

## Understanding the Heart of the Matter: A Pedagogical Framework for Apprehending Successful Second Language Development

**Authors :** Cinthya Olivares Garita

**Abstract :** Untangling language processing in second language development has been either a taken-for-granted and overlooked task for some English language teaching (ELT) instructors or a considerable feat for others. From the most traditional language instruction to the most communicative methodologies, how to assist L2 learners in processing language in the classroom has become a challenging matter in second language teaching. Amidst an ample array of methods, strategies, and techniques to teach a target language, finding a suitable model to lead learners to process, interpret, and negotiate meaning to communicate in a second language has imposed a great responsibility on language teachers; committed teachers are those who are aware of their role in equipping learners with the appropriate tools to communicate in the target language in a 21st-century society. Unfortunately, one might find some English language teachers convinced that their job is only to lecture students; others are advocates of textbook-based instruction that might hinder second language processing, and just a few might courageously struggle to facilitate second language learning effectively. Grounded on the most representative empirical studies on comprehensible input, processing instruction, and focus on form, this analysis aims to facilitate the understanding of how second language learners process and automatize input and propose a pedagogical framework for the successful development of a second language. In light of this, this paper is structured to tackle noticing and attention and structured input as the heart of processing instruction, comprehensible input as the missing link in second language learning, and form-meaning connections as opposed to traditional grammar approaches to language teaching. The author finishes by suggesting a pedagogical framework involving noticing-attention-comprehensible-input-form (NACIF based on their acronym) to support ELT instructors, teachers, and scholars on the challenging task of facilitating the understanding of effective second language development.

**Keywords :** second language development, pedagogical framework, noticing, attention, comprehensible input, form

**Conference Title :** ICLLTL 2025 : International Conference on Linguistics, Language Teaching and Learning

**Conference Location :** Rome, Italy

**Conference Dates :** December 13-14, 2025