Specific learning difficulties (SpLDs) such as dyslexia not only have an effect on the acquisition of oral and literacy skills in the first language, but also influence the processes of second language learning. In this talk I will first give an overview of how the cognitive correlates of SpLDs, such as reduced working and phonological short-term memory capacity, difficulties with attention control and implicit learning can affect the processes of second language acquisition. Particular consideration will be given to how learners with SpLDs attend to, process and integrate new language input, as well as produce and learn from output. The presentation will offer a new perspective on the role of cognitive differences in the processes of second language acquisition based on previous research I have conducted in the area of language learning aptitude, working memory and SpLDs in L2 learning.

Keywords: