

Quomodo Dicitur? The Importance of Memory in Language Learning

Second language acquisition (SLA) research results have substantially transformed the way languages are taught in the classroom, with a significant shift away from rote learning toward the creation of a communicative classroom environment. Yet communication is impossible without lexical and morphological competency.

SLA researchers have only recently begun to investigate the role of memory, a field largely left previously to cognitive psychologists and neuroscientists. While much of SLA research thus far has focused on English language learning (ELL), a survey of these early findings has much to tell Latin teachers about the appropriate use of memory activities and suggests that, while memorization can enhance language learning, it must be carefully integrated with other learning tasks in order to be effective.