

Types of Motivation

Contents

- ❖ Definitions of motivation
- ❖ Why do people learn a second language?
- ❖ Good L2 learners
- ❖ Theories of motivation
- ❖ Factors that affect motivation
- ❖ Implications and strategies for teachers



“I don't know what motivation is
but it definitely keeps me going.”



MISSING:

MOTIVATION

REWARD IF FOUND

<http://www.shackled.org/linked/2003.October/missing.motivation.jpg>



Motivation is a desire to achieve a goal, combined with the energy to work towards that goal. Students who are motivated have a desire to undertake their study and complete the requirements of their course.



motivation is a set of energetic forces that originate both within as well as beyond an individual's being, to initiate behavior, and to determine its form, direction, intensity, and duration."



Why do people learn foreign language?



Here are a few suggestions:

- Fulfill school/university requirements
- Function and compete effectively in the global economy of today and the future
- Increase job opportunities and salary potential
- Develop intercultural sensitivity, increasing global understanding
- Improve English vocabulary and language proficiency in order to communicate with members of that language community.
- Improve one's education
- Enhance travel and study abroad opportunities
- Enjoy great literary and musical masterpieces and films in their original language
- Improve likelihood of acceptance into university and graduate schools
- Gain social power (prestige)
- Please one's parents

After all, we, as teachers, need to find the student's motives so that we can accommodate them.



Good L2 learners

Research has shown that the use of specific learning strategies & techniques while studying a second or foreign language leads to success. "The conscious, tailored use of such strategies is related to language achievement and proficiency. (Oxford, 1994)

Rubin (1975) suggested that good L2 learners

- **are willing and accurate guessers;**
- **have a strong drive to communicate;**
- **are often uninhibited, and if they are, they combat inhibition by using positive self-talk, by extensive use of practicing in private, and by putting themselves in situations where they have to participate communicatively.**
- **are willing to make mistakes;**
- **focus on form by looking for patterns and analyzing;**
- **take advantage of all practice opportunities;**
- **monitor their speech as well as that of others;**
- **and pay attention to meaning.**



Theories of Motivation

Gardner and Lambert proposed integrative motivation and instrumental motivation from a social psychological point of view. (Gardner and Lambert 1959, 1972)

1. Integrative motivation: aim of learning is to learn about the language group, or to meet more and different people from the target language community, to the point of eventually being accepted as a member of that group.
2. Instrumental motivation: reasons of L2 learning reflect the more utilitarian value of linguistic achievement, such as benefiting in an occupation.

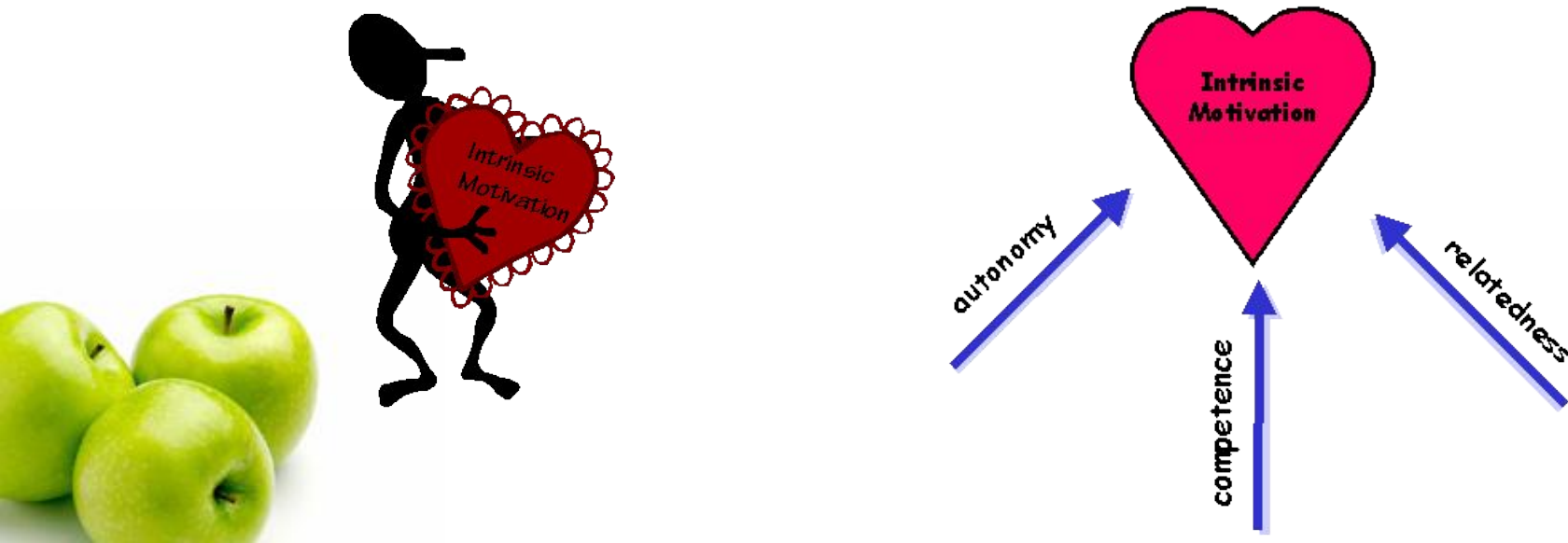


Self-determination Theory



Self-determination theory was addressed by Deci (1975), Deci & Ryan (1985) and became an influential idea.

Intrinsic motivation: the performance of a task for its own sake. It values rewards gained through the process of task completion, regardless of any external rewards.



- Extrinsic motivation: an inner drive, impulse, emotion, or desire that is derived from other people, or the real world. e.g. learn L2 for money, prizes, grades, certain types of positive feedback

Also, it should be noted that, the self-determination theory evolved to the popular concept of "learner autonomy". Its relation with motivation is gathering attention. (Benson, 2000; Ushioda, 1996, 1998, 2007; Ehrman and Dörnyei, 1998)



Teacher Educ. 130
Instructional Methods
Mr. Hill

MOTIVATION

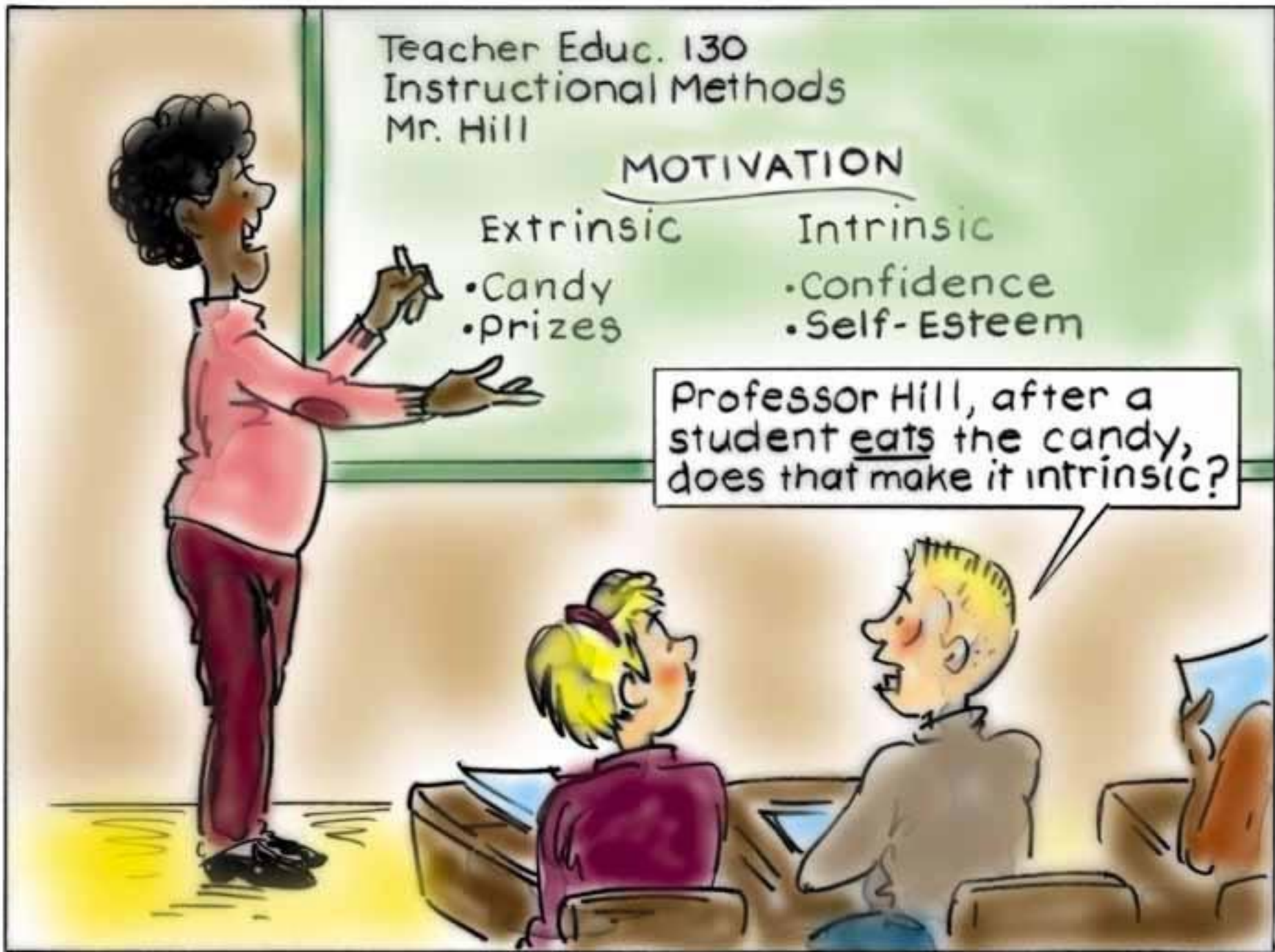
Extrinsic

- Candy
- prizes

Intrinsic

- Confidence
- Self-Esteem

Professor Hill, after a student eats the candy, does that make it intrinsic?



Factors that affect motivation

"Motivation to learn is a competence acquired through general experience but stimulated most directly through modeling, communication of expectations, and direct instruction or socialization by significant others (especially parents and teachers)." (Brophy, 1987)

**"To a very large degree, students expect to learn if their teachers expect them to learn."
(Stipek, 1988)**

Several factors affect students' motivation to learn a second language.

.



Internal Factors

- Age
- Gender
- Religion
- Goals
- Interest/curiosity
- Attitude
- Expectancy
- Competence
- Native language proficiency



External Factors

Teachers

- Encouragement
- Expectations
- Feedback
- Scaffolding
- Task presentation
- Teaching strategies & techniques
- Rewards



Course content & Classroom atmosphere

- Relevance
- Attractiveness
- Challenge
- Relaxed, positive atmosphere (low affective filter)



- **Social Identity
(Peer groups)**

Teenagers tend to be heavily influenced by their peer groups. In second language learning, peer pressure often undermines the goals set by parents and teachers. Peer pressure often reduces the desire of the student to work toward native pronunciation, because the sounds of the target language may be regarded as strange. For learners of English as a second language, speaking like a native speaker may unconsciously be regarded as a sign of no longer belonging to their native-language peer group. In working with secondary school students, it is important to keep these peer influences in mind and to foster a positive image for proficiency in a second language.



- **Home support**

Support from home is very important for students' motivation to learn a second language. If parents value both the native language and English, communicate with their children in whichever language is most comfortable, and show support for and interest in their children's progress, the children will definitely be more motivated to learn the second language.

Learning environment

In order for the students to be motivated, the learning environment needs to be free from anxiety; the student should not feel threatened or intimidated. In order for him/her to speak, s/he needs to feel s/he will be heard and that what s/he is saying is worth hearing.



Implications and Strategies for Teachers

Some teaching strategies that can be used to foster motivation and provide better transfer opportunities of language skills include the following: (Ngeow, Karen Yeok-Hwa, 1998)

*** Encourage learners to take ownership in learning.**

Have learners take ownership of the learning assignment by letting them identify and decide for themselves relevant learning goals. This will motivate them to apply what they have learned to attain these learning goals.

*** Promote intentional cognition or mindfulness to learning in various contexts.**

Learners must be able to practice language in multiple contexts in order to bridge domains and foster active abstraction of concepts learned (Bransford, et al. 1990). This will help learners recognize the relevance and transferability of different learning skills or knowledge.

*** Increase authenticity of learning tasks and goals.**

Learners should recognize a real need to accomplish learning goals that are relevant and holistic (rather than task-specific). This prepares them for the complexities of real-world tasks that require them to use language skills and knowledge that have to be continually transferred.

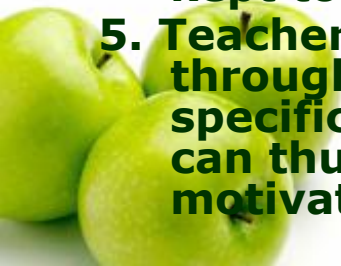


"The best way to create interest in a subject is to render it worth knowing, which means to make the knowledge gained usable in one's thinking beyond the situation in which learning has occurred." Bruner (1960, p.31)



Oxford & Shearin (1996:139) also offer Practical Suggestions for Teachers:

- 1. Teachers can identify why students are studying the new language. Teachers can find out actual motivations (motivation survey). Information on motivation can be passed on to the next class in a portfolio.
Teachers can determine which parts of L2 learning are especially valuable for the students.**
- 2. Teachers can help shape students' beliefs about success and failure in L2 learning.
Students can learn to have realistic but challenging goals.
Teachers can learn to accept diversity in the way students establish and meet their goals, based on differences in learning styles.**
- 3. Teachers can help students improve motivation by showing that L2 learning can be an exciting mental challenge, a career enhancer, a vehicle to cultural awareness and friendship and a key to world peace.**
- 4. Teachers can make the L2 classroom a welcoming, positive place where psychological needs are met and where language anxiety is kept to a minimum.**
- 5. Teachers can urge students to develop their own intrinsic rewards through positive self-talk, guided self-evaluation, and mastery of specific goals, rather than comparison with other students. Teachers can thus promote a sense of greater self-efficacy, increasing motivation to continue learning the L2.**



Creating the basic motivational conditions

- Appropriate teacher behaviours
- A pleasant and supportive atmosphere in the classroom
- A cohesive learner group with appropriate group norms

Generating initial motivation

- Enhancing the learners' L2-related values and attitudes
- Increasing the learners' expectancy of success
- Increasing the learners' goal-orientedness
- Making the teaching materials relevant for the learners
- Creating realistic learner beliefs

Motivational teaching practice

Maintaining and protecting motivation

- Making learning stimulating and enjoyable
- Presenting tasks in a motivating way
- Setting specific learner goals
- Protecting the learners' self-esteem and increasing their self-confidence
- Allowing learners to maintain a positive social image
- Creating learner autonomy
- Promoting self-motivating strategies
- Promoting cooperation among the learners

Encouraging positive retrospective self-evaluation

- Promoting motivational attributions
- Providing motivational feedback
- Increasing learner satisfaction
- Offering rewards and grades in a motivating manner

Motivated students (and children) are, to teachers (and parents) precious commodities to be cherished. A motivated student (child) is more likely to learn.



Success comes in 'cans'



Not 'can't's'





MOTIVATION

IF A PRETTY POSTER AND A CUTE SAYING ARE ALL IT TAKES TO MOTIVATE YOU, YOU PROBABLY HAVE A VERY EASY JOB. THE KIND ROBOTS WILL BE DOING SOON.

