

ASSESSING ESL INTELLIGENCES PREFERENCES OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS LEARNING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE IN THE UNITED STATE OF AMERICA

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Since the mid-eighties, there has been a tremendous concern about the utilization of Howard Gardner's theory of Multiple Intelligences (MI) in the processes of teaching and learning in general. Gardner suggested that individuals possess the following intelligences with varied degree of strength: linguistic, mathematical/logical, interpersonal, intra-personal, musical, bodily-kinesthetic, naturalist, and spatial. Each of these intelligences will be presented and explained in this presentation.

In order to implement the theory in developing teaching activities based on the MI theory, there is a need for knowing learners' strengths and weaknesses in each of the eight intelligences suggested by Gardner. As an attempt to do so, this study reports the intelligences preferences of 60 international students of whom many were Asians studying English as a second language at three higher study institutions. The results showed that these learners' strongest intelligence preferences were: interpersonal intelligence, logical/mathematical intelligence, and musical intelligence. Based on these results, numerous suggestions for instruction will be presented.