



APPL7250

Advanced Topics in Second Language Acquisition

Session 1, Fully online/virtual 2020

Dept of Linguistics

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit explores a variety of approaches to the study of second and foreign language acquisition in both instructed and naturalistic settings. The unit focuses on the range of factors that influence the learning/acquisition of a second language, as well as ways of studying the characteristics of learner language. Throughout the unit, participants are encouraged to reflect on the relevance of second language acquisition research to their own experiences as both language learners and professionals working in educational contexts or other language-related areas.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates>

Learning Outcomes

ULO2: Demonstrate familiarity with and the ability to critically evaluate two areas of SLA research

ULO1: Identify and explain current issues and research trends in the field of second language acquisition (SLA)

ULO3: Communicate knowledge of SLA research to a professional audience

ULO4: Demonstrate an understanding of the range of internal and external factors that influence an individual's learning of a second language

ULO5: Apply knowledge of SLA research to an educational context of personal relevance

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Annotated bibliography presentation	20%	No	TBC
Online Key Concepts Quiz	10%	No	TBC
Applying SLA Research	50%	No	TBC
Critical review	20%	No	TBC

Annotated bibliography presentation

Assessment Type ¹: Media presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **TBC**

Weighting: **20%**

For this assignment, students will prepare a short (5 minute) PowerPoint presentation with oral commentary detailing three academic references, and their relevance to their proposed research topic for the final assignment.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with and the ability to critically evaluate two areas of SLA research
- Identify and explain current issues and research trends in the field of second language acquisition (SLA)
- Communicate knowledge of SLA research to a professional audience
- Apply knowledge of SLA research to an educational context of personal relevance

Online Key Concepts Quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **TBC**

Weighting: **10%**

This quiz consists of multiple choice questions that students complete online during a 48 hour period when the quiz is open

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and explain current issues and research trends in the field of second language acquisition (SLA)
- Demonstrate an understanding of the range of internal and external factors that influence an individual's learning of a second language

Applying SLA Research

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 32 hours

Due: **TBC**

Weighting: **50%**

For this assessment task, students will write a 2500 word essay in which they apply research findings in one area of SLA research to a context/purpose of personal or professional relevance.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with and the ability to critically evaluate two areas of SLA research
- Identify and explain current issues and research trends in the field of second language acquisition (SLA)
- Communicate knowledge of SLA research to a professional audience
- Apply knowledge of SLA research to an educational context of personal relevance

Critical review

Assessment Type ¹: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 18 hours

Due: **TBC**

Weighting: **20%**

Students will write a 1000 word guided critique of a scholarly journal article in the field of second language acquisition

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with and the ability to critically evaluate two areas of SLA research
- Identify and explain current issues and research trends in the field of second language acquisition (SLA)
- Communicate knowledge of SLA research to a professional audience
- Apply knowledge of SLA research to an educational context of personal relevance

¹ If you need guidance or support to understand or complete this type of assessment, please contact the Learning Skills Team

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

TBC

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Enquiry Service

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Equity Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.