



The Role of Environment in Language Learning: Swedish inside & outside of Sweden

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Learning a new language as an adult is both rewarding and exciting, but it also comes with many challenges. This presentation concentrates on the role of environment for learning a second language. In particular, I draw on the results from the research project *Swedish inside and outside Sweden* (Håkansson & Norrby 2010) where we collected longitudinal data in two comparable university student groups. Three areas – grammar, pragmatics and lexicon – were investigated. For comparison, we had a control group of Swedish students enrolled at Lund University. The results showed similar grammatical development in both learner groups, while they differed in terms of pragmatics and lexicon. The variation found demonstrates that the learning environment does not affect grammatical development, but is important for lexical and pragmatic aspects of language learning.



Håkansson, G. & Norrby, C. 2010. Environmental influence on language acquisition Comparing second and foreign language acquisition of Swedish. *Language Learning* 60: 3: 628–650.

Pienemann, M. 1998. *Language processing and second language development: Processability Theory*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

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All are welcome. No registration is required.

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