Lecture 03-01-08

Readings: Hultjin (1997). SLA in the Laboratory
Mackey & Gass (2005). Chapters 3 & 4
Larsen-Freeman & Long (1991a). SLA Research Methodology

Part I. Research in the Laboratory

40 minutes: In groups of three

- What is research in the laboratory? How do different authors define it?
- What are the main differences between laboratory research and the other types of research?
- What is the “dependent variable” (DV)?
- What are the “independent variables” (IVs)?
- What is a research question? What characterizes it?
- What is a hypothesis? What characterizes it?
20 minutes: General Discussion

Part II: Research Design

40 minutes

Based on your summary of the readings answer the following questions:

What are the components of a sound research design? Explain each one.

What role do implementation/materials play in a good research design?

20 minutes: Share your answers to the group
Part III: Research Project  30 minutes

Divide in groups according to your place of residence right now and computer accessability.

Brainstorm about the research questions we are going to research for our investigation.

Remember we are comparing three types of instruction:

Processing Instruction (PI) (A grammar-based instruction based in the processing of the input by language learners).

Communicative approach (A communication-based instruction based in the belief that languages are communication tools and grammar is implicit rather than explicit).

Experimental Instruction (A mixture of PI and communicative approach to the teaching of foreign languages in the Costa Rican public high schools setting [i.e., 40 minute lessons, no more than 5 a week]