Markedness and Its Effect on Language Transfer

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Language is an important source of communication; it is an integral form in which human beings communicate with each other to pass on their messages, emotions, feelings, and attitudes. The study or research on language is known as linguistics. There are a number of terms or notions in linguistics that are used to characterize words and sounds. In structural linguistics, some of the linguistic elements stand differently or are highlighted in a variable sense. These elements or sounds are characterized in a different manner from the other elements of the same languages. These elements are known as “Marked” elements and the remaining characters or elements, which are treated ordinarily are known as “Unmarked” words.

The concept of markedness is used both in the areas of linguistics and social sciences (Eckman, 2013). In this concept, on term or element stands out as a divergent or dominant one and the other one is commonly used. This concept is also important as the sounds, phonemes and phonological rules vary in terms of complexity and frequency in the world languages. Marked forms of the languages are very less likely to occur, however, unmarked forms can be seen very commonly

The concept of markedness does not only help in the understanding of various sounds and making of different words in a language, but also helps in the transfer of language from one person to another. It becomes extremely easy for a person to make the language easily understandable and distinguished to any other person. Hence, it can be judged with convenience that this concept is extremely helpful for teachers of linguistics, as it helps in teaching the L1 phonology and L2 pronunciation to their students.

**References**

Eckman, F. (Ed.). (2013). *Markedness*. Springer Science & Business Media.