

Language Learning: Methods and Media

Prof. Nicole Nau, UAM 2016

First lecture (22.02.2016)

- My e-mail address: Nicole.Nau@amu.edu.pl
- My homepage: naunicol-e.home.amu.edu.pl
(Teaching > Currently > Language Learning)
- My office: room 205 in this building
- Office hours will be announced next week!
- Code of this class:
- Please register in USOS (if possible)

Basic information

Course aims:

- understanding how languages are learnt
- knowing and evaluating different methods and approaches to language learning
- analyzing and evaluating media used in language learning (print, electronic, web-based)

Course organization:

- first half: background knowledge, taught through lecture, reading and exercises in class
- second half: presentation and analysis of selected methods and media

Course aims and organization

- regular active attendance
- a little reading at home (texts available through the course's website)
- a little test after the first half (in April)
- analysis of one method or media according to a given scheme and presentation of the results in class (in May/June)
- the topic of the presentation must be accepted by the teacher not later than April 25.


Requirements for course credits

- 29.02.: Learning strategies: what learners do when learning a language; learning and acquisition
- 07.03.: Learning styles: individual preferences in language learning; language aptitude
- 14.03.: Second language acquisition research: history, aims, methods
- 21.03.: Different approaches to learning and teaching languages
- 04.04.: Theories and models of second language acquisition/learning
- 11.04.: The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages and other measurements of learner's level

Plan for the first half

- Andrew D. Cohen's website at:
<https://sites.google.com/a/umn.edu/andrewdcohen/home>
- Vivian Cook's website on Second Language Acquisition Topics at:
<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/vivian.c/SLA/index.htm>.
- Stephen Krashen's website at:
<http://www.sdkrashen.com/>
- Scott Thornbury's blog at:
<https://scottthornbury.wordpress.com/>

Recommended web-sites

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- My language learning experience
 - Languages I would like to learn
 - What I know (believe) about language learning
 - What I want to learn in this class


Let's get to know each other!

- Language **learning** and language **acquisition**
- Why are some people better in learning languages than others? What **influences** the way people learn languages (and their success)?
- What makes a **good language learner**?

Some questions

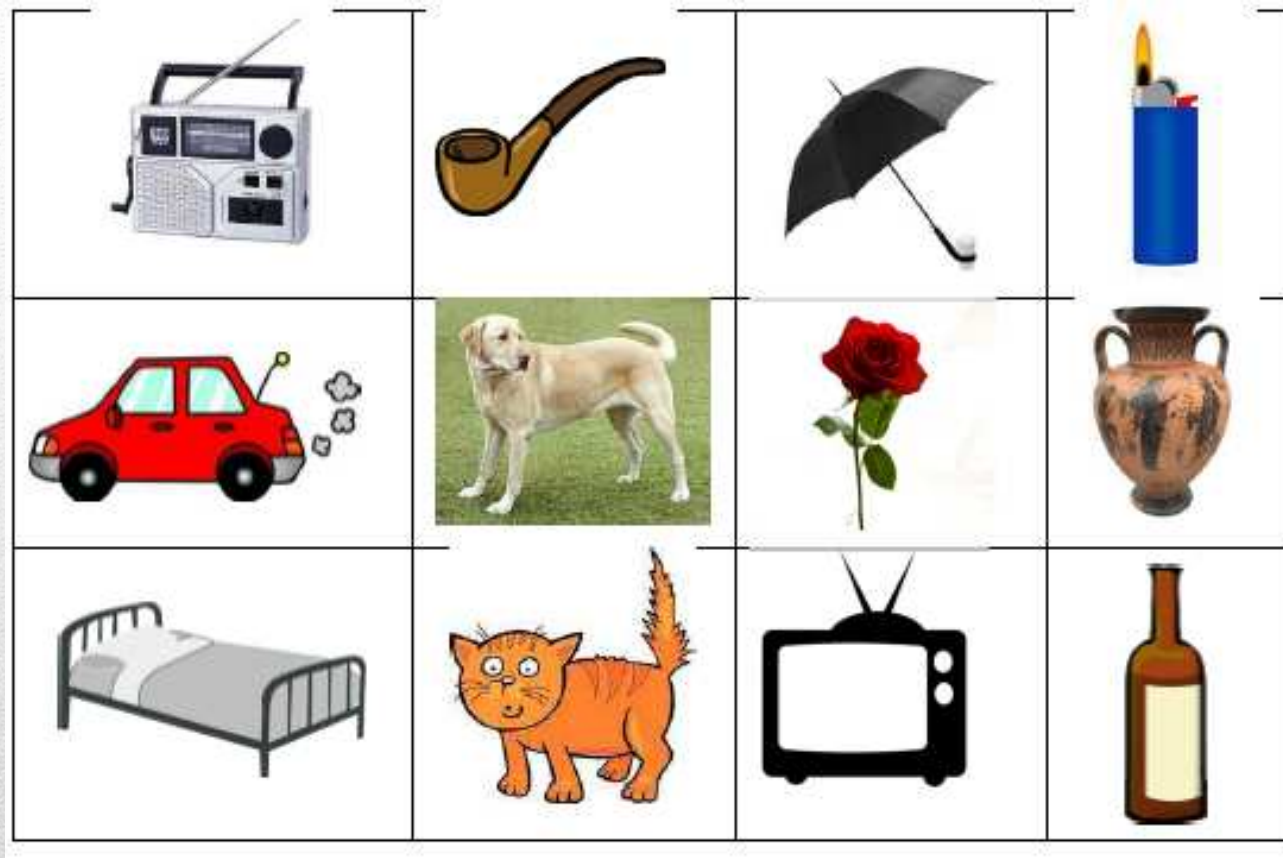
- **Abilities:** Intelligence, Language aptitude, Memory
- **Propensities:** Learning style, Motivation, Anxiety, Personality, Willingness to communicate
- Learner **cognitions** about L2 learning: Learning beliefs
- Learner **actions:** Learning strategies

Factors responsible for individual differences in L2 learning (Ellis 2006: 530)



„... one who is an active learner, monitors language production, practices communicating in the language, makes use of prior linguistic knowledge, uses various memorization techniques, and asks questions for clarification” (Chamot 2001)

What is a "good language learner"?



**Let's try to learn some words in
a new language!**

- Chamot, Anna Uhl. 2001. The role of learning strategies in second language acquisition. In: M. Breen (ed.) *Learner contributions to language learning*. London.
- Ellis, Rod. 2006. Individual differences in second language learning. In: Davies & Elder (eds.) *The handbook of applied linguistics*, 525-551
- Lightbown, Patsy & Nina Spada. 1999. *How languages are learned*. Oxford: OUP.
- Cohen, Andrew. 2005. Focus on the language learner: Styles, strategies and motivation. In: N. Schmitt, ed., *An introduction to applied linguistics*. 2nd edition. (available at [Andrew Cohen's website](#))

References and further reading
