

## Multiple Intelligences

### Addressing Diverse Learners in an ESL Classroom



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### Contents

#### • Objectives

- Howard Gardner's Theory of Intelligence
- Literature Review
- Multiple Intelligences Theory and Second Language Learning
- Integration of Multiple Intelligences Theory in ESL Classes
- Issues and Recommendations
- Conclusion

## Objectives

Importance of multiple intelligences in second language learning

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Learners have individual differences and learning styles Different approaches for varied intelligences and learning preferences Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences

- No one approach to measure intelligence
- Learners possess different intelligences
- Apply varied approaches to interpret information & solve problems
- Approaches should be student centered
- Students taught by multiple intelligences approach show positive attitude levels

"Anything that is worth teaching can be presented in many different ways. These multiple ways can make use of our multiple intelligences."

Howard Gardner

Literature Review Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences



# Multiple Intelligences Theory and Second Language learning

#### Linguistic Intelligence

a person's ability to use language effectively, both oral and written

#### Activities

- Storytelling,
- Writing a short poem, debates,
- Group discussions,
- Gap fills,
- Conducting interviews, word games.

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#### Visual – Spatial Intelligence

Ability to imagine and form pictures and transform them into visual ideas & expressions

#### Activities –

- Describing pictures,
- Using visual images for teaching vocabulary,
- Video exercises & multimedia projects,
- Using charts & maps,
- Graphics analyzers and concept maps.

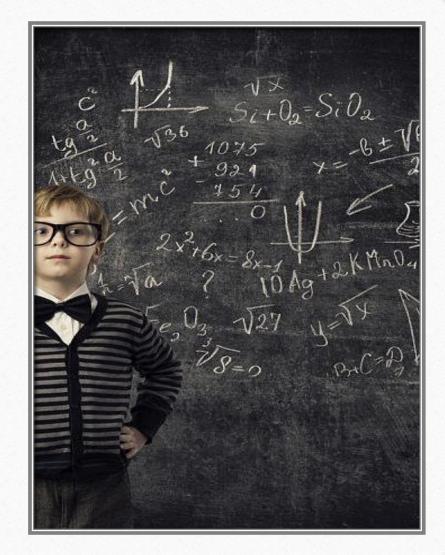
#### Logical Mathematical Intelligence

Good at using numbers, solving problems enjoy facing new challenges in life Activities -

- Concept mapping,
- Flow charts,

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- Sequencing events in chronological order,
- Word-order activities, pattern games,
- Jigsaw puzzles.







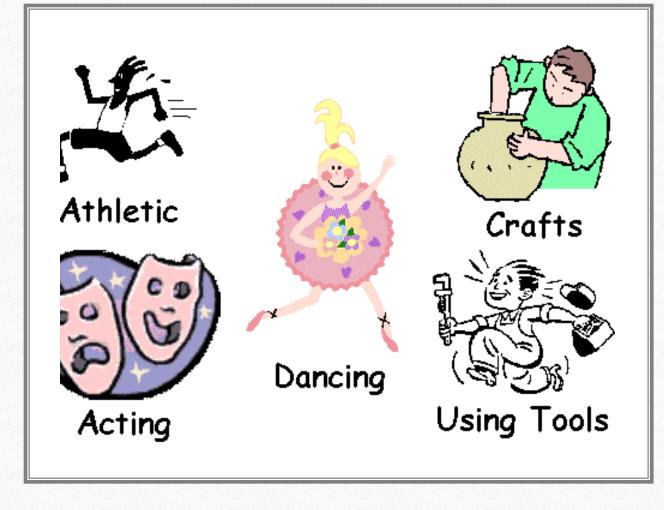
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## Musical Intelligence

Sensitivity to music rhythm and tone

#### Activities

- Playing songs,
- Musical cloze activities,
- Singing a song or rap
- Making presentations using sound or music & tongue twisters.



#### **Bodily Kinesthetic Intelligence**

using part or the entire body in solving a problem, performing a task

#### Activities

- Planning & attending a field trip,
- Role plays, miming, dancing,
- Building models and grammar games

## Interpersonal Intelligence

#### Empathizing with others Activities -

- Conducting a meeting
- Group work,
- Practice giving and receiving feedback
- Surveys and polls
- Group brainstorming.



Intrapersonal Intelligence Ability to self-introspect about our abilities, emotions, feelings & appreciate ourselves

#### Activities

- Writing journal entries,
- Activities involving selfreflection & sharing personal experiences,
- Assessing one's work
- Setting and pursuing a goal.





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#### Naturalistic Intelligence

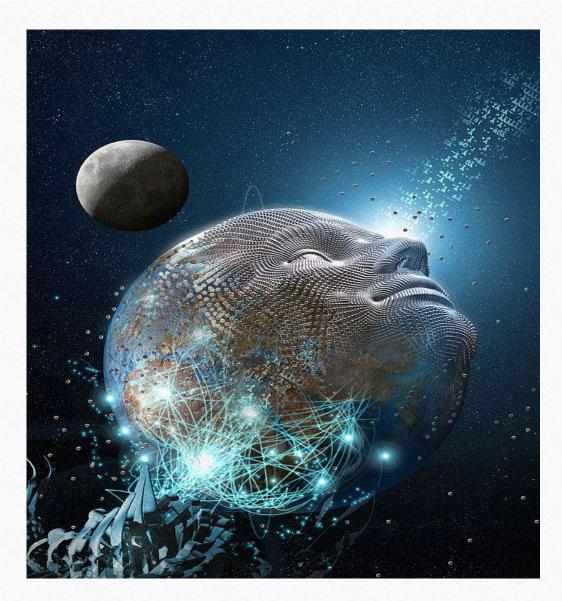
our abilities and skills to observe, recognize, analyze the natural world that includes, flora and fauna

- Learning vocabulary exploring outdoors but in English
- Shopping and other field trips
- Collecting plants to learn appropriate vocabulary
- Field trips to museums
- Involvement in environment protection projects

### **Existential Intelligence**

our sensitivity to our existence, asking questions about our life and where have we originated from and where do we go?

- Cultural lessons on different societies
- Contemplating different religious beliefs but with a reasoning
- Thought provoking activities on challenges and consequences of lifestyle choices.





# Integration of Multiple Intelligence in ESL Classes – Learning Styles

### Language in Action –

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- young learners love to sing and dance
- let them create their rhymes with helpful words.
- rhymes could be replaced by songs with adult learners

Drawing and Coloring Alternatives to Music –

- can draw characters from stories
- make interesting, picturesque folders,
- bookmarks, and posters for their classes

#### Drama in Action –

- young learners love action in classrooms
- enacting the characters
- involves all four skills of language
- students create their characters
- write their lines and speak them while enacting the play

#### Games for Fun –

- make their games on stories or characters
- create card games and play in pairs or groups
- digital games like 'Kahoot' for teaching skills, language, vocabulary, and grammar.

# Handicrafts for creativity and learning

• create interesting artwork

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- craftwork based on characters in their plays
- create small objects like hats, masks, and bookmarks, etc.

#### Storybooks for inspiration

- best way to introduce a foreign language
- can enact, draw, sing to fairytales

## Jokes for fun and laughter - Vocabulary building exercises -

- young learners love to laugh
- learners can enact jokes,
- compose songs, create puppets
- characters that narrate the jokes to class.

- build picture dictionaries or 'Pictionary.'
- write entire poems, stories in a colorful manner
- highlight new words in the story or the poem



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Few tests available to test the learners' intelligences	Cultures believe in different intelligences	Adding more activities can be overwhelming	Teachers would need some training workshops
	May need some prior experience	Wide variety of evaluation criteria needed to assess diverse profiles.	

## Issues & Recommendations

## Recommendations

- Results in high performance levels in ESL classes.
- Careful planning and analyzing can help teachers structure their lesson plans
- Training and workshops needed to guide teachers
- Teachers need to use various forms of assessments to do justice
- Debates, role plays, projects and presentations to provide incentive to such learners.

## Conclusion

Multiple Intelligences theory has more benefits than limitations.

- An opportunity to introspect and analyze on their capabilities
- A paradigm shift in their experiences can create more learner-centered classes
- Educators can raise the level of linguistic skills of their learners.
- It develops their communicative skills.

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A great potential to bring out the best in both the educators as well as learners.