

Chapter 2: Language and Language Acquisition

1. Semantics is the study of
 - a. how present participles affect meaning
 - b. how politeness is expressed in language
 - c. linguistic meaning, including vocabulary
 - d. how phonemes are represented by the alphabet

2. “Communicative competence” is often used instead of “language proficiency” for all *EXCEPT*
 - a. to describe how people communicate with one another in particular social situations
 - b. to emphasize not only grammatical forms but also language functions and social conventions of language use
 - c. to show how speakers choose wording to suit their communicative purpose
 - d. to focus on how pronunciation affects communication

3. The terms pragmatics, semantics, phonology, morphology, and syntax are referred to as:
 - a. linguistic subsystems
 - b. language acquisition theories
 - c. sociolinguistic theories
 - d. language functions

4. Language acquisition refers to:
 - a. how students use language in our classrooms
 - b. how children interact with their caregivers
 - c. how children and others acquire language
 - d. how we use language in social situations

5. One of the main problems with behaviorist theories of language acquisition is that they do not account for:
 - a. acquisition of simple nouns
 - b. overgeneralizations children make
 - c. caregiver influences on children’s speech
 - d. words learned from other children

6. From an innatist perspective children:
 - a. produce complex sentences their caregivers use
 - b. create speech without input from their peers
 - c. are unable to use grammar to form their utterances
 - d. construct grammar through a process of hypothesis testing

7. Chomsky's innatist view of language acquisition has been criticized because it:
 - a. fails to account for ways mothers help infants acquire language
 - b. focuses primarily on language learning in the preschool years
 - c. posits imitation as the main variable in child language acquisition
 - d. suggests that infants are passive receivers of maternal language

8. According to the interactionist theory of language acquisition
 - a. imitation plays a major role in a child’s language acquisition
 - b. caregivers play a minor role in supporting a child’s language acquisition

- c. caregivers play a critical role by adjusting language to young children
 - d. children acquire language even if they have no interaction with caregivers
9. Behaviorists studying language mainly focus on:
- a. conversations between the child and caregiver, including caregiver speech
 - b. the child's development of syntax as used in day-to-day speech acts
 - c. the child's verbal behaviors as responses to stimuli in the environment
 - d. verbal behaviors based on the child's language acquisition device
10. In which theory of language acquisition does the social environment play the main role?
- a. SPAM theory
 - b. interactionist theory
 - c. innatist theory
 - d. behaviorist theory
11. Krashen's theory of second language acquisition probably is closest to
- a. the innatist theory
 - b. the behaviorist theory
 - c. the compact theory
 - d. the interactionist theory
12. Each of the following represents one of Krashen's five hypotheses *EXCEPT*
- a. the motivation hypothesis
 - b. the monitor hypothesis
 - c. the acquisition-learning hypothesis
 - d. the affective filter hypothesis
13. Krashen's second language acquisition theories have been influential in promoting language teaching practices that focus on all *EXCEPT*
- a. communication first and foremost
 - b. allowing students a silent period
 - c. creating a low-anxiety environment
 - d. grouping students by home language
14. Teachers who follow the behaviorist theory of language acquisition
- a. believe in correcting student errors immediately to avoid bad habits
 - b. believe students will correct their own errors over time
 - c. believe students will acquire correct forms naturally as meaning is negotiated
 - d. don't believe in correcting errors because it might damage student self-esteem
15. Comprehensible input refers to
- a. students' comprehension of the social rules of classroom language use
 - b. language used in ways that make it understandable to English learners
 - c. language used for day-to-day classroom organization and management
 - d. students' comprehension of grammatical forms of their new language
16. Which of the following does NOT apply to academic language?
- a. language used in school subjects such as science, history, and math

- b. specialized vocabulary and technical terms according to subject matter
 - c. language that conveys abstract, dense and complex concepts
 - d. language needed to build student confidence as academic learners
17. Each of the following helps students acquire and use academic language *EXCEPT*
- a. building background knowledge on the topic of study
 - b. teaching important vocabulary and technical terms
 - c. explaining to parents the importance of academics
 - d. demonstrating how academic text structures function
18. The political influence of language is illustrated by
- a. the worldwide proliferation of the Spanish language after 1492
 - b. the widespread use of Latin for scholarly purposes in 1492
 - c. the discovery of classical Greek scientific theories in 1492
 - d. the uniting of Spain and Portugal under the Catholic Kings
19. A dialect attains status as the “standard language”
- a. when those in power use it in public
 - b. when the army defeats the navy
 - c. when it becomes grammatically correct
 - d. when slang is purged from its lexicon
20. Interlanguage refers to
- a. the use of English as an international language
 - b. private language used within an ethnic group
 - c. a learner’s developmental features in a second language
 - d. a learner’s pronunciation in their second language

Answer Key Chapter 2

1. C
2. D
3. A
4. C
5. B
6. D
7. A
8. C
9. C
10. D
11. A
12. A
13. D
14. A
15. B
16. D
17. C
18. A
19. A
20. C