**Principles of Language Learning**

* Language learning principles are generally sorted into three sub-groupings:

*Cognitive Principles*

*Affective Principles*

*Linguistic Principles*

* Principles are seen as theory derived from research, to which teachers need to match classroom practices.
* Here are some brief summaries of the principles that fall into each grouping:

Cognitive Principles

* Automaticity: Subconscious processing of language with peripheral (secondary) attention to language forms
* Meaningful Learning: This can be contrasted to *Rote Learning*, and is thought to lead to better long term retention;
* Anticipation of Rewards: Learners are driven to act by the anticipation of rewards, tangible or intangible;
* Intrinsic Motivation: The most potent learning "rewards" are intrinsically motivated within the learner;
* Strategic Investment: The time and learning strategies learners invest into the language learning process.

Affective Principles

* Language Ego: Learning a new language involves developing a new mode of thinking - a new language "ego";
* Self-Confidence: Success in learning something can be equated to the belief in learners that they *can* learn it;
* Risk-Taking: Taking risks and experimenting "beyond" what is certain creates better long-term retention;
* Language-Culture Connection: Learning a language also involves learning about cultural values and thinking.

Linguistic Principles

* Native Language Effect: A learner's native language creates both facilitating and interfering effects on learning;
* Interlanguage: At least some of the learner's development in a new language can be seen as systematic
* Communicative Competence: Fluency and *use* are just as important as accuracy and *usage* - instruction needs to be aimed at organizational, pragmatic and strategic competence as well as psychomotor skills.