Chapter 1: Language, Learning, and Teaching

Current Issues in Second Language Acquisition

Thomas Kuhn's Paradigm

a successful paradigm is followed by a period of anomaly, then crisis, and then finally a new paradigm, a novel theory, is put together

discover the pieces and then to fit the places together

Language

Learning and Teaching

Schools of Thought in Second Language Acquisition

Structural/Behaviorism

Leonard Bloomfield, Edward Sapir, Charles Hockett, Charles Fries, B.F. Skinner, Freeman Twaddell

Advocates

“only the publicly observable responses”

No preconceptions could apply to the field

B.F. Skinner “speaker is merely the locus of verbal behavior, not the cause”

“interested not only in describing language but also in arriving at an explanatory level of adequacy”

Noam Chomsky

Ferdinand de Saussure Parole(performance) and Langue(competence)

Performance and Competence

Rationalism/Cognitive Psychology

Noam Chomsky

generative-transformational school of linguistics(by Noam Chomsky)

David Ausubel focussing on the principles of organization and functioning

Rational Approach

Discovering underlying motivations and deeper structures of human behavior

Key words: logic, reason, extrapolation, inference, “why” questions, psychological states, cause, principled bases, innateness...

Ruralism

Discovering underlying motivations and deeper structures of human behavior

Key words: conversational discourse, sociocultural factors in learning, Interactionist theories

Language Teaching Methodology

Biological timetables and stages of development

Social interaction was foundational in cognitive development and rejected the notion of predetermined stages

Jean Piaget

the importance of individual cognitive development as a relatively solitary act

Biological Timelines and Stages of Development

Social interaction was foundational in cognitive development and rejected the notion of predetermined stages

Psychology

Constructivism

Lev Vygotsky

“individuals engaged in social practices... on a collaborative group, on a global community”

Spivey