THE NATURAL APPROACH
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Exponents
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- "Language acquisition does not require extensive use of conscious grammatical rules, and does not require tedious drill."
- "Acquisition requires meaningful interaction in the target language – natural communication – in which speakers are concerned not with the form of their utterances but with the messages they are conveying and understanding."

Adults and L2
- Adults can acquire second languages.
- The ability to “pick up” languages does not disappear at puberty.
- Adults follow the same principles of Universal Grammar.
- Adults can acquire all by using their ever-active LAD. (but not the phonological aspect)

Adults and L2
- Adults have to paths to follow:
  - Acquisition
  - Learning: Adults have abstract problem solving skills

Children have only one (acquisition)

NATURAL
- This term emphasizes that the principles behind that approach are believed to conform to the naturalistic principles found in successful second language acquisition.
- NA focuses on exposure to input instead of grammar practice.

Communication
- Means to pass on meaning

Communication
- Communication is the main function of language
- The focus is on teaching communicative abilities.
- The superiority of “meaning” is emphasized.
- Language is a vehicle for “communicating meaning and messages”.

THEORY
1) The Acquisition-Learning Hypothesis

- There are two independent systems of second language performance:
  - A) the acquired system
  - B) the learned system

Acquisition
- Subconscious
- Intuitive
- Acquisition is a subconscious process identical in all important ways to the process children utilize in acquiring the first language.
- It's a process that produces functional skills in the spoken language without theoretical knowledge.

Learning
- Conscious
- Knowing about rules
- Learning the grammar rules of a second language does not result in subconscious acquisition.
- What you consciously learn does not necessarily become subconsciously acquired through conscious practice, grammar exercises and the like.

Interrelationship between acquisition and learning
- To understand the functioning of a language as a system and to understand its irregularities is a function of familiarity with it.
- It is important to explore the degrees of irregularity and difficulty of the target language.

The Natural Order Hypothesis
- Acquisition of grammatical structures proceeds in a predicted progression
- Certain grammatical structures are acquired before others in first language acquisition and there is a similar natural order in SLA.
- -ing -> Aux ->Irregular ->Regular Past
- Plural -> article -> past - 3rd Sing.

The Input Hypothesis
- Comprehensible input i+1 should be provided
- Input should be not grammatically sequenced
- People acquire language best by understanding input that is a little above their present level of competence.

The Monitor Hypothesis
- Grammar rules
- Use monitor
  - If enough time
  - Focus on form not meaning
  - Learner must know the rule

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The Affective Filter Hypothesis

- Affective filter freely passes or hinders input
- Input in a low-anxiety contexts
- Factors
  - Self-confidence
  - Motivation
  - Anxiety state

Factors

- Self-confidence
- Motivation
- Anxiety state