Introduction to Didactics

TEFL Methods Semester 6

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Coefficient: 1

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Course Description

S6 Lecture 2: Introduction to Psychology of Learning

Outline

- 1. What is the Psychology of Learning?
- 2. Why Study the Psychology of Learning?
- 3. The Role of Research in Learning
- 4. Learning Theories Vs. Learning Strategies
- 5. Key Learning Theories
- 6. Key Learning Strategies
- 7. Application in Classroom

What is the Psychology of Learning?



- The study of how individuals acquire, process, and retain knowledge, through experiences, interactions, and processes.
- Examines both theoretical and practical aspects of learning.

Includes learning theories and strategies to enhance learning outcomes.

Explores cognitive, behavioral, and social factors in education.

Why Study Psychology of Learning?



- Helps understand how learning happens.
- Provides insight into different learning styles.
- Guides teachers and learners in selecting effective strategies.
- Connects theory with real-world teaching and learning.



The Role of Research in Learning



Helps in understanding how learning occurs.

Studies on memory, attention, and motivation influence teaching methods.

☐ Example: Research shows that active recall enhances long-term retention.



Theories Vs. Strategies

- Learning Theories: Explain how learning occurs. Focus on processes like reinforcement, cognitive structures, and social interactions.
- ☐ **Learning Strategies:** Techniques applied to enhance learning. Practical applications like mnemonics, summarization, or spaced repetition.

Theory *informs* strategy

Example: Behaviorism is based on reinforcement. We use rewards as a strategy to encourage participation.



Behaviourism

Cognitivism

Constructivism

Connectivism



- □ **Behaviorism (Skinner, Pavlov, Watson)** Late 19th to early 20th century
- □ Cognitivism (Piaget, Vygotsky) 1950s–1960s
- □ Constructivism (Miller, Bruner) 1970s
- □ Connectivism (Siemens, Downes) 2005



□ Behaviorism (Skinner, Pavlov, Watson) – Learning as a response to stimuli.





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- ☐ Cognitivism (Piaget, Vygotsky) Mental processes and knowledge structures.
- ☐ Constructivism (Bruner) Learning as an active, constructive process.
- ☐ Connectivism (Siemens, Downes) Learning in digital and networked environments.



Social Learning Theory

Constructivism

Connectivism





- Behaviorism: Repetition, practice drills, immediate feedback.
- ☐ Cognitivism: Chunking information, concept mapping.
- ☐ Constructivism: Problem-solving tasks, discovery learning.
- ☐ Connectivism: Using online forums and discussion boards.

References

Eggen, P., & Kauchak, D. (2009). Educational Psychology (8th ed.). Pearson.

Schunk, D. H. (2019). Learning Theories: An Educational Perspective (7th ed.). Pearson.

Woolfolk, A., & Usher, E. (2023). Educational Psychology (15th ed.). Pearson.