

Worksheet 6.3: Second Language Acquisition

Exercise 1: Reflect on your own language learning. Take some time to consider the following questions:

1. Do you learn a foreign language other than your native language(s)?
2. Are you able to learn the foreign language as perfectly and with little conscious effort as your native language(s)?
3. Which aspects of second language learning are easy?
4. Which aspects of second language learning are more difficult?
5. Why do you think certain aspects of the language are easier to learn than others?
6. Do you think you are a 'good' or 'poor' L2 learner? Why do you think so? Is your level of achievement/success due to linguistic (e.g. similarities between the languages you learn), psychological (do you have difficulty with language such as dyslexia), educational (the way you were taught) or social reasons (for example, does the language you learn have a high social status)?

When answering questions 3 and 4, consider the pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar and how you use the language with other (native) speakers.



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4. Identify which aspects a child would find easier (such as fluency, pronunciation, putting sentences in the right order, etc.).

5. Why do you think children would have more/fewer problems? Think about what you learned about First and Second Language Acquisition theories in the unit.