Communicative anxiety in second and third language acquisition

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This paper reports a study on the communicative anxiety of two groups of adult users. We consider communicative anxiety from the holistic perspective "Focus on Multilingualism” taking into account the whole linguistic repertoire of the participants (Cenoz & Gorter, 2011).

The paper aims at I) exploring the communicative anxiety of multilingual speakers. II) Analyzing the communicative anxiety towards second and third languages.

This study includes 532 participants who were divided in two groups according their mother tongue. Some participants (N=346) had Spanish as their L1 and some others Basque (N=186). Quantitative and qualitative instruments were used to collect the data. Participants completed a background questionnaire and a questionnaire of communicative anxiety. In addition, focus group discussions and interviews were also used so as to obtain more information about participants’ perceptions.

The results indicate that there are significant differences between the two groups of participants (Spanish L1 and Basque L1 speakers) in communicative anxiety towards their second and third language. The results are discussed as related to previous studies on communicative anxiety in multiple languages.

References:

Keywords: language anxiety, second and third language acquisition, multilingual speaker.