Multiple Choice Questionnaire on Background to Second Language Acquisition Research and Language Teaching (Cook)

1. **What is the main focus of Second Language Acquisition (SLA) research?**

A) The teaching methods used in language classrooms
B) The acquisition and use of languages other than the native language
C) The history of languages around the world

Which of the following best describes the origins of SLA research?

A) It emerged from the study of language and culture differences in the 1980s.
B) It gathered insights from language teachers, psychologists, and linguists starting around 1970.
C) It was developed from ancient Greek philosophies about language.

What does the term "Contrastive Analysis" (CA) refer to in the context of SLA?

A) A method of comparing the pronunciation of languages
B) A research approach that predicts learner difficulties by comparing first and second languages
C) A teaching technique that emphasizes practicing conversation

According to SLA research, what can even minimal exposure to a second language (like one hour a week) do for learners?

A) It can confuse them and hinder their learning.
B) It can improve reading skills in their native language.
C) It has no significant benefits.

What assumption about native speakers is critiqued in the text?

A) That they are always the best language teachers.
B) That acquiring a native-like proficiency is an achievable goal for all learners.
C) That they have a better understanding of grammar than learners.

What is one benefit of being bilingual or multilingual, as mentioned in the text?

A) Enhanced ability to memorize vocabulary lists
B) Increased creativity and problem-solving flexibility
C) Better ability to write essays in both languages

What does SLA research suggest about cultural perceptions influenced by language?

A) Language learning does not affect cultural perceptions.
B) Different languages can lead to different ways of thinking.
C) All cultures perceive reality in the same way, regardless of language.

What is the criticism of current language teaching syllabuses in relation to SLA research?

A) They are entirely based on new theories without grounding in practice.
B) They often do not incorporate insights from SLA research.
C) They are too focused on grammar and ignore communicative skills.

What role does the author suggest SLA research should play in curriculum development?

A) It should completely replace traditional teaching methods.
B) It can inform and guide the development of more effective syllabuses and course materials.
C) It has little relevance and should be avoided.

What is a common misconception about language learners mentioned in the text?

A) All learners experience similar challenges in acquisition.
B) Learners who acquire a second language do so without any influence from their first language.
C) Some individuals are simply better at language learning than others without any justification.

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