a world of inclusion and is a first step in helping to address humanity’s challenges. Visit [Lingoda’s website](#) to learn more.