

When a child is immersed in a new community, they are usually motivated to learn their language. This may be in order to make friends, protect territory, or gain social status. The learning process involves a combination of variables that make the linguistic structure of a language more or less accessible to the learner. Of course, repeating the form in the input is very important; However, as Hatch (1974) emphasizes, frequency is modified by a combination of other variables: the salience of the perceptual model and semantic load, the stress it receives in a sentence, and the number of functions it performs in speech. These also operate in first language learning, further supporting Slobin's theory of language-free process strategies