

# Factors Affecting Second Language Acquisition

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Individual Factors - I

- Input is not perceived and processed by different learners in an identical manner
- What part of input gets converted into intake is determined by certain factors and processes.

- Individual factors: anxiety, aptitude, attitude, motivation
- Negotiation factors: interaction, output, feedback;
- Tactical factors: learning strategies and communication strategies;
- Environmental factors: social context and educational context.

- **Individual factors: anxiety, aptitude, attitude, motivation**

- Anxiety – nervousness, tension,
- feelings of self-consciousness, fear of negative evaluation from peers and teachers, and fear of failure to live up to one's own personal standards and goals
- Krashen – affective filter

# Affective filter

- A 'metaphorical barrier'
- Even when appropriate input available, some learners unable to process it
- Reason – affective filter

- *Affect* refers to feelings of anxiety or negative attitudes, may be associated with poor learning outcomes.
- A learner who is tense, anxious, or bored may *filter out* input, making it unavailable for acquisition.

- Language anxiety negatively impacts standardized tests and course grades



- “Low anxiety is conducive to second language acquisition” – Do you agree or not?

# Attitudes and motivation


- positive attitudes are associated with a willingness to keep learning
- Attitude towards the target language
- Attitude towards the target language community

- Learning English as a second language
- Learning Hindi as a second language
- Learning any other Indian language as a second language

Will there be any differences in the attitudes of learners?

- Motivation – instrumental motivation and integrated motivation (Gardner and Lambert)
- Instrumental – learning a language for immediate/ practical goals
- Integrative - language learning for personal growth and cultural enrichment

# Measuring motivation

- Place a check mark anywhere along the line below to indicate how much you like English compared to all your other courses.
- English is my  English is my most  
least preferred course preferred course

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When you have an assignment to do in English, do you:

- do it immediately when you start your homework.
- become completely bored.
- put it off until all your other homework is finished.
- none of these (explain)

(Gardner and Lambert, 1972, p. 153)