Contents

List of Boxes	vii
Introduction	xi
Topic 1: How Do Different Languages Connect in Our Minds?	1
What is a bilingual?	2
Characteristics of L2 users	4
What are L2 users like?	6
Characteristics of L2 users What are L2 users like? L2 users think differently	6
L2 users have a better feel for language	7
L2 users speak their first language slightly differently	8
Two languages in one mind	11
Topic 2: Is There a Best Age for Learning a Second Language?	17
The word on the street: Popular beliefs on age and second language learning	18
The experience of immigrants: The research background	21
The idea of a 'critical period'	25
The effects of early instruction in a second language	30
Some concluding remarks	33
Topic 3: How Do People Acquire the Words of a Second Language?	37
Words and more	38
The lexical challenge in infancy and later	40
Learning words one at a time	45
Learning words from context	47
Some concluding remarks	50
Topic 4: How Important is Grammar in Acquiring and Using a Second Language?	55
Learning the grammar of a second language	58
Three areas of grammar	63
Grammatical morphemes	63
Word order and processing	64
Articles	66
Topic 5: How Do People Learn to Write in a Second Language?	73
Pronunciation	75
Writing system	76
Letter/sound correspondences	77
Syllable structure	79
Scripts	8c

Reading and writing porcesses	. 80
Spelling rules	81
Punctuation	84
Topic 6: How Do Attitude and Motivation Help in Learning a Second Language?	89
Liking and wanting	90
Attitudes	91
Motivation	94
Present and future directions	101
Some concluding remarks	102
Topic 7: How Useful is Second Language Acquisition Research for Language	
Teaching?	109
Teaching and learning	110
The grammar translation method	112
The audiolingual method	114
The communicative approach	117
Some concluding remarks	12
Topic 8: What are the Goals of Language Teaching?	129
The hierarchy of languages	126
Groups of L2 users	127
Native speakers and L2 users	132
Epilogue	14
Key Topics Glossary	14
Index	149