

## **Conclusion: Language Acquisition Theory**

The pedagogical foundation of approaches to teaching English language learners are built on the research of these five leaders in the field of linguistics and cognitive psychology.

In summary, the most important contributions to second language learning theory include:

**Noam Chomsky's Universal Grammar** – Language acquisition is innate and follows a logical order and sequence.

**Stephen Krashen's Comprehensible Input and the Affective Filter Hypothesis** – We learn language by comparing what we hear to what we already know. We learn best when the level of language we are engaging in is slightly above our comfort zone.

**Jim Cummins' BICS vs. CALP** – Second language learners need to acquire basic communication skills as well as critical thinking skills and academic language competencies in the second language in order to succeed in school.

**Michael Long and Catherine Doughty's Interaction Hypothesis and Focus on Form** - Engaging in interaction makes language comprehensible and available for acquisition. Focusing on language structures while learners are negotiating meaning promotes acquisition of the target language structures.

As you work through the rest of the course, particularly in Module 3, you will be able to make important connections between the research and strategies educators use today to make instruction meaningful to second language learners.