**Language Strategy Use Inventory**

**(Abridged)**

**Listening Strategy Use**

Strategies to increase my exposure to the target language:

1. Listen to talk shows on the radio, watch TV shows, or see movies in the target language.
2. Listen in on people who are having conversations in the target language to try to catch the gist of what they are saying.

Strategies to become more familiar with the sounds in the target language:

1. Imitate the way native speakers talk.
2. Ask a native speaker about unfamiliar sounds that I hear.

Strategies to prepare to listen to conversation in the target language:

1. Try to predict what the other person is going to say based on what has been said so far.
2. Prepare for talks and performances I will hear in the target language by reading some background materials beforehand.

Strategies to listen to conversation in the target language:

1. Listen for key words that seem to carry the bulk of the meaning.
2. Listen for word and sentence stress to see what native speakers emphasize when they speak.
3. Practice “skim listening” by paying attention to some parts and ignoring others.
4. Try to understand what I hear without translating it word for word.
5. Focus on the context of what people are saying.
6. Listen for specific details to see whether I can understand them.

Strategies for when I do not understand some or most of what someone says in the target language:

1. Ask speakers to repeat what they said if it wasn’t clear to me.
2. Ask speakers to slow down if they are speaking too fast.
3. Ask for clarification if I don’t understand it the first time around.
4. Use the speakers’ tone of voice as a clue to the meaning of what they are saying.
5. Make educated guesses about the topic based on what has already been said.
6. Draw on my general background knowledge to get the main idea.
7. Watch speakers’ gestures and general body language to help me figure out the meaning of what they are saying.

**Vocabulary Strategy Use**

Strategies to make use of new vocabulary:

1. Try using new words in a variety of ways.
2. Practice using familiar words in different ways.
3. Make an effort to use idiomatic expressions in the new language.

**Speaking Strategy Use**

Strategies to practice speaking:

1. Practice saying new expressions to myself.
2. Practice new grammatical structures in different situations to build my confidence level in using them.
3. Think about how a native speaker might say something and practice saying it that way.

Strategies to engage in conversation:

1. Ask questions as a way to be involved in the conversation.
2. Anticipate what will be said based on what has been said so far.
3. Try topics even when they aren’t familiar to me.
4. Encourage others to correct errors in my speaking.
5. Try to figure out and model native speakers’ language patterns when requesting, apologizing, or complaining.

Strategies for when I can’t think of a word or expression:

1. Ask for help from my conversation partner.
2. Look for a different way to express the idea, like using a synonym.
3. Use gestures as a way to try to get my meaning across.

Cohen, A., Oxford, R., and Chi, J. (2003). Language Strategy Use Inventory. In *Maximizing Study Abroad: A Program Professionals’ Guide to Strategies for Language and Culture Learning and Use.* R. Michael Paige, et al (Eds.). University of Minnesota Press. Page H-9-15.