Task on Communicative Competence: Real Input for Real Communication

Columbia University, February 2011

Guadalupe Ruiz Fajardo
gr2250@columbia.edu

---

Teaching a language skill

Input

Explicit instruction

Task design

Assessment
Interaction
---
Input
---
Explicit instruction
---
Task design
---
Assessment

The input quality

What we usually provide

Gente en acción
(video component of the Gente text book)
The input quality

What we can provide

Or any reality TV program, the key is to show real people in real communicative situations.

Input for communicative situations:
formal situations

Introducing people:

Españoles en el Mundo, Guinea Ecuatorial
32:22-32:34
Input for communicative situations:
formal situations

Showing your home:

rtve.es
Españoles en el Mundo, Guinea Ecuatorial
22:37-23:48

Input for communicative situations:
Counter (service) encounters

Shopping:

Cuatro.es
Comando actualidad
¿Los ricos también lloran?
23:20-26:59
Input for communicative situations:
Counter (service) encounters

Asking for a favor: 0:16-1:48
Cuatro.es
La búsqueda
Una anciana recorre España en busca de su hijo
0:16-1:48

Input for communicative situations:
Daily life situations

Conversational closings (On love):
http://videos.larioja.com/
informaciondecontenido.php?con=2054
Telecinco
Gran Hermano El reencuentro
Input for communicative situations: Daily life situations

Negotiating (House chores):
  Telecinco.es
  Gran hermano 11
  Resumen 32

How to control the input level of difficulty

- Length
- Number of speakers
- Overlapping
- Familiar topic
- Familiar communicative situation
- Adjacency pairs with preferred seconds
The input quality
OVERHEARING
“Pegar al oreja”

“Pegar la oreja” means to overhear, and this is what you will have to do to complete this project from now until the end of the semester. It consists of listening to ten conversation in Spanish (in the streets, in the train, in the supermarket,...), and answering the following questions:

1. Where are you listening to the Conversation?
2. Who is speaking (age, social extraction, sex, relationship – relatives, couple, friends, partners? Do they look like they are locals or tourists?

3. What do you think about their attitude? Is it formal or informal? It friendly or angry? Explain why.
4. What are they talking about?

5. Do you recognize any word?
6. Is there any facial expression or gesture you can snoop? How do they move their body? ¿Do they look at each other?

7. Are they speaking Spanish all the time, or do they switch to English? If so, try to describe how they do it: stuffing single words or switching from one language to the other and back?