The #BenderRule:
On Naming the Languages We Study and Why It Matters
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These are the references that go with the article, published at https://thegradient.pub/the-benderrule-on-naming-the-languages-we-study-and-why-it-matters/.

References


Studying is the wrong thing to do if you want to speak a language. I’m totally serious. Last night I ran into some English speakers and heard the same thing I’ve heard thousands of times about other languages: they have been studying German for years and don’t speak it yet, even though they live in Berlin. However, you have to realise that studying a language has a very specific purpose and if you are not aware of this then you may end up stuck in the vicious circle of never speaking: Studying will never help you speak a language, but (as long as you do it right) studying will help you speak a language better. Do state the name of the language that is being studied, even if it’s English. Acknowledging that we are working on a particular language foregrounds the possibility that the techniques may in fact be language specific. Conversely, neglecting to state that the particular data used were in, say, English, gives [a] false veneer of language-independence to the work. (Bender 2011:18). It wasn’t until 2019, however, that this message really caught on. In November 2018, while writing about language resources available for computational semantics and pragmatics, I once again found myself frustrated that even the papers presenting language resources for English can fail to clearly state that English is the language in question. Why not go and study it in a country where it’s widely spoken? This will give you the proper exposure you need to build your confidence with speaking the language. 17. Listen to foreign music. Now you can start downloading all the top hits in a foreign language and actually understand the lyrics! 18. Increase your exposure to foreign literature. You can read plays, poems, novels, and other famous pieces of literature in the language that you learned. This allows you to get a proper idea of what the author is trying to convey since many times, the precise meaning gets lost in translation. 19. Build a global network of people. Why is language important? Language has the power to build bridges and break barriers. It’s an essential part of human communication, but only if it is used effectively. Language Matters. Language is what makes us human. It is how people communicate. By learning a language, it means you have mastered a complex system of words, structure, and grammar to effectively communicate with others. To most people, language comes naturally. Using appropriate language does not just mean avoiding obscene language (there may be times when that is actually appropriate for the situation!). It means using language that’s appropriate for your audience, that they can understand, relate to, and engage with. 2. Use Vivid Language.