Linguistic Input and the learner’s ability to decode speech: the case of the adult foreign / second language learner *

Author: Nihal Ameira

17/04/2002

Abstract:

The paper deals with models of the psychological processes leading to the perception of speech. It also draws attention to the complexity of the perceptual task, seen as a continuous process of analysis and synthesis. The paper further draws attention to the specific type of learning available to the foreign / second (F/S) adult language learners in terms of the limitations imposed upon their brain structure. The paper, therefore, argues that communicative listening activities employing natural simplification of language in the direction of interactional modifications and elaborations are shown to provide for authenticity of learner response; thus, providing learners with input in some measure tantamount to that provided to L1 acquires. The paper finally draws pedagogical implications for formal and informal learning, proposing an integrated model of listening methodology which takes account of both modes of learning and forms the basis for a sample activity described in detail.

Holguin-Guba / WEFLA2002