

Language Careers

Introduction

Today most parents are dismayed if the child is inclined towards arts, literature and languages. Everyone is trying for commerce or science, and Arts stream is considered only if other options fail .

You do not have to apologize for your child's interest in languages and literature. Not only it gives the child a "Cultured" advantage, it also opens many career options.

There have been several surveys and studies in UK and Europe, and they show some interesting trends:

According to a study on unemployment in Germany , only 3% of German language graduates were unemployed, as opposed to over 5% of those with degrees in Business Studies, and an amazing 8% of those who did Computing.

Another survey shows that only about 5% of language graduates go into teaching, and much fewer into translating or interpreting. About 27% go into business services, and around 10% go into each of the following: manufacturing, sales, banking/finance, community/social services, transport/communications. Just shows that you're not limiting your career options by choosing languages.

Yet another survey of the jobs market generally found employers paid on average 8% more for staff with languages. Having another language often gives you the edge when it comes to promotion or competing for a plum job.

(Check the facts here) <http://www.he.courses-careers.com/languages.htm>

In India the trend is right now for computers and business studies, but as more Indian companies are going for globalization, the demand for languages is bound to escalate.

Usually most Indians are already adept at two or more languages. To be marketable, one must learn at least one more foreign language apart from English. Even in Indian scenario, knowing another Indian language always improves your employment area.

Today all Eastern Asian languages, specially Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese are needed by the employers as these countries are opening up. In other parts of the world Spanish opens up the whole of South America, and Portuguese whole of Brazil.

Knowledge of languages is desirable in many areas.

Teaching, Journalism, Freelance writing, Translations are the most obvious ones.

Also almost all industries and business require people with knowledge. After all language is all about communication and all industries and businesses need to communicate with their target group.

Consider careers in these areas :

Media (Journalism) - Magazines, Newspapers, TV, Internet

Film industry - Script , Lyric Writers, Sub titlers and translators for foreign films

Radio and Video Jockeys

Transcription- Medical, legal or any other kind

Translating services - including websites, subtitles, films, documentaries, books.

Interpreter - in an embassy, consulate, social services

Advertising - Copy writers

Publishing industry – Editors, original writers for all kind of books, Production and Marketing

Lexicography

Linguistics

Technical writing for apparatuses and devices.

Scientific research

Archeologist

Tourism

Travel services Industry - including Airlines and Hotels

International non-profit organizations

Volunteer work all over the world

Department of Defense and International Embassies.

Representatives in Foreign Companies

Call centers

Import/Export sales representative

International Banking and Finance settlements and transactions.

Many UN agencies also look out for language specialists.

Now that you know **What** you can do , lets see **how** you should go about it. Learning a language is the first step, but there are many auxiliary and supplementary courses which can help you in your career choices.

A flair for languages can mean

- Aptitude for learning new languages
- Aptitude for original writing
- Aptitude for **writing**, but not necessarily original work.
- Aptitude for languages mixed with the spirit of **scientific inquiry**.
- Aptitude for languages along with some **other area of interest**.

Accordingly there are career choices

Teacher

Language teaching may involve teaching a foreign language to students who speak the same language as you, or teaching your own language to speakers of other languages.

Language teachers work in a variety of educational establishments from primary/elementary schools to universities and colleges.

To get into language teaching:

- **You can do a degree in a subject that interests you, then acquire a postgraduate qualification in teaching;**
- **Study education at undergraduate level;**
- **Start working as a teaching assistant, and later acquire professional teaching qualifications;**
- **Do some teaching while undertaking research.**

Linguistics

Linguistics is the scientific study of language.

Linguists study the nature and characteristics of human language.

It includes :

- **Etymology** - the study of the origin of words
- **Psycholinguistics**, the study of the connection between thinking and the use of language
- **Syntax**, the study of the rules that govern the way the words in a sentence come together
- **Sociolinguistics**, the study of the interrelationship between language and society, and language and culture

- **Discourse analysis**, the study of language in the context of conversation
- **Phonology**, the study of how sounds are organized and used in languages

Related careers are :

Linguist

Linguists write syntactic and grammatical rules for translation programs.

A linguist who has advanced computer programming knowledge and can also design such a program is called a translation software designer. Linguists work for a range of organizations, including universities and colleges, high tech companies, research institutions, consulting firms, government, and the military.

Lexicographer

People who research a word, define it and include in a dictionary
<http://www.omniglot.com/language/careers.htm>

For Media : Audio and Visual

Subtitler

One who provides synchronized captions in the target language for film and television dialogue.

Subtitling is one of the two main methods of **language transfer** used in translating types of mass audio-visual communication.

The other is **dubbing**, which is narrowly defined to be a lip-sync process, designed to give the impression that the actors in the film are actually speaking in the target language.

Voice-over

The language professional's voice does not replace that of the actors, but instead adds a revoicing that is a type of narration or commentary or can be a simple reading of the dialogue.

Copywriters

The Copywriter develops a theme for the campaign and provides the text for advertisements. He is responsible for making the advertisement look attractive and at the same time conveying the message to the point.

They work out the campaign slogan, jingles, scripts and promotional literature of the product or service as well as proposals, concept notes and film treatments.

Films

Making films is a highly creative field. To make a good film, good **Story Writers** , **Script Writers**, **Lyricists** and **Editors** are required. For the successful person sky is the limit .

Journalism

A journalist is taught to look at any event or news analytically and critically . The openings are in print, audio and visual media.

Apart from a language, there are journalism courses offered at most universities.

Radio and Video Jockeying

With many music channels on TV and FM radio reviving the audio industry, these people are much in demand. Apart from a good grasp of language, an extrovert personality is also required. Now some training is provided by some institutes.

Software projects

Localizer

One who takes a product and adapts it to a specific local, target market, or language group. Localization is strongly associated with the software industry because it is one of the largest consumers of localization services, but localization is also necessary in other contexts.

Internationalization is distinct from localization in that it is the act of designing a product so that it can be easily adapted to local markets.

Language Engineer

One who creates software that is easily adapted into another language, making the localization process simpler. This method involves organizing and implementing programs, templates, and scripts of software or web pages so that the transition of a software program from one language to the next is a smooth one. Knowledge of a foreign language is useful

General Language careers

Transcriptionist

One who listens to the sounds and words of a spoken message, usually on tape, and converts it into a written translation.

Transcription is true transfer from voice to written word .

There are many fields which require transcription, presently Medical transcription is very popular.

Medical Transcription

Medical transcription (MT) is the process by which medical records - such as patient history, consultation notes, lab reports, and pathology reports - dictated by doctors and other medical professionals are transcribed from audio to text format.

Interpreter

Interpreters work with the spoken word at conferences, meetings, trials, hospitals and anywhere else that interpretation is needed.

There are two types of interpreting: **simultaneous** or conference interpreting and **consecutive** interpreting.

Simultaneous interpreting usually happens at big conferences and meetings and involves the interpreter sitting in a soundproof booth listening on headphones to delegates giving speeches in a foreign language and at the same time, speaking a translation in their (the interpreter's) native language into a microphone so that delegates who speak that language can understand what's going on.

Simultaneous interpreting is a high-pressure, high-stress and usually well-paid job. Simultaneous interpreters often work in teams with each individual interpreting for 15-20 minutes at a time.

Consecutive is when the speaker pauses after each sentence and then the interpreter translates it.

Translator

One who converts a text from one language into another.

It is of many types :

- **Absolute translation:** a complete translation of a text without any alteration of content or form of the original document.
- **Abstract translation:** an abridged version of useful content.
- **Keyword translation:** only the keywords, are transferred into the target language to determine the necessity of full translation and how the text should be translated.

A translator also needs Good Dictionaries and Thesaurus.

Technical Writing

The task of the technical writer is to make such technical information easily understandable. It includes booklet or instructions about how to use a gadget , e.g., TV or a washing machine in a simple language so anyone can operate it.

Publishing

The book publishing industry includes, all published material – Newspapers, Magazines, Text Books, Fiction, Non fiction or indeed any kind of publication. This industry mainly needs people in creative **writing, editing, marketing** and also **DTP Operators**, apart from technical people like Page makers, designers, Cameramen, Printers and binders.

With the internet Blogging and web portals , many more writers / translators are needed.

Business, Industry & Commerce

The types of companies needing management and sales personnel with foreign language skills cover the whole range of the business world. With globalization companies are opening branches in other parts of the world, and are in dire need of language specialists.

- BANKING & FINANCIAL POSITIONS
- TECHNICAL & ENGINEERING POSITIONS
- SECRETARIAL & CLERICAL POSITIONS
- GOVERNMENT & INTERNATIONAL specially, UN is always in need of such people.
- TRAVEL AND LEISURE - HOTELS, AIRLINES

Service and Voluntary Organizations

Many social service organizations need people with another language ability, both in this country and abroad. The Red Cross, and other charitable and service organizations sometimes need bilingual workers and volunteers to work with other ethnic groups.

Remunerations

Emoluments vary with the kind and the place of work. For instance, teacher can earn anything from Rs.10000/- p.m to Rs. 20000/- p.m. A Lecturer's pay scale is between Rs. 10000/- p.m. to Rs. 13000/- p.m. and professors can expect over Rs. 18000/- p.m.

Those working as translators get paid between Rs. 50/- to Rs.100/- per page. An interpreter gets paid on hourly basis and at present the rate varies from Rs. 300/- to Rs. 500/- per hour. For those working with embassies can get paid between Rs. 8000/- p.m. to Rs. 10000/- p.m.

In all other fields the salary is usually at par with other professionals.

Qualifications and Training in Languages

Almost all Indian universities offer the study of a particular language with Graduate, Post Graduate Diploma and Certificate Courses.

Coursework cover fundamental grammar in beginner programs to highly practical conversations in advanced levels.

There are special training certificate programs for accreditation in translating and interpreting , which are available through many language institutes and some colleges/universities.

Many online courses are also available for many languages.

Links for Language Career Information:

UNI XL.com

http://www.unixl.com/dir/education/languages/language_jobs/

CareerAge.com

http://www.careerage.com/resources/career_choices/forlang/for_lang.shtml

School Of Languages – University of Melbourne

<http://www.languages.unimelb.edu.au/about/careers/>

Courses Careers , UK

<http://www.he.courses-careers.com/languages.htm>

Careers in Languages

<http://lrc.wfu.edu/careersinlanguages/>

Harding University

<http://www.harding.edu/forlang/careers.html>

Omniglot – Writing System and Languages of the world - Has many links from here.

<http://www.omniglot.com/language/careers.htm>

Language advantage – site for info on courses and jobs

<http://www.languageadvantage.com/jobs/index.htm>

Language jobs and info

<http://www.bilingual-jobs.com/>

The Big Choice .com for listing of language jobs around the world

<http://www.thebigchoice.com/Jobs/Languages/>

Multilingualvacancies.com

<http://www.multilingualvacancies.com/>

Chartered Institute of Linguists - jobs

<http://www.iol.org.uk/jobs/default.asp?r=XTEMOEJGAL>

Samford

<http://www.samford.edu/schools/artsci/wlc/career.htm>

CILT - National Center for Languages (UK)

<http://www.cilt.org.uk/faqs/careers.htm>

Career Service UK, - list of courses/ careers

<http://www.bris.ac.uk/cas/careersin/langs.htm>

University of New South Wales

<http://www.lang.unsw.edu.au/languages/careers.htm>

Universal Highways

<http://www.universalhighways.com/foreign-language-careers.html>