

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.