

La última letra presents:



Dr. Bernard Issa

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

March 29, 2018

4:00 PM / BBC 203

Reception to be held in Redwood
Room, BB Comer after talk

Title: Viewing attention
through a different lens:

*An eye-tracking study on the role
of attention in L2 grammatical
development*

Abstract: From both theoretical and applied perspectives on second language (L2) learning, a learner's attention to L2 linguistic forms has been regarded as crucial for L2 development insofar as attention is thought to lead to deeper processing of form-meaning connections. This premise has in turn given rise to various L2 instructional interventions. The current eye-tracking study examined how 2 different tasks that were designed to manipulate learner attention promoted L2 grammatical development. Participants (N = 55) were exposed to Spanish direct-object pronouns, under external or internal attentional manipulations, which were

implemented through textual input enhancement or structured input practice, respectively. Results for both manipulations indicated that: (a) learners' attentional allocation toward the target form was affected; (b) L2 gains were evidenced, although only the internal manipulation led to above-chance performance; and (c) L2 gains were related to attention allocated to the form under the external manipulation and to a lesser extent the internal manipulation. Overall, findings may inform theoretical perspectives on attention and elucidate cognitive processes related to L2 instruction.