

THE BACKSEAT LINGUIST

Commentary on research in second language acquisition and language education

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Study Reviewed: Hill, M., & Laufer, D. (2003). Type of task, time-on-task and electronic dictionaries in incidental vocabulary acquisition. *International Review of Applied Linguistics*, 41(2), 87-106. I recently came across a reference to a claim related to vocabulary acquisition that struck me as rather usual: Hill & Laufer (2003) stated that a second language reader [...]

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The Most Studied, Fastest Growing, and "Best Represented" Languages in U.S. Colleges

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A recent post by Brad Peterson on the supposed popularity of Chinese language study around the world sent me digging for some data on the whole question of what foreign/modern languages are popular in U.S. schools and, well, what we mean by "popular." There are at least three ways you could define popular when it [...]

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Even Better Than You Think: More Good News for Incidental Vocabulary Acquisition

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Study Reviewed: Frishkoff, G., K Collins-Thompson, C. Perfetti, and J. Callan. (2000). Measuring incremental changes in word knowledge: Experimental validation and implications for learning and assessment. *Behavior Research Methods*, 40(4), 907-925. We have long known that we acquire most of our vocabulary, in both a first and second language, through reading (Krashen, 1989). Our knowledge [...]

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