

# Usage-Based Theory of Language Acquisition

The Usage-Based Theory of Language Acquisition (UBT) is a groundbreaking approach to understanding how people learn language. This theory challenges traditional views of language as a rule-based system and instead emphasizes the role of usage and interaction in language development.



## Constructing a Language: A Usage-Based Theory of Language Acquisition by Usher Perera

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 5164 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 408 pages



## Principles of UBT

- **Language is usage:** UBT views language as a dynamic system that is constantly evolving and changing. Language is not a fixed set of rules, but rather a fluid and flexible system that is shaped by the way it is used.
- **Language is acquired through interaction:** UBT emphasizes the role of interaction in language learning. Learners acquire language by interacting with others and by being exposed to language in a meaningful context.

- **Language is a cognitive process:** UBT recognizes that language learning is a cognitive process that involves memory, attention, and other cognitive skills. Learners actively construct their own knowledge of language and use their existing knowledge to make sense of new language input.

## **Applications of UBT**

UBT has a wide range of applications in language teaching and research. It can be used to:

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- Design language teaching methods that are more effective and engaging.

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- Develop assessment tools that are more accurate and reliable.

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- Conduct research on the nature of language learning and acquisition.

## **Implications for Language Teaching**

UBT has a number of implications for language teaching. These implications include:

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- Language teaching should focus on communicative competence.

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- Language teaching should provide learners with opportunities to interact with native speakers.

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- Language teaching should be tailored to the individual needs of learners.

The Usage-Based Theory of Language Acquisition is a groundbreaking approach to understanding how people learn language. This theory has a number of implications for language teaching and research. By understanding the principles of UBT, educators and researchers can develop more effective and engaging language teaching methods.

# ACQUISITION-LEARNING

- Hypothesis: The belief that English Language Learners (ELLs) 'acquire' and 'learn' the target language.
  - To 'acquire' the language, the ELLs subconsciously process the target language based on feelings (Lightbrow & Spada, 2006, p.36).
  - 'Learning' the language is when the ELLs are aware that they are processing the target language through formal instruction and rule learning (Lightbrow & Spada, 2006, p. 36).



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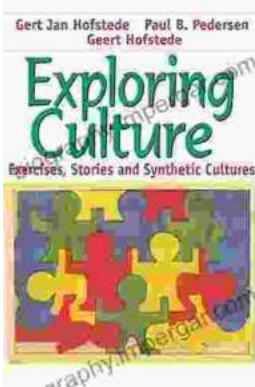
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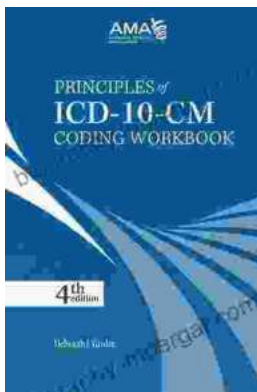
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