Effective Cross-Cultural Communication: Active Listening & Interactions through Common Vocabulary

Sarah Korpi Ph.D.  
Sarah.Korpi@wisc.edu

Justin Hager J.D.  
Justin.Hager@wisc.edu

SLA Terminology

Second Language Acquisition (SLA) a scientific field of study dedicated to investigating how people learn a second language; a subdiscipline of Applied Linguistics

Universal Grammar Chomsky, all languages share basic principles; parameters and properties can vary between languages; language learners need to reset their parameters and properties correctly to learn a new language

Semantic Theory: Language is about communicating meaning; understanding different kinds of meaning contributes to understanding the whole meaning
- Lexical meaning – meaning stored in our mental lexicon
- Grammatical meaning – meaning of a sentence; usually encoded in inflectional morphology
- Semantic meaning – word meaning
- Pragmatic meaning – meaning that depends on context

Sociocultural Theory: Vygotsky, the mind experiences and interacts with the world through psychological tools; tools are subject to change and development over time; tools are shaped by social forces

Input Hypothesis: Krashen, target language that the learner can access; i+1

Interaction Hypothesis: Long; learning target language through communication in target language; meaning negotiation

Noticing Hypothesis: Schmidt; noticing the difference between language produced by a language learner and target forms

The Communicative Approach: makes use of several SLA theories and hypothesis; uses the act of communication as an instructional method
Additional Reading in SLA


