

Answers to Prof. Zoltán Poór

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Q.1. Imagine that a fellow professional intends to do research with the same complex foci on language learning effort in another educational context – like Hungary or any other country. What advice would you come up with?

I would advise the researcher to compare his research results with a previous piece of work in order to investigate how close or far the context may influence the results on one hand. On the other hand, it might help the original researcher to detect the errors or faulty aspects of the measurement tool designed to measure the new concept (effort). Moreover, I would advise the researcher to investigate the relationship of other individual differences aspects to effort. If more research is done rapidly on relationships, we can determine what combination of variables serves as the best for efficient language learning and teaching. Furthermore, I would advise the researcher to also investigate the role of motivational skills and its relationship to effort. In most cases, teachers are discouraged because they feel that their students do not make the necessary effortful acts to reach the desired level of proficiency. If motivational techniques prove to be valuable in motivating students to expend more effort, it would help both learners and teachers in the process of acquiring a new language.

Q.2. Imagine, that you are invited to set up the system of teaching modern foreign languages back home in Jordan. What would you take into consideration on the basis of your research when designing the curriculum and teaching methodology?

I would consider teaching students critical thinking skills first because this would aid them in developing better judgment concerning selecting the suitable learning strategies that fit their style of learning. Then, I would suggest giving training courses in motivational strategies for teachers and make them aware of the fact that motivation is not to be disregarded, because without motivation, the learner will lose interest and in turn will not expend effort. Furthermore, I would suggest including more exercises for teachers to engage their students in more conversations with other students or at least talk about their preferences or their likes and dislikes on a daily basis with new information every time. Encouraging students to engage in these conversations from an early stage will help students develop better language skills as well as social skills. In turn, this will definitely increase their level of motivation and effort expenditure to achieve better skills in the new language they are learning.