What can be learned from polyglot people and how to apply this knowledge to one's own learning?

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Presentation's Goal and Talking Points:

❖ **Goal:** Give our students a jumpstart by showing them tips from polyglots

❖ Main lesson from the article "24 Polyglot Experts Reveal 2 Most Useful Tips To Learn A New Language" that was published in Middleburry Interactive Language Blog (https://www.middleburyinteractive.com/blog/language-learning)

❖ Introducing the "SWOT" analysis to solve situations that may affect learning

❖ Show the process students will follow to create a study plan well-suited for their needs

Most Frequent tips

	24 multilingual experts' tips
11	Early on, start to use what you have in your new language and practice it.
5	Use it all the time. Use active listening: radio TV, movies. Train your ear.
5	Be consistent. Do not get frustrated. Abandon all fears and internal doubts. Establish a schedule that suits you.
4	Learn phrases that you frequently use and like!
3	Set goals and track your progress.
3	Define "why". Why do you want to learn? How do you want to use the language? How will it improve your life? It is your decision to learn. Own it. Look for your motivation.
3	Do not try to know everything. Trust the process and have fun.

https://www.middleburyinteractive.com/blog/language-learning

How to connect these tips with our students?

- What these polyglots have in common besides that they speak multiple languages, is their awareness about how they learn

- Our students need to develop that awareness and design their customized study plan

SWOT analysis

A metacognitive tool used by the business community for—

✓ understanding one's **S**trengths and **W**eaknesses, and

✓ identifying both the **O**pportunities and the **T**hreats one encounters

This knowledge leads to problem solutions

In education it is being used to let students own their learning process and take responsibility of it.

SWOT EXAMPLES

- A student in a group setting (4-6 students). He is very disciplined but anxious. In the group is his former boss and he is insecure.

- Strength: discipline

- Weakness: anxiety

- Opportunities: handling the pressure of using the language

- Threat: Hierarchy – former boss presence

SWOT analysis

Students are encouraged to regularly use the SWOT Analysis to *critically* reflect on their learning—

- ✓ Realistically identify strengths and weaknesses
- ✓ Pinpoint opportunities and threats
- ✓ Do strategic planning for continuous language development
- ✓ Come up with their **SMART** goals

S: specific

M: manageable (not necessarily always "measurable")

A: achievable

R: relevant

T: time-based

Take control of the learning process!!

Definition of the Goal (Student Perspective)

What is the goal?	• Achieve the required level ILR (2/2 – 3/3)
Why must this goal be attained?	• Work requirement. Personal motivation
What or who can help?	• FSI Team: Subject matter expert, Learning Consultant, classmates, personal experience
How to adapt previous experience to current goal?	• Learning self – awareness. Metacognitive strategies

Background Information. Exercise done by the student

- How do I discover "how I learn" ?

- What did work in the past? Why did it work? What was the final result?

- What are the sources I would have to use to achieve my goals?

  - Interviews? What advice could work for me and why?

  - Personal experience?

  - Internet/Books?

  - Other ways?

Study Plan

Component#1 Affective area	Component#2 Cognitive	Component #3 Metacognitive

▪ Motivation: Use SMART goals achievement to keep/improve it. (6)
 	
▪ Dealing with frustration: Achievements are not only motivating but also reflecting on them diminish frustration and anxiety. (#3)
 	
▪ Anxiety management: Breath, exercise (9, 12)
	▪ Establish a pattern of activities.
	
	  ▪ **Meaning – focused Input:** Listening – Videos, podcast, own recordings, Reading - Extensive
	
	  ▪ **Meaning – focused Output:** Speaking – use the reading to promote speaking, writing
	
	  ▪ **Language – focused learning**: Index cards, grammar games
	
	  ▪ **Fluency Developing:** shadowing exercises, repetition of their own work
		▪ One's learning awareness
		
		  ▪ SWOT
		  ▪ Needs Assessment

▪ Number of item in table " 24 Polyglot Experts Reveal 2 Most Useful Tips To Learn A New Language"

Testing The Study Plan

➡ What worked? What did not work? Why?

➡ What materials need to be changed and/or kept? Why?

➡ Did your LC and/or Instructor give you feedback? Why or why not?

Redesigning The Study Plan

➡ Use the data from feedbacks to readjust as needed with...

  ➡ Different materials

  ➡ Different ideas

  ➡ Realigning the components

  ➡ Check the SWOT

Final word

➤ Reflect on how you feel about the process from start to finish in this journey and enjoy it

Q & A