

Name _____

0091-1

Language Learning/Learning Styles

I. The Clips

The clips you have just seen are excerpts from recent and not so recent movies. The language learning shown is, of course, exaggerated, as is everything produced by Hollywood and by other motion picture companies. The excerpts do, however, reflect ways people learn foreign languages, and perhaps remind you of some of your learning experiences.

No. 1: Dead Poets' Society

No. 5: Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid

No. 2: What's New Pussycat

No. 6: Born in East L.A.

No. 3: Blue Angel

No. 7: El Norte

No. 4: Isadora

II. Focus Questions

Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions about language learning, as it relates to you and the excerpts you have just seen:

use other side if you need more space

The Learning Situation

1. Which film clip corresponds most closely to your experience with language instruction? Was this a positive experience or perhaps a nightmare? Why?
2. Which of the language students shown do you identify with? How are you like these students?
3. Do any of the teachers in the clips remind you of language instructors you have had?
4. What materials are used in the classrooms? Which would help you to learn the most?
5. Which activities the teacher uses appeal to you the most?

Using the Language in Real Life

1. Three of the clips show students using the language they have learned in real-life situations. Have you had similar experiences?
2. Which language skills are the students called upon to use in these situations (listening/speaking/reading/writing)? Do you think they are more proficient at one skill than at another?

Error Correction

1. The Blue Angel, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, and El Norte all show students being corrected. Do you think the students all benefit from being corrected? Why or why not?

Motivation

1. Which of the students are the most motivated to learn? What motivates them? Which appear to be the least motivated?
2. In the film Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, we see two students. Which student is more motivated to learn? Which student actually learns more? Which student is better able to use the language in a real-life situation?

The Learning Situation

1. The film clip that corresponds closest with my instruction would be either Dead Poets Society or Blue Angel. The experience is not negative completely, however. It also had elements of Butch Cassidy in that I pretended to understand to pass.
2. Probably the lady from El Norte or one of the guys from Butch Cassidy. I couldn't apply it.
3. Not especially.
4. In the classroom we had books & a tape that seemed too quick. I learned how to write German okay, but it was Greek to me if spoken. What helps the most is immersion, observation & participation. In this class, we have a lot of observation & participation; what we have is good for what I can see.
5. The conversational activities & how you will pick random members of the classroom & speak to them in Deutsch & catch them off guard.

Using language in Real Life

1. Yes, namely in the case of Butch Cassidy. I would often times forget most everything whenever I needed it.
2. Speaking & listening to a certain degree. In El Norte, she could speak more than understand; in Butch Cassidy, one could do neither. Most of the time, people can gain quite a bit of skill when it comes to reciting certain statements, but since they only know of the meanings to the statement as a whole & none of the components, they can't really apply it beyond one or two dead situations.

Error Correction

1. To a certain degree correction seems to help everybody; it all depends on how the correction is conducted. In Blue Angel, the student should have worked on the error ~~himself~~ on his own rather than stubbornly not be able to pronounce the sound to the teacher.

However, often times being corrected is the only way to know you're doing something wrong. When learning a language, you need guidance or you'll end up speaking a new language.

Motivation

1. The lady from Isadora was the most motivated & she was motivated by the guy she was attracted to. The students in Dead Poets Society were the least motivated. They were reluctantly going through the numbers.
2. The student with the mustache was most motivated to learn & actually learned more but wasn't able to apply it much better than his fellow bank robber.