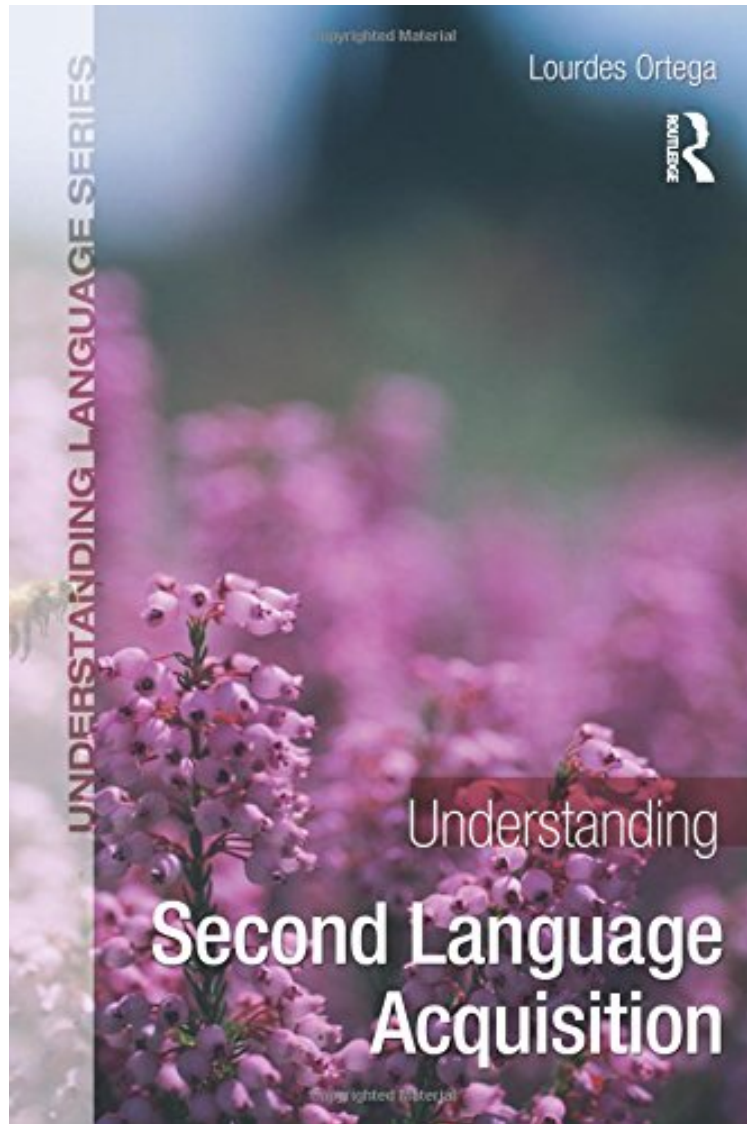


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## Understanding Second Language Acquisition (Understanding Language)

Lourdes Ortega

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#154813 in Books Lourdes Ortega 2008-11-30 2008-11-28 Original language: English PDF # 1 6.10 x .60 x 9.10l, #File Name: 034090559X320 pages Understanding Second Language Acquisition | File size: 36.Mb

**Lourdes Ortega : Understanding Second Language Acquisition (Understanding Language)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Understanding Second Language Acquisition (Understanding Language):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Accessible and lays down the foundational knowledge... but with a new perspective By Customer I love this book. I don't know Ortega personally (except for meeting her for a few

minutes at a conference), but I do know she's a professor of linguistics at Georgetown who's very respected in the field of Second Language Acquisition and probably the most well read in a variety of topics, not just sticking to one particular niche of SLA. Here are reasons why I (a PhD student) would use this textbook in an undergraduate or first-semester Masters course on Second Language Acquisition...1) Ortega's style is accessible, and she writes as if having a conversation with the reader -- even if it is an academic one. She does not assume any prior knowledge in SLA.2) She lays down the foundational knowledge, which is cognitivist (brain-based) in nature. However, she interprets it from a sociocultural lens, taking into account the social and cultural contexts of language acquisition, which didn't interest researchers in the field until the 1990s. Hence, you get the best of both worlds: the basic knowledge on acquisition of grammar (phonology, morphology, syntax, vocabulary/semantics) everyone should know when entering this field but also the cutting-edge perspective on social and cultural factors. The third main perspective she tackles is individual differences in learning/motivation, so basically the book is divided into thirds: "universal aspects in the way people learn languages", "individual differences", "social and cultural factors". It's a very well balanced treatment. I was not happy with the copy I got of the book... it had WAY more markings than its rating would have suggested, but the book itself, I really recommend.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very arcane and difficult-to-read writing style. By Ferngully321 I'm very surprised to hear so many readers find that this book is very accessible and readable when it is anything but. While the information in the book is interesting, some of the wording and word choices in the book make for a very tiresome read. In my MA program, so many students complained about this book that they stopped using it. The writing style is a huge turn off for anyone other than the most die-hard linguistics buffs.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. My favorite SLA book! By Lauren This book is EXCELLENT. I loved reading every chapter -- it was super interesting and I really enjoyed the cumulative nature of the content, how it incorporated varied studies to support the points of the book on the major findings of the last thirty years in the field of Second Language Acquisition. As a student, this book has helped me in my graduate student career in linguistics more than any other! Muchas gracias, Lourdes Ortega.

Whether we grow up with one, two, or several languages during our early years of life, many of us will learn a second, foreign, or heritage language in later years. The field of Second language acquisition (SLA, for short) investigates the human capacity to learn additional languages in late childhood, adolescence, or adulthood, after the first language --in the case of monolinguals-- or languages --in the case of bilinguals-- have already been acquired. Understanding Second Language Acquisition offers a wide-encompassing survey of this burgeoning field, its accumulated findings and proposed theories, its developed research paradigms, and its pending questions for the future. The book zooms in and out of universal, individual, and social forces, in each case evaluating the research findings that have been generated across diverse naturalistic and formal contexts for second language acquisition. It assumes no background in SLA and provides helpful chapter-by-chapter summaries and suggestions for further reading. Ideal as a textbook for students of applied linguistics, foreign language education, TESOL, and education, it is also recommended for students of linguistics, developmental psycholinguistics, psychology, and cognitive science. Supporting resources for tutors are available free at [www.routledge.com/ortega](http://www.routledge.com/ortega).

This volume is impressive in many ways, including its state-of-the art coverage of the field, the scope and depth of the material reviewed, and its engaging and accessible style of delivery...the strengths of this book cannot be overstated...This volume is sure to soon become a standard SLA text in the field of applied linguistics. Nina Spada - OISE University of Toronto Lourdes Ortega has succeeded admirably in her goal of helping students construct personal understandings of the interdisciplinary field of SLA. She is thorough in presenting the most up-to-date research bearing on the important controversies in SLA and does so with an engaging, personable, reader-friendly style that invites students to stay focused on the broader meanings of the research findings. Professor Mark Sawyer, Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan My students thoroughly enjoyed this text. It provides a thorough and yet accessible overview of major theories and trends in the field. I believe it is destined to become the standard text for survey courses on SLA. Linda Harklau, University of Georgia, USA Ortega has ... provided an invaluable source of information and reference for novice and seasoned researchers. This book will be of use to researchers from different corners of the world who share an interest in uncovering SLA.