

First and Second Language Acquisition

Characteristics	L1 Learner	L2 Learner
constructs language from prior conceptual knowledge	x	x
is an active learner who tests and revises hypotheses	x	x
requires interaction	x	x
uses cognitive strategies (i.e., overgeneralization)	x	x

First and Second Language Acquisition

Characteristics	L1 Learner	L2 Learner
understands more when input is modified (caretaker talk, foreigner talk)	x	x
develops language in predictable stages	x	x
makes developmental errors	x	x
experiences a silent period	x	x

First and Second Language Acquisition

Characteristics	L1 Learner	L2 Learner
is usually made cognitively developed		x
generally has a greater knowledge of the world		x
generally can learn and apply rules more easily		x
usually has more control over input		x

First and Second Language Acquisition

Characteristics	L1 Learner	L2 Learner
is familiar with one or more other cultures		x
may have a problem with attitude/motivation		x
is more likely to be inhibited or anxious		x

Adapted from: P. Richard-Amato. (1996). Making it happen: Interaction in the second language classroom. P.27