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Grammatical theory and L2 grammar instruction

Finding direct links between linguistic theories and the practice of grammar teaching in the foreign language classroom is not an easy task. The theory – practice relationships are not always straightforward (sometimes, in fact, they seem to be nonexistent) for a variety of reasons.

In the talk, a framework for the analysis of the nature of grammatical theory – grammar teaching relationships will be presented and the main reasons for the lack of clear and obvious links between the two domains will be explained. The aim of the talk, however, is to trace aspects of particular theories which have led methodologists and teachers to formulate some guidelines for L2 grammar instruction. Therefore, the position of grammar within five selected linguistic theories, the kind of SLA research these theories have motivated and some teaching implications that can be drawn from the theory and research will be explored.