



**CULTURAL COMPETENCY: GAINING UNDERSTANDING THROUGH  
LANGUAGE ACQUISITION**

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## Cultural Competency: Gaining Understanding through Language Acquisition

As Jesus became incarnate among us, we also can understand/be understood more profoundly by the populations we serve as we become present to them through culture and language. In this workshop we will look at practical ways of acquiring language and cultural skills.

Possible **goals** in Language Acquisition:

- Understand interpreter
- Use appropriate greetings
- Your goals?

Are your **beliefs** about Language learning still accurate?

- Can learn at any age with language learning games
- Don't have to have blocks of time; can learn in random moments with the internet

Great **methods** of learning:

- **Language helper, tutor or friend**
  - [www.lifelearner.org/culture](http://www.lifelearner.org/culture) Language and culture learner suggestions
  - [www.pikkert.com](http://www.pikkert.com), LACE manual
  - [www.growingparticipatorapproach.wordpress.com](http://www.growingparticipatorapproach.wordpress.com), Guides and resources for phases
- **School or formal program** (but not necessary and always best combined with other methods) Foreign Service Institute (FSI) programs are free on internet and usually excellent : [www.fsi-languages.yojik.eu](http://www.fsi-languages.yojik.eu) or

[www.livelingua.com/fsi-language-courses.ph](http://www.livelingua.com/fsi-language-courses.ph)

- **Internet based programs and games.** Blogs such as [www.everydaylanguagelearner.com](http://www.everydaylanguagelearner.com) and [www.fluentin3months.com](http://www.fluentin3months.com) have good suggestions for most languages
- **Lots of listening.** C+1 (comprehension plus a little more). FSI courses (above) have great beginner audio. [www.globalrecording.net](http://www.globalrecording.net) –audio plus links to more in most languages. Listen to the Bible, especially Mark.

Gaining more **Confidence**:

[www.wheaton.edu/icct/](http://www.wheaton.edu/icct/) online classes in Second Language Acquisition

Most **Important**

- Learn a little **everyday**
- **Practice** often with people
- **Mistakes** help me learn
- **Think** in new language
- **Attitude+effort=success**

References

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Pumariega, A.J., Rogers, K., & Rothe, E. (2005). *Culturally Competent Systems of Care for Children's Mental Health: Advances and Challenges.* Community Health Journal, 41 (5)

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