

Factors Affecting Second Language Acquisition

What is second language acquisition?

- The process in which an individual learns and acquires a second language after their native language has been established

The Subjects

- Subject 1: A 23year-old male college student from Brazil
- Subject 2: A 54year-old female teacher from Spain

Comparison Table of Subjects' Responses

| Variable | Subject 1 | Subject 2 |
|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Age of first exposure | 9 | 16 |
| Formal English instruction | English classes for 6 years | English classes for 2 months |
| Access to a native English speaker | Yes | Yes |
| Prior linguistic knowledge | Learned English and Spanish simultaneously | Already knew French |
| English-speaking family members | Yes, but not proficient | Yes |
| Frequency of practice | Every day | Every day |
| Recency of arrival in U.S. | August 2017 January 2020 | August 1986 July 2015 |
| Total length of residence in U.S. | 2 years | 4 years |
| Reason for coming to the U.S. | Education | Education, teaching job |
| Size of group | 2,1 | 1,2 |
| Cohesiveness | No | No |

Two Most Important Variables

- Age of first exposure to English
 - Subject 1: 9 years old
 - Subject 2: 16 years old
- Formal English instruction
 - Subject 1: 6 years
 - Subject 2: 2 months

Additional Variables

- Length of residency in U.S.
- Reason for coming to U.S.