

Guest Speaker Lecture

An Invitation to

Second Language Acquisition Research

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One of the most fascinating aspects of human development is the ability to learn language. Understanding how people learn and fail to learn second/foreign languages is increasingly recognized as a critical social and psycholinguistic issue. Second languages are vitally important to diverse groups of people, ranging from a refugee who picks up a language “on the street” for survival to a college student facing foreign language requirements.

In this presentation, I will present the current research on second language acquisition and discuss how languages are learned, specifically examining the following points: 1) what are similarities and differences between first and second language acquisition? 2) what kind of individual learner characteristics may affect the outcome of second language learning? 3) what are the characteristics of learners’ language at different stages of development for second language learners? 4) how do naturalistic and classroom learners acquire second languages differently? and 5) how can we teach second languages effectively?

Date: Friday, June 13th, 2008

Time: 1:30-3:00pm

Place: Room 342