Second Language Acquisition (SLA)

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Definition

Second-language acquisition or second-language learning is the process by which people learn a second language. Second language refers to any language learned in addition to a person's first language; although the concept is named second language acquisition, it can also incorporate the learning of third, fourth or subsequent languages. Second-language acquisition refers to what learners do; it does not refer to practices in language teaching.
There have been many theories of second-language acquisition that have been proposed, but none has been accepted as an overarching theory by all SLA researchers. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the field of second-language, it is hard to pin down a precise starting date.
Early concepts in Second Language Acquisition research

1950s
interference: Weinreich
compound/coordinate bilingualism: Weinreich
Contrastive Analysis, transfer: Lado
habit-formation: Lado, Bloomfield etc
phrase structure grammar: Bloomfield etc

1960s
independent grammars assumption: school of Chomsky
Language Acquisition Device: Chomsky 1964
hypothesis-testing: Corder

1970s
interlanguage: Nemser, Selinker
Error Analysis: Corder, 1971