

The Input Hypothesis

- Speaker: Dui Yanxia



Wonderful facts about language acquisition

- Without effort Hard work is not necessary at all
- Involuntary consciousness
- No force, no motivation is needed.



Compelling comprehensible input

- Language acquisition—more than joyful
- Krashen, s. 2015. The end of motivation.
- www.disal.com.br/newr/
- very encouraging and intriguing in China



Krashen's $i + 1$

The concept of i

The ideal level of $i + 1$

$i + 1$ = easy, little, no pressure

e.g. two grammatical items for $i + 1$
semester.



Krashen's $i + 1$

- Oral fluency
- New words and new grammatical patterns are acquired through context rather than purposeful instruction.
- Compelling, easy, effortless
- The situation of baby's talk with parents.



Evidence of the Hypothesis

- Talk between parents and children
- Excellent instructors tune their speech to their students
- Asher's TPR



The most appealing part of Krashen's theory

- The superiority of Krashen's theory in second language learning and acquisition to audiolingual, translation and other methods which are much more popularly utilized in China.



Studies on reading and literacy

- 1. one hour=6 points on TOEIC !Mason, B.,&Krashen, s. 2017. self-selected reading and Toeic performance: Evidence from case histories.
<https://tinyuri.com/yc9tc8ha>
- 2. UK study: fiction best predictor of vocabulary knowledge
- 3. self-selected reading &academic vocabulary

Studies on reading and habits of mind

- Empathy: Reading literary fiction improves theory of mind.
- Being more tolerant.
- Opening the closed mind: the effect of exposure to literature on the need for closure.



Starting from guided self-selected reading

- Guided self selected reading (Beniko Mason): compelling and easy stories
- Mason 2019



Frequently ignored part of second language acquisition

- Really interesting and comprehensible stories for starters to read: not used in many languages, seldom encouraged or even mentioned
- Self-selected reading material
- Stress-free reading and then simple authentic reading
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Amount of reading

- students have access to reading in various ways
- Kindles, Wechat, books etc.
- As long as there are good stories, there are good readers.



A hypothesis on accent in a second language

- Contrary to Lenneberg who made his name because of “critical period hypothesis”, Krashen believes that adults can even acquire native-like pronunciation at a fast speed and excellently if they could feel comfortable.
- Lateralization does not exist.



The output filter—an obstacle

- Attitudinal variables:
- 1. When I speak to students, I speak very fluently.
- 2. When I answer questions in class with Jessica, I might speak very broken English .
- 3. A French professor majoring in Chinese made a speech in China using English



The output filter—an obstacle

- Many L2 learners have good accent, but not always perfect
- Age is not a problem, but the feelings like shame, embarrassment, without confidence etc keep adults from being good foreign language speakers.



Possible Research

- Studies on currently published English storybooks in China
- Comment on their validity to English learning by using i+1 from the perspective of reading and listening
- Compiling compelling story books for children at primary schools in China.

