Language Learning: Methods and Media

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Third lecture (07.03.2016)

The processes you consciously select to assist you in learning and using language in general, and in the completion of specific L2 language tasks (whether learning new vocabulary, using the correct tense of the verb, or making a request).

(Andrew Cohen)

Learning strategy: definition

- strategies for learning / for using language
- strategies for memorizing / understanding / performing...
- strategies for listening / speaking / reading / writing
- beginning / intermediate / advanced learners

Give examples of strategies!

Types of strategies

- **Anki** (make your own flashcards) http://ankisrs.net/
- **Memrise** (use and adapt material for language learning) https://www.memrise.com/
- **Quizlet** (flashcards, quizzes, games) https://quizlet.com/

Make flashcards for pc, cell phone etc.

Learning styles are habitual patterns of perceiving, processing, or reacting to information.

- **Sensory preferences** refer to the channels through which we perceive information [...]
- **Cognitive styles** refer to individualized ways of processing of information.
- **Personality types** […] involve affective (emotional) factors

Learning styles: Definition
(Leaver et al. 2005)

As a learner:

- to take advantage of your preferences, find the right strategies
- to enhance motivation
- to know your weaknesses and how to deal with them

As a teacher:

- to be aware of differences among students
- to care about variation in teaching methods
- not to impose your own preferences on others

Why learn about learning styles?

Homework for today:

- Go through the **Learning Style Survey** prepared by Cohen, Oxford & Shi (2002)

you can find it at the course's website or at Andrew Cohen's website at https://sites.google.com/a/umn.edu/andrewdcohen/publications/language-learner-styles-strategies

Your learning style(s)

How I use my body and my senses for learning
- sight, hearing, others
- movement

How and what I notice
- global vs. particular (5)
- field independent vs. field dependent (9)

How I understand, discover and apply patterns
- synthesizing vs. analytic (6)
- inductive vs. deductive (8)
- metaphorical vs. literal understanding (11)

How I like to behave in a learning environment
- random-intuitive vs. concrete-sequential
- introverted vs. extraverted (2)
- impulsive vs. reflective (10)

Typology of learning styles

visual learning (learning through seeing)

- **imagists** make an image (see a picture) of what they hear or read
- **verbalists** see words spelled; associate words with letters

auditory learning (learning through sound)

- **aural learners** learn by listening to others; need "auditory input"
- **oral learners** learn by talking and listening to themselves; need "auditory output"
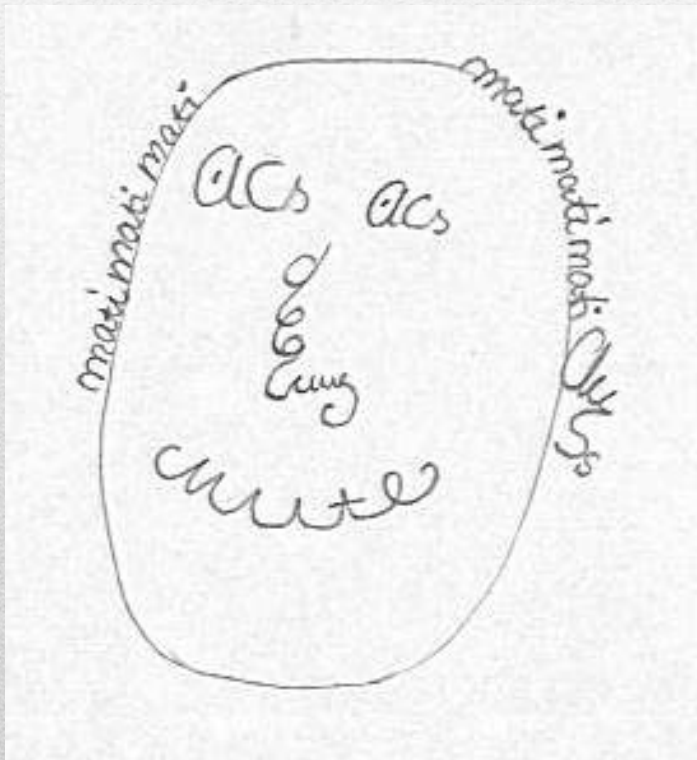
Sensory preferences (Leaver 1998, after Leaver et al. 2005)

motor learning (learning through movement)

- **kinesthetic learners** use their entire body for learning

- **mechanical learners** like to do something with their hands (write, draw)

For each of the six types, name at least one learning strategy that will be beneficial for a learner with such a preference!

A learning strategy of a "verbalist"

- **Global**: see the forest before the trees; top-down approach; focus on the whole – opposite:

- **Particular**: see the trees before the forest; buttom-up approach; focus on details

- **Field-independent**: automatically select what is important, abstract from the context (opposite: **field-dependent**)

What kinds of task would learners with each of the styles like to do and what strategies may they use, for example, in listening comprehension?

Styles in noticing information

- **synthesizing** (using given pieces to build new wholes) vs. **analytic** (breaks down wholes into pieces) (6)

- **inductive** (form example to rule) vs. **deductive** (apply rule to example) (8)

- **metaphorical** vs. **literal** understanding (11)

How may these differences show, for example, when learning grammar? What do learners with each preference expect from the teacher?

Styles in understanding and applying patterns

- **Field-sensitive**: use the full language environment for comprehension and learning, vs. field-insensitive
- **Random-intuitive** learners like to develop their own approach and to use varied material in various ways; **Concrete-sequential** learners prefer systematic material and step-by-step procedure
- **Introverted** learners like to study on their own vs. **extraverted**: like social, group activities
- **Impulsive**: immediate reaction to tasks; vs. **reflective**: think before acting

Learning environment and behavior

- Watch a short video that teaches a Korean word: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWJmMKPJHr0
- When watching the second time, try to notice as many teaching strategies as you can. Discuss which teaching strategy will be useful for which learning style.
- What features of the video could be beneficial for motivation?
- What would/could YOU DO to learn the expressions of the video?