

# Topics of Applied Linguistics

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Lucas Miquelon



Social context  
vs  
social factors

how does the  
link occur?



# Social influences on language learning

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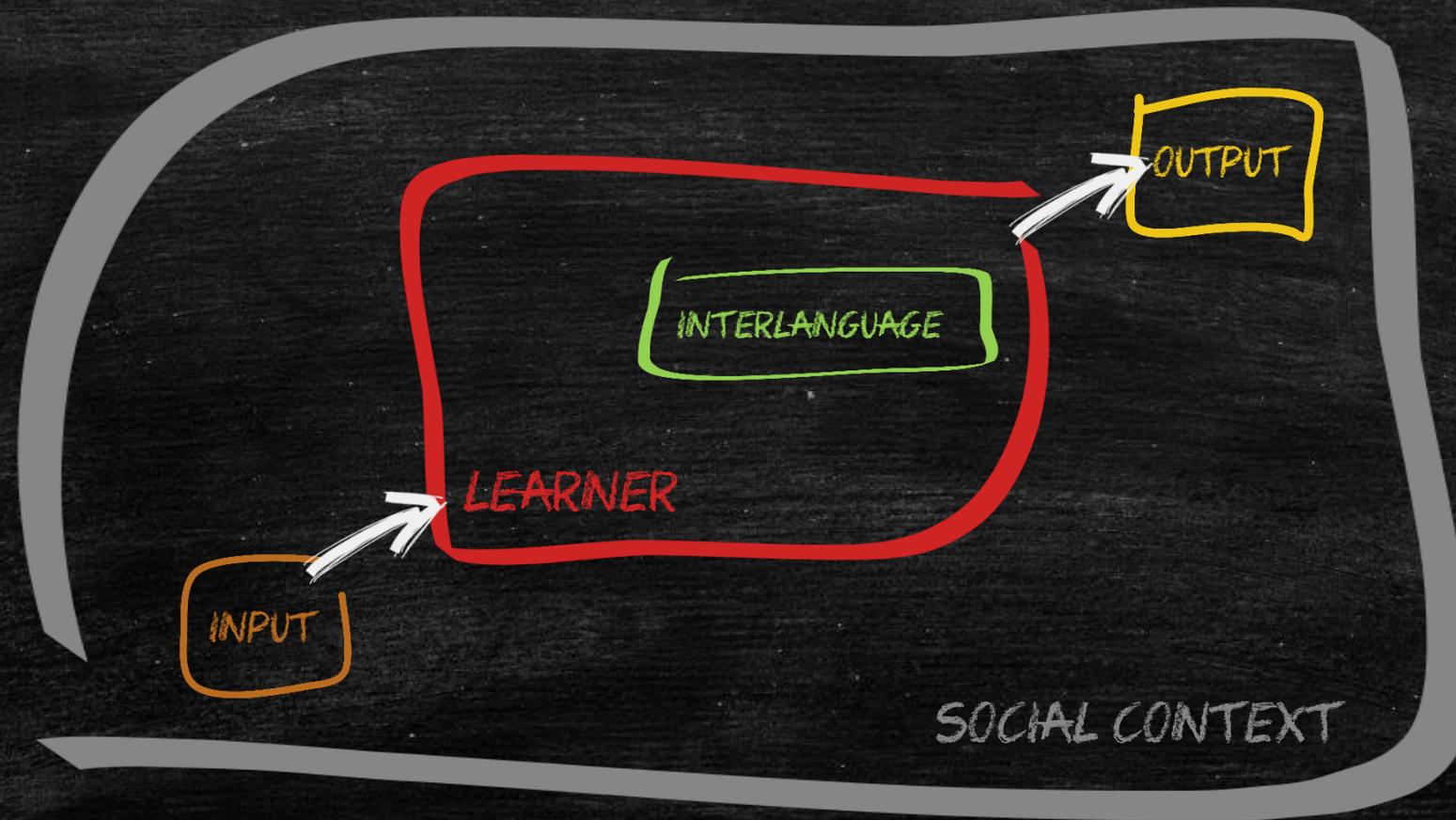
GARY BARKHUIZEN



Additional  
language

# Basic Model of Language Learning

BARKHUIZEN, p. 555



# learner

"Ellis (1994) provides a thorough review of social factors, mediated through learner attitudes, which affect language learning. These are to be distinguished from individual learner differences such as learner beliefs, affective variables, learning strategies, and cognitive styles."

BARKHUIZEN, p. 556

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1. Age
  2. Sex
  3. Social class
  4. Ethnic identity

Socialcultural perspectives

"input, however generated, is part of the social context."

Mentalist perspectives

BARKHUIZEN, p. 558

# input and output

"[...] language input received by learners when listening or reading in the target language."

language that is produced by the learner

BARKHUIZEN, p. 558

# SLA studies

## Acculturation model

- Schumann's (1978, 1986) creation;
- Learner's adaptation to a new culture;
- "Acculturation is expressed in terms of social distance (becoming a member of a target language group) and psychological distance (how comfortable learners are with the learning task)."

BARKHUIZEN, p. 561

ENGLISH LEARNERS IN  
HOMESTAY ENVIRONMENT –  
NEW ZEALAND



- Expectations not met
- Does not take into account the learner's individual social identity

# SLA studies

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## Intergroup model

- Different ethnolinguistic groups interacting dynamically;
- "Ethnolinguistic convergence [...] will lead to more successful social integration as well as L2 proficiency."

BARKHUIZEN, p. 562



MULTILINGUAL ARMY CAMP IN  
THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE  
IN SOUTH AFRICA.



- Despite English being the official language, Xhosa was widely spoken
- Learning a language as a way of belonging; membership, as well as communication efficiency

# SLA studies

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## Social identity model

Norton (2000) claims that "a person negotiates a sense of self within and across different sites at different points in time, and it is through language that a person gains access to – or is denied access to – powerful social networks that give learners the opportunity to speak"

SLA theories ought to analyse "social and cultural practices of the language learner and target communities"

BARKHUIZEN, p. 565

## investment

"[...] refers to learners' commitment to learning the L2, the level of commitment being tied to their perceptions of their relationship to the social world"

BARKHUIZEN, p. 565



# SLA studies

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SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOL, AWAY FROM THE TOWN AND DESIGNATED FOR AFRICAN PEOPLE IN THE APARTHEID YEARS



Using critical classroom discourse analysis, Kapp (2001) observed:

- Distinct attitudes of teachers and learners towards English in comparison to Xhosa;
- "school culture and local social conditions"

BARKHUIZEN, p. 566

"It explores the ways in which students' complex, seemingly contradictory language attitudes and classroom practices are intimately linked to their attempts to define appropriate roles and identities in relation to the unstable school and township environment, as well as their construction of their place in the world within and beyond the township."



KAPP, 2001, p. 2

# Language education

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"practices, procedures and provision of language learning. Associated with these are language-in-education policies and the variable opportunities for learning which they provide"

BARKHUIZEN, p. 567

South Africa and the attempt to redress linguistic imbalances through use of African languages

- (1) WHAT LANGUAGE(S) WILL BE TAUGHT IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM?
- (2) WHO WILL BE TAUGHT THESE LANGUAGES?
- (3) WHO WILL TEACH THESE LANGUAGES?
- (4) HOW WILL SUCCESS BE DETERMINED?
- (5) WHAT IS THE BEST METHODOLOGY FOR TEACHING THESE LANGUAGES?



# Conclusion

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Five  
elements



SLA theories and findings



Learning a language is not an easy task.

Social  
contexts



Language  
learning



What about Brazil?

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# Reference

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\_\_\_\_\_. The handbook of applied linguistics. Edited by Alan Davies and Catherine Elder. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2004.

Ellis, R. (1994) The study of second language acquisition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.