Second Language Acquisition &
Language Learning
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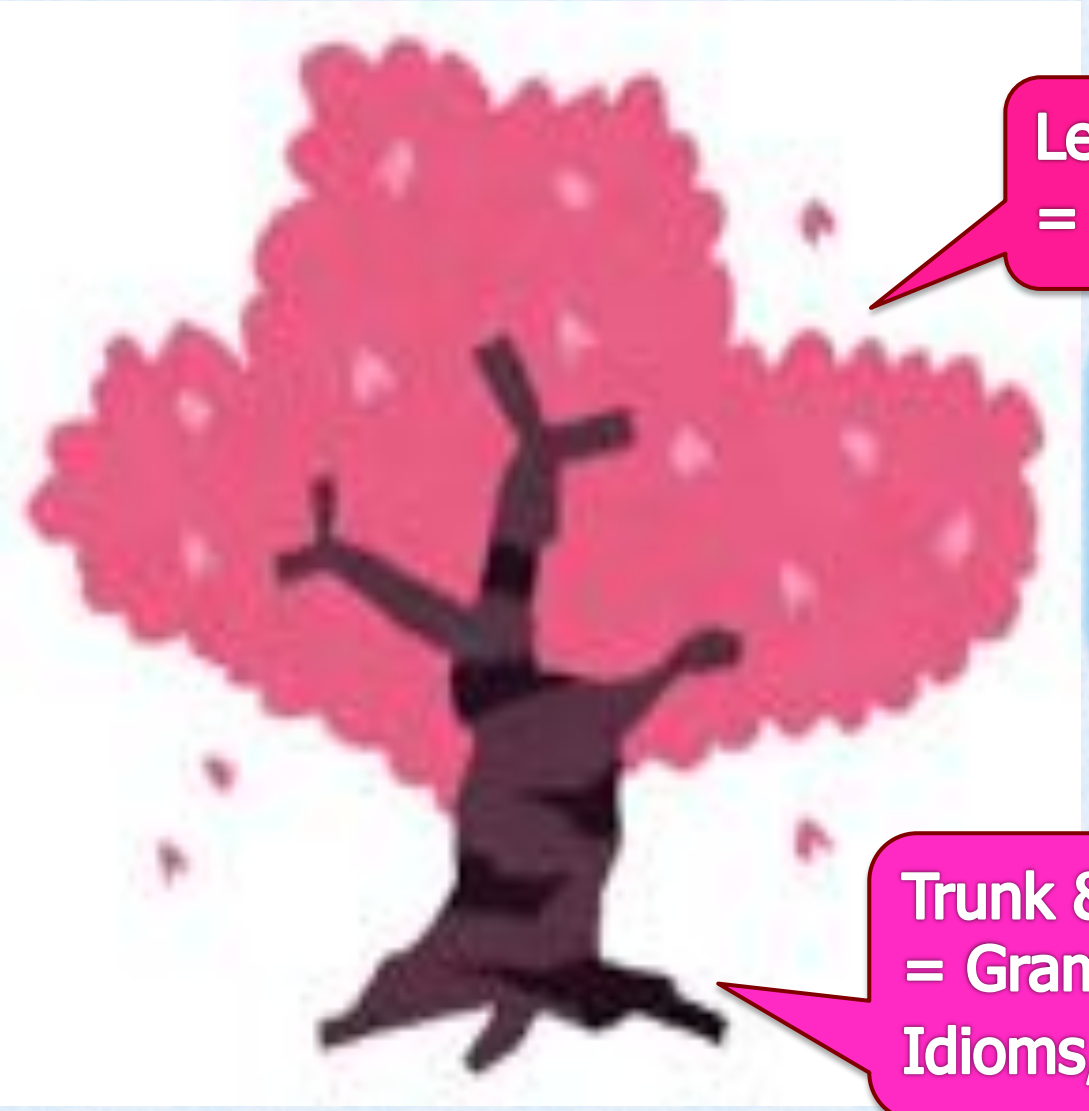
How a foreign language is learned
Traditional view



Leaves & Flowers
= Communication

The stronger the trunk, the more the flowers blossom!!

Is this true?

Trunk & Branches
= Grammar, Vocabulary, Idioms, etc.

How a foreign language is learned

What often happens …

The tree may decay as it gets too tired of waiting.

- Students become too tired of studying, losing motivation to study …

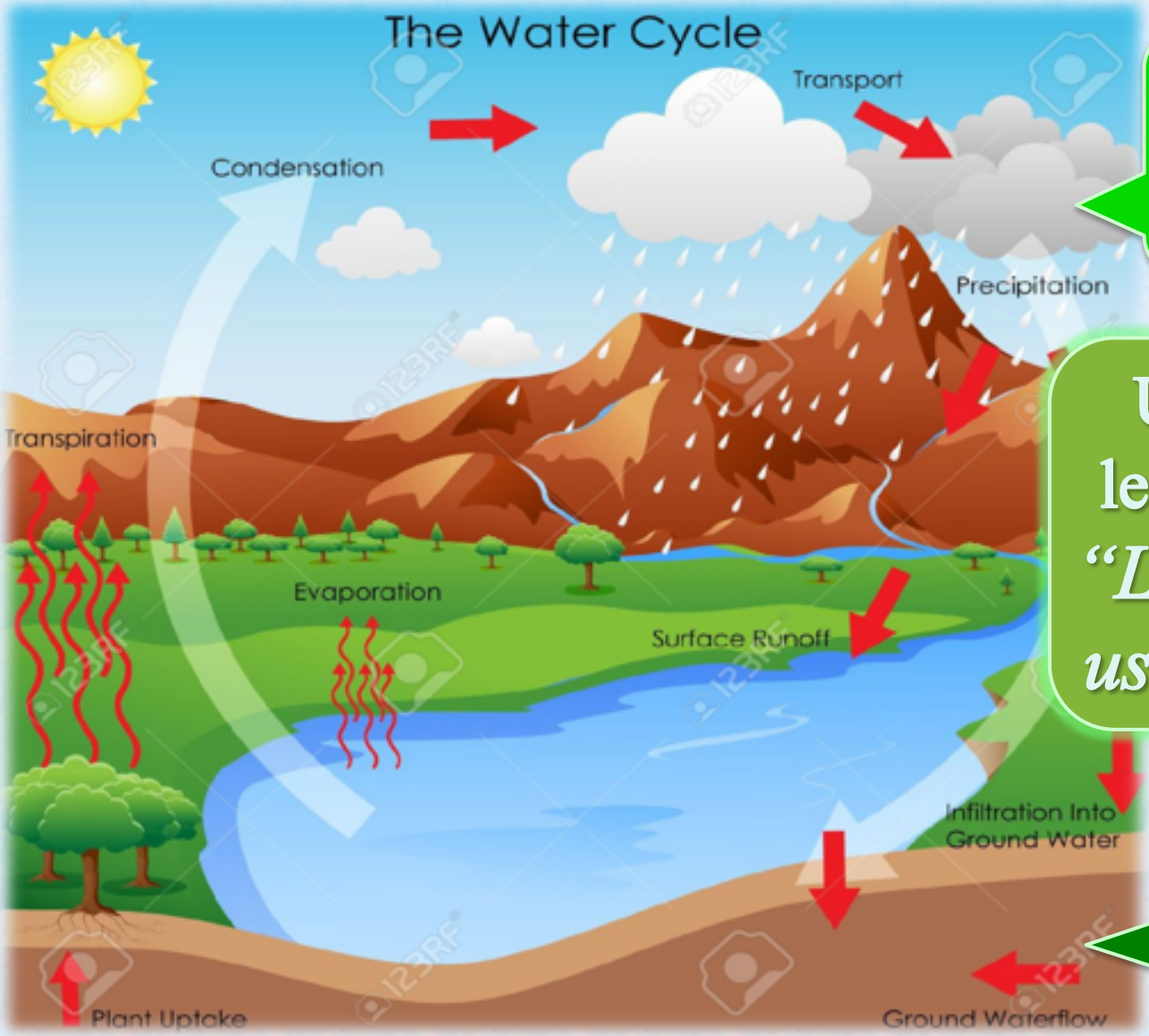
and/or

- Students become too nervous and afraid of using English in real life.

How a foreign language is learned

SLA (Second Language Acquisition)-compatible view

How a foreign language is learned
Dynamic view



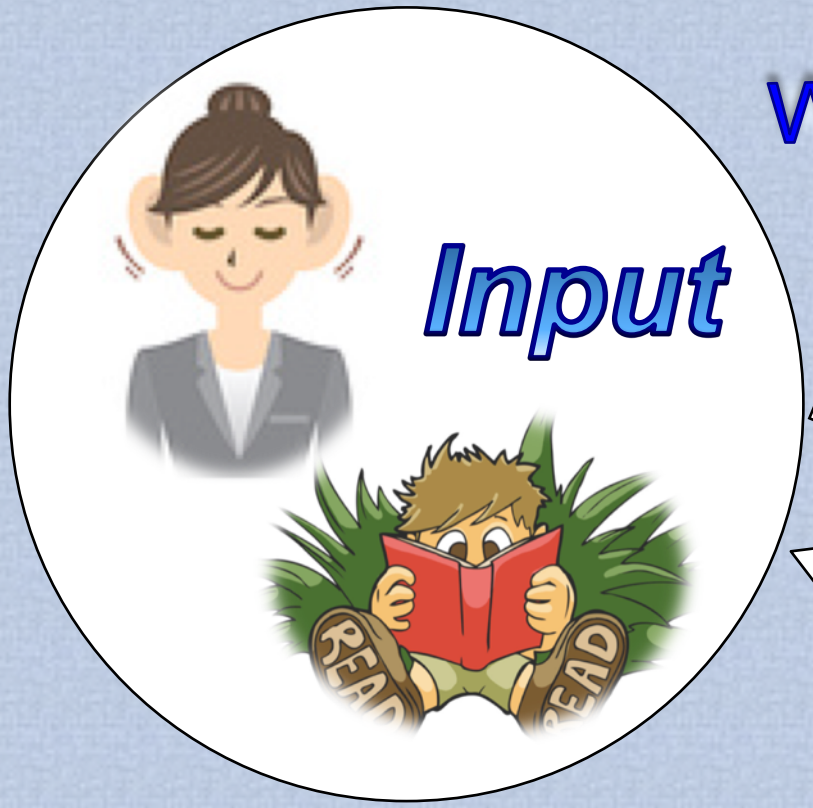
Trees & Plants
= Grammar, Vocabulary, etc.

Upward cycle of learning and using:
"Learn as you use, use as you learn."

Soil & Water
= Communication

What is the relationship between input & output in language learning?

Which should come first?



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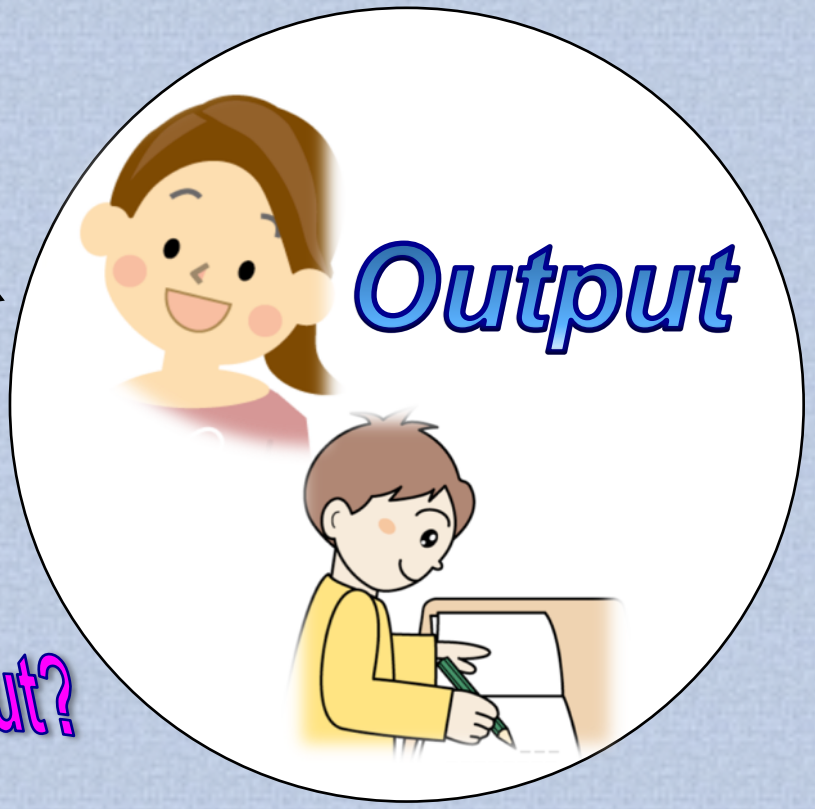


Should there be input before output?

Should there be output before input?

Input = Output?

Let's try a task.

Listen to the following story.

1. First time, just listen carefully.
2. Second time, take notes of key words.
3. Try to retell the story using the key words you just noted.
4. Do you want to listen to the story again?
5. **Try the retelling once again!**

Ready?

NELSON
MANDELA
1918-2013

Now, here is the original story...

Nelson Mandela fought against apartheid, a system in South Africa where non-white people did not have equal rights as white people. Because of this, Mandela had to spend 27 years in prison.

Were you able to produce these sentences correctly?

If he **had not served** so long in prison, he **would not have become** a symbol for his people.

If he **had given** up his hope, the day **would never have come** when all races were allowed to vote in South Africa.

And Mandela **would never have become** president of the country.

Mandela was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

He became a symbol of peace and equality for all humanity.

(Source: http://www.ducksters.com/biography/nelson_mandela.php)

Now looking back ...

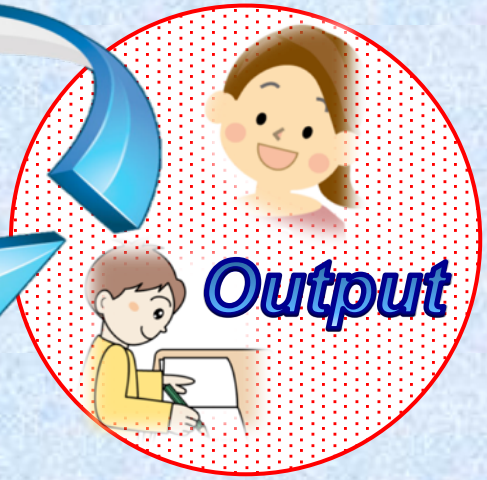
- What did you pay attention to in your first listening?
- What did you pay attention to in your second listening?
- How did your listening change from the first to second listening?
- What is the effect of output production on your listening behavior?

Output Hypothesis

Here is the SLA-based understanding of input-output relationship.

Input and output interact dynamically,
reinforcing each other
for effective language learning.

Input



No input, no output!!

**But without output,
only rough input processing**

Input × Output
Input > Output