

&y exposure to input4 input needs processing for intake, and intake is a stage &et\$een input and acquisition"

The lack of precision in discussions of intake and its role in language acquisition seems to &e the result of researchers using the term in an overly general \$ay' J ne \$ay to introduce more clarity is to posit t\$o types of intake de(ned as and intake (, haudron, -. 12, -. 13!" Ereliminary and (nal intake have distinct roles &ut are also related to each other4 each is a

language acquisition, learners need to process this preliminary intake so that it becomes (nal intake, which includes the creation of rules that learners form from those linguistic features" This kind of intake can be used for hypothesis testing or rule strengthening" It is worth noting that although intake is a major component in S A, there has been an imbalance in the amount of attention researchers have paid to the two types of intake" For example, Hudson (1988) focused mainly on the notion of (nal intake"

Intake Formation from Input

Despite a great deal of engagement with the concept of (nal intake, there is only limited literature that helps explain the process of how input actually becomes intake" Most researchers dealing with the input%intake relation seem to place a greater emphasis on what intake means and what roles intake plays in S A (e.g., order, 1984; Sato & Lado, 1961)" As a result, they omitted any detailed or explicit clarification of how intake is created from input" They also did not investigate whether there are particularly influential elements involved in the creation of intake" Hence, there is a need for an in-depth review of this input%intake relation along with the relations that obtain between the elements involved" In attempting to fill such a gap, Sun (1977) work has also proved to be valuable, as she introduces a significant number of theories and frameworks related to input processing in S A" Among these theories, the framework of second language acquisition (Gass, 1988) and the noticing hypothesis (Schmidt, 1975, 1983, 1987) have been particularly important for our understanding of the input%intake relation" The significance of Gass's (1988) contribution rests on the fact that it offers a detailed description of the process of S A from the starting point of input to the end point of output" In so doing, Gass provides both a more holistic and more precise view of input%intake%output processes and relations" Her framework has been supported by other researchers (e.g., Ellis, 1984; Krash, 1977; Sun, 1977; Truscott & Sharwood-Smith, 1985)" She also notes the importance of Gass's (1988) coverage of the varied aspects of S A" This support and the significance of Gass's work in developing my own views are my main reasons for choosing her framework to underpin this paper" Consequently, I will employ Gass's (1988) framework as a framing model to investigate the input%intake process and its key relationship in the total S A process"

Gass's (1988) framework identified (nal intake, (nal processing, and (nal output as the key steps in this part of the overall process" According to Gass's claims (1988), after being exposed to input, learners must recognize new features that they have not yet recognized or acquired" Gass (1988) categorized this stage as (nal processing" However, literature discussing the concept of (nal processing in language acquisition is limited" In fact, many researchers (e.g., Hapelle, 1984; Ellis, 1984; Krash et al., 1977) tended to immediately equate apperception with the concept of (nal processing presented in Schmidt's noticing hypothesis (1975, 1982, 1983, 1987, 1988)" Even Gass (1988) and Schmidt (1975, 1987) often treated these two concepts as one" This raises the question of how noticing is related to apperception" To more fully understand the concept of (nal processing in the framework of S A (Gass, 1988), there is a need to explore the noticing hypothesis" Schmidt (1975, 1987) explained that (nal processing occurs at a very low level of awareness, and he went on to state that the notion of noticing refers only to elements of the surface structure of utterances in the input%

instances of language, rather than any abstract rules or principles of which such instances may be exemplars (Schmidt, 1977, p. 3). Schmidt (1977, 1978) then saw noticing as equivalent to apperception. I will in turn adopt this view of apperception and noticing throughout this paper. Although noticing occurs at a very low level of awareness and involves learners' recognition of the language features of input, noticing is very important in the SLA process.

For Schmidt (1977, 1978, 1983), the role of noticing is so important that potential language learners will not learn if they are not able to notice features of the target languages in the input. This view is supported by other studies that share similar views on the importance of noticing in language development (Cockey, 1977/4; Soleimani Lalla, 1976). We can conclude from these studies that input contains a large number of features all of which cannot be stored together. It is by noticing that learners focus on certain features of input, and noticing allows for further processing. However, it is important to note that despite the acceptance of these theories,

to obtain intake, learners first need to be exposed to input, which is the very first condition for acquisition. Numerous researchers agree that learners need to be provided with sufficient input for language acquisition to occur (Gass, 2004; Brashers-Krug & VanEaton, 1976). Notably, Krashen (1981), as cited in Saleemi (2011), stated that there is no learner on record who learned a language or even part of it without receiving some language input (p. 276). To show the significance of input, Krashen (1981) provided the example of question formation with the inversion of auxiliary verb and subject. Learners without exposure to input of this inversion will not be able to invert the subject and auxiliary verb in questions. Hence, there is no doubt about the importance of input in language acquisition, particularly for the formation of intake. However, despite this crucial role, there are still conditions that input needs to meet for successful intake and further related processes. In this section, we focus on what conditions input must meet for successful intake and further language acquisition. This is vital in educational settings because

to ask is how to make input more revealing to learners for initially noticing and later forming intake" ; ai and Tseng (67--! and Schmidt (- . . 7! claimed that teachers+ can help direct learners+ attention to key points in the input & utilizing task demands" Geatures of a task can encourage learners to notice input in order to complete the task (eeser, 67714 ' ackey, 677/4 Soliemani L <alla(, 67-64 Thorn&ury, - . . 0!" eeser (677K&! noted that aural or visual input disparately

and past tense" This is meant to help learners compare the differences of the allomorphs and to make the >pd> more revealing to learners" The simple text &elo\$ is taken from an exercise * have used in my teaching (Appendix!=-

The purposes of delivering the text \$ere to revie\$ the grammatical kno\$ledge of simple past tense and to indicate pronunciation of past tense suf(x " The (rst and third instances of >\$Qnt>, should &e changed into >\$QntPd>, \$hile the second remains unchanged" Gor the case of the ver& >nild>, it (rst occurs in the simple present tense and is pronounced as >nild>" The second occurrence requires % , leading to >\$niPd> for its past form" Keeping in mind that feed&ack can facilitate learners+ noticing of target features (' ackey, 677/!, students are asked to read their ans\$ers aloud and then receive feed&ack in cases \$here they mispronounce the >pd> sound" *t is helpful to provide more ver&s in this category so that the >pd> sound appears more frequently' To ensure that the provided input is accurate (the teachers+ pronunciation of the suf(x is correct!, a supplemental recording of a native speaker \$ho reads the task clearly is included so that learners are exposed to input \$ith a higher level of accuracy (<el L ' uller, 67-7!" An additional advantage of the recording is that the speaker places stress on the >pd> sound, \$hich supports learners+ noticing (eeser, 677K&!" The \$ritten exercise is given &efore the listening task &ecause students may not &e a&le to recogni)e the target >pd> sound through its aural mode (eeser, 677K&!" The teaching example is therefore consistent \$ith \$hat researchers have mentioned to &e factors that can either facilitate or hinder learners+ noticing of features of input (eeser, 677Ka, 677K&, 67714 ' ackey, 677/4 Schmidt, - . . 7, - . . 3, 67-7!" ' ore follo\$%up exercises are provided \$hich are crafted to support learners+ noticing and understanding of the >pd> feature (Appendix!"

Conclusion

*n sum, intake is the part of the process of language acquisition that is processed from input, &ut intake may function as immediate recognition and comprehension (preliminary intake! or can &e further processed for acquisition, \$hich requires the formation of rules for hypothesis testing or strengthening ((nal intake!" This vie\$ of intake presented &y , haudron (-. 13! is useful for understanding the relationship &et\$een intake and S A" Therefore, this paper adopts , haudron;s (-. 13! vie\$ of intake \$hen investigating input%intake processing" Although preliminary intake and (nal intake are descri&ed as sequences in acquisition, it is dif(cult to test ho\$ those types are formed &y learners+ input processing" Also, the relation &et\$een intake and S A is extremely complex" *n input%intake processing, there are factors that can either enhance or hinder intake formation from input, namely learner%internal and learner%external factors" *n

educational settings, educators taking on the role of input providers need to keep these elements in mind so that they can provide learners with support for input intake processes and language acquisition"

Notes

The text is retrieved from the author's handout for his 5vie\$ session of Simple East tense in a General @nglish course"

References

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Exercise 1. Provide the simple past tense of the following verbs.

- 1" go!Z Z Z Z Z Z Z to <ha Trang on holiday"
- 2" There (&!Z Z Z Z ""many interesting places to visit"
- 3" * (eat!Z Z Z ""Z "a lot of seafood at a famous local restaurant"
- 4" The \$eather (not &!Z Z ""Z Z so hot"
- 5" * (stay!Z Z Z Z Z in a hotel near the &each"
- 6" The trip (&! Z Z Z Z Z so great"
- 7" * (not spend!Z Z Z Z Z Z Z "much money \$hile * (&!Z Z ""Z Z ""there"
- 8" ' y family and * really (enlly!Z Z ""Z Z ""the vacation"

" \$ercise %& Pro' ide t(e correct tenses of t(e follo) ing ' erbs& * (en listen and c(eck +our ans) ers&

" \$ercise , & ! eading Compre(ension

- (o) ere t(e+. - (ere did t(e+ go. - (at (appened.

J ne autumn evening, , harles and : eth \$ent to the theater" They attended a play" The play started at 0=77" , harles and : eth enllyed the theater"

After the play, , harles and : eth \$alked together in the park" They \$alked &eside the lake" The moon \$as &right" They talked a&out their future"

hen , harles and : eth \$ent home, their children \$ere not asleep" They \$aited for , harles and : eth to return" They \$ere excited to hear a&out the theater["

Answer the following questions / use the Simple Past tense
- What did Charles and Eth attend?

6. What time did it start?

2. What did Charles and Eth do after they left the theater?

8. What did they talk about?

3. Who waited for Charles and Eth to return home?

- What did Eth do?

Exercise 10. Please write a short paragraph about your past weekend trip or activities etc. (enrich your story to a partner)

Acknowledgement

I am grateful to my supervisors at An Giang University for their support of my research for my master's thesis, which forms the basis for this paper.

About the author

Dr. Thi A. is currently an instructor of English at An Giang University, Vietnam. She teaches courses in language skills, cultures of English speaking countries, and American literature. Her research interests include EFL teachers' professional development, learners' learning styles, and curriculum design.