

Second Language Acquisition

Instructor: Ming-chung Yu

Ph.D., Harvard University, 1999

Professor

Department of English

National Chengchi University

Course Description

This course is intended to provide an overview of linguistic research on second language (L2) learning, such as language development in children and adults; the acquisition of phonological, morphological, and syntactic systems; the role of both parent and child in the acquisition of communicative competence. This course will pay special attention to the most important issues of second language acquisition (SLA). More importantly, this course will discuss the implications of research on L2 for foreign language learning. The course will thus explore the multiple aspects of this area, including theoretical background, the nature of language learning, styles and strategies, personality factors, sociocultural factors, communicative competence, contrastive and error analysis, and recent developments in all of these areas.

Required Book

Brown, H. Douglas. *Principles of Language Learning and Teaching*, 5th ed. London: Prentice Hall, 2007.

Course Grade

Class participation (15%); class presentation (35%); exams (50%)

Course Outline

Week 1: An overview of SLA; Age and acquisition I (Ch 3)

Week 2: Age and acquisition II (Ch 3); Language, learning and teaching (Ch 1)

Week 3: Communicative competence (Ch 8)

Week 4 Cross-linguistic influence and learner language (Ch 9)

Week 5: Class presentation: First language acquisition (Ch 2: pp. 25-48: from *Theories of first language acquisition to Discourse*); Human learning I (Ch 4: pp. 87-110: from *Pavlov's classical behaviorism to Intelligence and language learning*); **Mid-term exam**

Week 6: Human learning II (Ch 4); Styles and strategies (Ch 5)

Week 7: Personality factors (Ch 6); Sociocultural factors I (Ch 7)

Week 8: Class presentation: Sociocultural factors II (Ch 7) (pp. 190-203 from *Stereotypes or generalization to Teaching intercultural competence*; pp. 208-213: *Language, thought, and culture*); Toward a theory of second language acquisition (Ch 10: pp. 287-313: from *Building a theory of SLA to the end*); **Final exam**