

**Concept of Second Language Learning Environment
in the Enhancement of Listening Skill
of English as a Second Language Learners**

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Target language exposure is significant in ESL pedagogy. L₂ learners should be provided with a culturally supportive atmosphere to enhance their language skill with activation of schemata. Positive attitude towards the culture and people of target language levels up the involvement and confidence of L₂ learners. Effective L₂ learning environment is a situation where learners' need is recognised and used as a basis to achieve the competency level. To what extent, creating L₂ learning environment functions as an inspirational and motivational factor for second language acquisition to enhance their listening ability? The objective of this study is to shed light on the effects of creating L₂ learning environment in an ESL class room. It is limited to listening skill. To achieve this objective data were collected from thirty third year students of the Arts faculty, University of Jaffna. A quantitative analytical comparative methodology was utilised. It was performed in a three-phased, three months long project using various data collection methods. At first this study investigated students' initial perception of their listening ability through semi-structured questionnaires and individual interviews. The second phase deals with the experimental group which was raised up through L₂ environment and the control group which was not much aware of L₂ learning environment. Final phase of the project was a comparative study consisting of pre and post tests to measure the progress in students' listening skill. Tests were evaluated. Members of the experimental group outperformed the other group in every aspect of listening investigated. It is noteworthy to conclude that the effect of adapting L₂ learning environment in ESL classroom was profound. Students were highly impressed and it has been reflected on their eagerness to have more similar sessions in future. Therefore this study recommends that education policy makers and ESL lecturers in Universities should take more effort to implement L₂ learning environment in ESL listening sessions.

Key words: enhancement, L₂ acquisition, L₂ learning environment, motivation, schemata