

Understanding language acquisition based on research in language learning styles

Petra Langerová

Faculty of Education
Masaryk University (CZ)

Learning styles definition

- Styles vs. Preferences in cognition

Learning styles assessment

- Reid: visual, auditory, kinaesthetic, tactile, individual, group
- Oxford: sensual channel + introversion/extraversion, intuitive/concrete, close/open, global/particular
- Grasha and Reichman: avoidant, collaborative, competitive, dependent, independent, participant

Ehrman and Leaver Construct

- Based on MBTI questionnaire
- Ectenic vs. Synoptic
- 10 dimensions: field dependent/field independent, field sensitive/field insensitive, random/linear, global/particular, inductive/deductive, synthetic/analytical, analogue/digital, concrete/abstract, levelling/sharpening, impulsive/reflective
- 30 statements, 9-grade Likert scale

Background

- 350 BA, 200 MA
- compulsory courses
- mixed ability classes
- similar personality traits

Aims

- identify common learning styles
- identify rigid vs. flexible preferences

Data Collection

Excel file - typical student

Synoptic	12									1									10									Ectenic
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1. Field Sensitive			1																									Field Insensitive
2. Field Independent				1																								Field Dependent
3. Leveling								1																				Sharpening
4. Global							1																					Particular
5. Impulsive								1																				Reflective
6. Synthetic									1																			Analytic
7. Analogue				1																								Digital
8. Concrete			1																									Abstract
9. Random					1																							Sequential
10. Inductive				1																								Deductive
		5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5																		

- Strong preference (1,2 and 8,9)
- In the middle (5): flexible vs. Unable to identify themselves
- Statistical evaluation from 2 cohorts

- **Results:** impossible to predict
- **Aim:** to understand students' preferred ways of learning
identify the rigid preferences in cognition
- Innovation of the English instruction
- Raise students' motivation and willingness to cooperate