



## Multilayer Language Learning© by Maurizio Morselli

Learning, in the traditional sense has often been considered by many only a cognitive activity, but if we take brain research into account, this consideration is rather inaccurate and educationally and socially problematic.

As Carl Rogers (1975) stated, mainstream educational institutions "*have focused so intently on the cognitive and have limited themselves so completely to 'educating from the neck up' that this narrowness is resulting in serious social consequences*".

In my own experience, I believe, as I have always stated and practiced, that we must engage Learners at **multiple levels**, not only from the “*neck up*” but from the neck down as well!

For this reason I believe that our facilitating strategies need to operate on a multilayered, andragogic map, one I call **Multilayer Language Learning©**, which I have distilled into a seven layer model, which I continue to use to guide every learning experience I have the privilege of facilitating: a useful guide in designing a well balanced learning architecture, not only for language courses but for any learning experience.

LANGUAGE LEARNING LAYER	STRATEGIES & TACTICS
1. The Interpersonal	Exposure to other people in the classroom is beneficial. Diversity of expressions/ Ideas/opinions. (Social Constructivism, Cooperative Learning)
2. The Intrapersonal	The ability to assess one's level of knowledge; of personal factors that affect one's learning style. Identification of Personal areas of strength and weakness
3. The Physical	Allowing students to handle physical objects and to use a variety of tools. Humans need to touch and feel. I want students to move; I want to be moved by them and their inquisitive questions, by their challenges to me. Role plays, drama and such ignite learning and movement. Culture bound gestures also fall into this rich layer that must be exploited and brought into the classroom.
4. The Environmental	We are surrounded by our environment: it's an integral part of us; why not make it an integral part of the lesson plan? Topics related to the natural world engage all of us. Semantic maps related to multiple environments are ever so engaging, whether it be the business environment or the political landscape.
5. The Mathematical/Logical	Inclusion of reasoning elements, problem solving challenges, puzzle solving tasks, creation of new products and services, are all part of an integrated Language learning approach.
6. The Visual/Perceptive	Imagery and visual representations play a key role in information R&R( Retention and Retrieval). Words are inevitably connected to images, experience and emotions. The use of a visual stimulants/visual discussion stimulants/teaching aids, are part of this layer.
7. The Rhythmic/Musical	Language has its own music. When we hear some pleasing news we say that it is “music to my ears”! Rhythm, pitch, tone and melody are all part of the phonetic orchestra of language learning. Music and songs can assist in recalling words, sentences, idioms, concepts. Music can help to concentrate, to relax, to stimulate the creative process, thus creating a relaxed, safe learning atmosphere.

We are all different and we are all affected/influenced/motivated/inspired by all or combinations of the seven Language Learning Layers. As facilitators of language learning, we must ensure that we explore and unravel each layer to mobilize the spectrum of educational strategies to ensure our learners are more than ever engaged and be better equipped to reach personal and business goals. That is our mission as language learning facilitators for a more communicative and fluent world.