Factors Affecting Second Language Acquisition

Individual Factors - II

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

Language aptitude

- Ability to identify and memorize new sounds
- Understand the function of words in sentences
- Figure out grammatical rules from the given examples
- Remember new words, make associations between L1 and L2 equivalents
- Being cool headed = thande dhimaag se soochna

- High intelligence = High language aptitude?
- No one-to-one correspondence between measures on a general IQ test and measures of language aptitude

- Two extremes of language aptitude
- Some people whose academic performance is usually very good find themselves frustrated in their attempts to learn a foreign language
- They usually have problems with vocabulary

- At the other end of the aptitude continuum - Individuals who learn languages easily

- Smith and Tsimpli (1995) - a polyglot who learned many languages with apparent ease. His overall cognitive functioning and social skills were quite limited.

Participipial adjectives in English

The movie is boring.	John was bored to death.
The new proposal is interesting.	The MD was not interested in the proposal.
It is amusing to watch a magician performing on stage.	John was amused to watch the card trick.
Snakes are frightening.	John was frightened to see a snake in his house.
The player was made fun of for his confusing moves.	The confused traveler lost his way in the city.

- When do you use –ing participle and when '-ed/en' participle?

Language aptitude test

- In an imaginary language isukaba means 'destroy' and skaba means 'destruction', and itulama means 'renovate' and tlama 'renovation'. What is the word for 'seduction' in this language, if 'ivatuna' means 'seduce'?

isukaba 'destroy'	skaba 'destruction'
itulama 'renovate'	tlama 'renovation'
ivatuna 'seduce'?	

- All verbs start with vowel letter 'i'
- All corresponding nouns start with the second letter, 'i' dropped
- What about the second vowel letter? – dropped
- Now 'ivatuna' – drop 'I' and 'a' = 'vtuna' seduction

- Look at the following data from an imaginary language:
- ru wahad 'the dog is angry'
- ru ostud 'the dog ate'
- ru tigat 'the dog died'
- ru igutu miskad 'the dog learned a trick'
- manika runi wahagad 'the man made the dog angry'
- manika runi ostugud 'the man fed the dog'
- manika runi tigagat 'the man killed the dog'
- What would be the sentence corresponding to 'the man made the dog learn a trick' in this language?