

Theories of Second Language Acquisition: Asking questions

Describe the ways in which these NSs ask questions of the NNSs. What is the communicative effect of asking questions in these ways?

- (1) NS: Did you *like* San Diego?
- (2) NS: Do you *like* San Diego? San Diego, did you like it?
- (3) NS: Right. When do you take the break? At ten-thirty?
- (4) NS: Would you care for coffee?
NNS: (silence)
NS: Do you want coffee?
NNS: Oh, yes, please.
- (5) NS: Do you like California?
NNS: Huh?
NS: Do you like Los Angeles?
NNS: Uhm.
NS: Do you like California?
NNS: Oh! Yeah I like.
- (6) NNS: Why he hit the deer?
NS: Why did he hit the deer? He was driving home and the deer ran out in front of his car
NNS: What did he do after that?

*Data from Larsen-Freeman & Long, 1991, pp. 120-124