# INPUT ENHANCEMENT

# 输入的强化 ——从理论和研究到教学实践

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From Theory and Research to the Glassroom

Wynne Wong / 著

老界图出出版公司

西方语言学与应用语言学视野 应用语言学视野·第二语言习得前沿书系

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北京・广州・上海・西安

#### 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

输入的强化——从理论和研究到教学实践 = Input Enhancement: From Theory and Research to the Classroom: 英文/(美)王(Wynne, W.)著. 一北京:世界图书出版公司北京公司,2007.12 (西方语言学与应用语言学视野. 第二语言习得前沿书系) ISBN 978-7-5062-9149-1

I、输... II. 王... III. 第二语言一语言教学—教学法—英文 I♥:H09

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2007) 第 170307 号

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本英汉双语版由世界图书出版公司北京公司和美国麦格劳-希尔教育(亚洲)出版公司合作出版。未经出版者预先书面许可,不得用任何方式复制或抄袭本书的任何内容。此版本仅限在中华人民共和国境内(不包括中国香港、澳门特别行政区及中国台湾地区)销售。

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责任编辑:梁沁宁

装帧设计: 然则设计公司

出版发行: 世界图书出版公司北京公司 http://www.wpcbj.com.cn

地 址: 北京市朝内大街 137 号 (邮编 100010, 电话 010-64077922)

销 售:各地新华书店及外文书店

印 刷:三河市国英印务有限公司

开 本: 787 × 1092 1/16

印 张: 11.25

字 数:301千

版 次: 2007年12月第1版 2007年12月第1次印刷

号: ISBN 978-7-5062-9149-1/H·982

版权登记: 京权图字 01-2007-7074

定 价: 22.00元

# 西方应用语言学视野

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## 总 序

世界图书出版公司北京公司正在策划引进一系列的国外语言学学术专著,其中包括"西方应用语言学视野"丛书。他们延请了各路造诣很深的专家教授组成一个阵容强大的"智囊团",从遴选书目到撰写导读,都为这套书献计献策。他们想让我为这个系列写几句话,于是我就认真地翻阅了即将付梓的首批专著,印象不错,就写了这个所谓的序。

在此之前,世图北京公司已经引进了国外学术刊物,其中包括 语言学期刊。翻阅这些专著和刊物时,我想到了两点。第一、在信 息时代的今天,信息和知识的可获性,对国民经济和民族素质几平 起着决定性的作用。我国学者到欧美留学时,往往感受很深的一点 就是: 国外大学不仅图书资料几十倍或几百倍于国内大学图书馆的 馆藏,学术刊物的种类之多和旧刊之全也是国内大学不能相比的。 我看,大量引进国外学术专著和学术刊物有利于为我国的学者提供 完备和最新的信息资源、有利于为国内培养出一流的研究者、同 时,也有助于为我国大学图书馆逐渐接近世界一流大学图书馆创造 条件,有利于营建品味高雅的文化氛围。第二、投身学术之路。一 般都是先读教科书,再系统地读专著,然后定期地读学术期刊。专 著和学术期刊是做科研和写论文须臾不可离的。专著使我们了解学 科的发展历程,系统理解学科的理论和方法;期刊使我们及时知晓 学科的前沿, 跟上学科发展的步伐。这套开放性丛书的推出, 实则 为我国语言学研究人士"拿来"国外的最新理论和方法、进一步 开阔视野,拓宽思路、从而能够建立中国广袤土地上自己的语言学 理论。

被经典著作、精品图书和权威期刊所包围,犹如与学术大师亲密接触,除了备受激励,决心奋起直追以外,似乎还可以净化灵魂,提升人生的内涵与境界。中国图书市场上,许多产品过于商业,过于功利,过于垃圾。铺天盖地的粗制滥造的英语试题就是一例。这不利于人才的培养,不利于人文的教化与性情的陶冶,更不

利于可持续性教育。这样的文化风气迟早要改变。

引进国外名著的重要性,我在二十年前就有所察觉,我曾为我们办的研究生班胶印过部分语言学专著。那时还没有版权问题。虽然那只是"小打小闹",但得到书的那二百多位学生都受益匪浅。接着,我又主编了《西方语言学名著选读》,让学生有机会领略语言学大师们的风采,也收到良好的效果。今天,世界图书出版公司北京公司大批引进语言学专著和学术刊物,必将为我国语言学研究做出不可估量的贡献。

初调诸

北京外国语大学语言研究所所长

## 序

继国内几家著名的外语出版社引进语言学原著系列之后,2006年,世界图书出版公司北京公司精心策划了反映国外二语习得研究与教学最新学术动态和成果的丛书系列。这套开放式的二语习得研究前沿书系,旨在精选国外最新出版的研究著作,涵盖第二语言习得的基本理论、二语认知、二语语用、阅读、写作、听说、学习策略、学习者语料库、研究方法等各个领域。作为一位始终研究和关注二语习得的学者和教师,我心中充满喜悦和感激。高兴的是,有像世图北京公司这样的出版界有识之士,高举追求学术真知的旗帜,捧一颗真心弘扬学术,回报社会;感激的是,全国的广大外语师生又可以及时补充到学术营养,将最新的外语教学研究的理论和成果应用到我国的外语教学实践中去。

第二语言习得研究形成于 20 世纪 60 年代末、70 年代初,迄今已有三十多年的历史。从国外的最新动态来看,二语习得研究清晰地表现出认知和社会文化二分的路径。

心理认知过程与机制在二语习得的研究伊始就受到关注,认知科学和神经科学的新进展则使我们更加深入地了解语言。无论是母语还是二语都是人类认知的一部分,语言与认知密不可分,语言处理过程必须运用基本的认知能力已经成为主流观点(DeKeyser & Juffs, 2005)。Hinkel (2006)及一些学者认为,二语习得过程是一个内化的认知过程,其研究的焦点就是描述并解释第二语言学习的过程,二语认知路径的发展从普遍语法(universal grammar)开始,到后来的交互论(interactionism)和连接主义(connectionism),直到近来出现的构式语法(construction grammars),认知的视角在SLA研究中十分清晰。

近年来兴起的构式语法理论认为:1)语法知识的心理表征由形式—意义配对(或称映射)即构块组成,意义与形式不可分离。2)意义与形式相互约束,构块的意义并不对应于构块中所有词汇单位的意义总和。3)语言具体化单位和图式化是语法知识及其习得的基本组织原则。高度图式化(highly schematic)的构块也具有

图式意义。4)语法知识,又称句法—词汇连续体,是有组织的一系列不同类型的构块。5)组成一系列语法知识的构块,既有很具体的只适合于一种情形的,也有较为抽象,可涵盖大范围的用法事件(usage events)。习语构块(idiomatic construction)与普通构块(general construction)没多大区别。构式语法在解释二语习得时强调,语言是个由构块组成的系统,所以二语习得很大程度上就是构块的习得,遵循基于使用的语言模式习得顺序,从使用范围局限的构块类型开始习得,通过机械记忆学会较为具体的语言结构,过渡到较为抽象的、表达性强的题元结构。这些结构都基于各类语言范畴、图式和构块。二语习得研究也证实,二语习得从习惯用语开始,遵循"惯用语→低域模式→构块"这样一个发展路径(Doughty & Long, 2003)。

与认知视角相对的是二语习得研究的社会文化视角,代表性理论有维果斯基 (Vygotsky) 的社会文化理论 (sociocultural theory)、语言社会化学说 (language socialization)、巴赫金 (Bakhtin) 的对话理论 (dialogic perspective) 以及批评理论 (critical theory) 等。

社会文化理论最基本的原则是:人类认知的媒介可以有不同的方式,如工具、符号系统(尤其是语言)以及社会交流。交流本身通过语言实现。社会文化理论的主要观点可以概括为:1)一切复杂心理活动都是在交流过程中形成的;2)心理机能最初存在于人际间,随后逐渐成为内部的心理机能;3)心理发展最重要的因素是掌握凭借词语传递的全人类经验。社会文化理论强调交流在认知以及语言发展过程中的作用,但它不仅仅将交流看做是习得词汇及形态句法的手段。交流既是二语学习的工具,同时本身也是一种能力。

社会文化理论对二语习得研究有重要启示,社会文化理论指导下的二语研究,都是研究真实的课堂以及其他社会场景里的语料。其次,由于社会交际是学习的主要途径,所以学习者参与的交流尤其值得关注。再次,社会文化研究大多采用微变化分析(microgenetic analysis)方法,开展跟踪研究,观察一段时间内的发展状况。

与社会文化理论密切相关的语言社会化理论也认为,在任何环境中,语言学习者都处在一种由社会、文化和政治所塑造的交 Ø14

际环境中,通过学习成为其中有能力的参与者。这些语境中所使用的语言形式及其社会意义将会影响学习者对语言的理解和使用。语言既是社会化的方式,又是社会化的中心目标。语言资源及交流实践在语言社会化理论中占据重要地位,是初学者了解社会集团中的不同地位和角色,以及学会认识和表达情感的途径。

Bakhtin 的对话理论进一步认为,语言在本质上具有社会属性,当我们把他人的话语变成自己的用法时,也就形成了与他人的对话关系,对话论强调智力过程 (intellectual process) 具有社会性,话语的构建和话语中前后表达的衔接需要说者和听者共同参与。因此,我们日常使用和学习的语言并不是中性的、客观的。相反,语言的使用是我们对他人语言的借用。语言的学习就是学习者试用他人言语的过程,语言具有内在的意识形态属性,我们所说的每一句话都表现说话者对其他话语参与者的态度,表明说话者在交际中的社会地位。

概括起来, 二语习得认知与社会文化理论的主要分歧在于: 对二语学习的看法不同和对二语习得理论的构建不同。坚持二语 习得认知观的学者 (如 Kasper, Gass, Long 等) 都认为, 虽然社 会环境能够影响第二语言习得,但是 SLA 本身实质上的确是一个认 知的过程。持批评观点的学者(如 Kramsch, Larsen-Freeman)则认 为、二语学习不是一种孤立、脱离语境和语言使用的状态。认知视 角过分强调个体和内心思维过程以及语法能力的发展,没有认识 到语言的意义是交际的产物,具有社会性和交互性,超越个人的 意愿和行为,不考虑语言的使用是社会文化视角和认知视角之间 的一种失衡。在二语习得理论构建方面,一些学者提出理论和标 准的一元有助于学科的发展,坚持实证主义为二语习得研究的唯 一范式,认为多元化是"相对主义"的产物,多元并存会带来问 题,多种理论的存在和多重标准等于无理论与无标准。但相对主 义的支持者认为,现实本身就是多样的,科学并不能涵盖现实存 在的所有具体问题,应该提倡"后现代主义批评分析",反对实证 主义霸权,鼓励"百花齐放",避免理论受阻,从而导致不同声音 的消失。

当前,双方都承认分歧存在,虽然争论还在继续,但认知理 论与社会文化理论仍有望走向融合。 目前,国内还没有引进过以二语习得研究作为专题的大型丛书。世图北京公司组织的这套丛书旨在组合国外多家著名出版社的代表作,对各派观点和理论兼收并蓄,使我们能对二语习得研究领域的研究成果有一个综览。同时,为帮助读者理解原著而编写的导读也推陈出新,除对著作的重要观点和思想逐章归纳之外,还就各本著作所涉及的领域都有一个国内外发展现状的概述,对该著作和作者在该领域的地位也加以阐述。导读之后还列举出国内近年出版的相关著作和期刊论文,让读者可以轻松得到国内研究资源的连接。此外,撰写导读的作者全都是国内研究二语习得的专家,他们研究成果丰富,视野开阔,充满学术的朝气。

这套丛书在我心目中的读者对象是广大外语教师、博士生、硕士生和相关研究人士,以及对二语习得研究和外语教学感兴趣的广大读者。这套丛书对推动我国的外语教学研究和改革,提高广大外语师生的理论水平和科研能力将起到重要作用。我极力推荐这套丛书。

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对外经济贸易大学英语教授、博士生导师

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# 《输入的强化——从理论和研究到 教学实践》导读

#### 高立群

关于作者: Wynne Wong 博士是美国俄亥俄州立大学法语和意大利语系的副教授,长期从事第二语言习得与教学的研究和实践,试图把第二语言习得理论和教学紧密结合在一起。其主要研究工作包括:注意在第二语言习得中的作用、语言形式的教学在第二语言习得中的作用、基于心理语言学的语言课堂教学方法研究等。

关于本书:本书的目的是向读者详细介绍输入强化(input enhancement)这种第二语言教学方法。输入强化是由 Michael Sharwood Smith 最早提出的术语,是指让目的语的语法形式显得更加突出,以引起学习者更多注意的一种引导性教学方法。本书主要面向第二语言习得方面的初学者,因此对于所涉及的概念和术语,作者都用非常浅显的形式加以解说,此外作者还对有关背景知识进行了适当的介绍,以方便读者理解。

全书分为八章。第一章是有关语法教学方法的历史回顾: 第二章主要解 释了什么是第二语言习得,根据习得本质的十个普遍属性来定义习得的具体 含义,并进一步阐述了第二语言习得研究和实际教学的关系:第三章从理论 层面讨论了输入在第二语言习得中的作用和学习者如何从输入中获得语言信 息;第四章到第七章主要介绍输入强化方法的实际应用,其中第四章讨论了 输入流 (input flood), 第五章介绍了篇章强化 (textual enhancement), 第六 章主要讲解了结构化输入活动 (structured input activities), 第七章是有关语 法意识提升(grammar consciousness raising)任务的内容。这四章都是首先介 绍每一种方法的定义和操作方法;然后是对该方法相关研究的简要回顾,表 明该方法的使用目的;接下来是关于每种方法优点和缺点的讨论;最后则是 关于如何在实际语言教学课堂上施行这些方法的建议。为了更方便读者的理 解和实际操作,每一章的最后还提供了不同语言的样本材料(例如:英语、 法语、德语、意大利语、罗马尼亚语、俄语、西班牙语)。最后的第八章通 过提出问题来总结所有的方法,例如:(1)如何选择适合不同班级需要的方 法;(2)这些方法如何整合到不同的课堂里去;(3)如何评估这些输入强 化的方法是否成功;(4)输出在第二语言习得中的角色和其他教学干涉的形 式。本书还为每章的内容都提供了中文概要,使读者更易于理解每章的 内容。

本书所介绍的理论和方法,是交际教学法的最新进展,是心理语言学和 认知心理学研究成果在第二语言教学方面应用的成功范例,反映了目前国际 上第二语言习得和教学研究领域的最新发展趋势,我们应该给予充分重视。 目前国内第二语言习得和教学研究领域学科界限分明,大家自立门户,缺乏 交流,更无合作,这与国际学术界学科交叉、合作攻关、成果共享的发展趋 势相差很多。这是我阅读完本书的最深刻的一点体会。作为从事第二语言习 得与教学研究的教师,有责任、有义务,更应有意识地向相邻学科的研究者 靠近,了解他们的学科,学习和借鉴他们的观点、方法和成果,如能与之合 作研究则更好。这是我的一点感想,更是自勉! The field of instructed second language acquisition (SLA) has undergone tremendous change since the contemporary era of SLA research began in the late 1960s. With the arrival of work on SLA that yielded results paralleling those from child first language acquisition research, by the late 1970s scholars such as Steven Krashen and Tracy Terrell were calling into question the role of teaching grammar to second language learners. This position stirred considerable debate and the result was a research agenda that has yielded a number of insights into SLA, including the role of input and the effects of formal instruction.

In the present book, Wynne Wong provides the practitioner with the most up-to-date position on formal instruction for language learners. Taking as her starting point the non-controversial position that input is necessary for language acquisition, she discusses various ways in which instruction can enhance what learners get out of the input. This "input enhancement" (a term originally coined by Michael Sharwood Smith) is clearly a far cry from the hablo, hablas, habla repetition and substitution drills as well as fill-in-the-blank sheets that have formed the staple of a good deal of language teaching. Focusing on input enhancement, Wong demonstrates just how far the field of instructed SLA has moved in 30 years. By reviewing the research on input enhancement in clear and accessible terms, Wong easily puts the why into the hands of practitioners. Her judicious selection of examples to illustrate the various input enhancement techniques provide the what, making a splendid volume that unites theory, research and practice in a reader friendly format. An up-and-coming scholar in the field of instructed SLA, Wong has provided the profession with a welcome book. We are very pleased to add it to the McGraw-Hill Second Language Professional Series.

> James F. Lee Bill VanPatten

When people learn that I am a second language acquisition (SLA) researcher and foreign language instructor, the first question they ask is, "So what is the best way to learn a new language?" Upon speaking with them, I often find out that what they really mean by that question is "What is the best way to learn grammar?" And by "grammar learning," they often mean having explicit knowledge about the rules of the new language.

It is not uncommon for people to associate language learning with grammar learning. It is even less uncommon for people to associate grammar instruction with explaining the rules of grammar. If you are reading this book, you were most likely once (and perhaps you still are) a second language (L2) learner yourself and your language learning experience probably involved a lot of explanations about pedagogical grammar rules.

Rule explanation is certainly a form of grammar instruction but as you will see in this book, it is not the only one. Over the years, research in SLA has given us a lot of insight into how people acquire new languages and this research in turn has guided the profession in articulating new approaches and techniques to enhance L2 instruction. One pivotal revelation from SLA research is the following: Learners cannot acquire an L2 without having access to abundant amounts of *input*. What is input? Input is L2 language data that learners are exposed to in a communicative context or setting. We have all probably heard at one time or another that the best way to learn a new language is to live in the country where that language is spoken. Why is that? The answer lies in the opportunities that such a learning context provides for us to receive input. When we live in the target language country, we are constantly exposed to input in that country's language. Every time we listen to people on the street, or mingle with friends or watch TV, we are receiving input to set the processes of SLA in motion.

No matter what theoretical framework or context SLA researchers work from, there is no dispute that acquisition cannot happen without exposure to ample amounts of input. All SLA scholars are in agreement today that input is an essential ingredient of successful SLA. This fundamental "discovery"

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significantly altered the way in which the profession conceptualized how languages are acquired. This in turn has led to new conceptualizations about what effective grammar instruction may look like.

# WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT? WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?

This book is about grammar instruction that works with what learners need for successful SLA: Input. The purpose of this book is to introduce readers to instructional techniques that help L2 learners pay attention to grammatical form while also providing them with the comprehensible input they need for acquisition at the same time. These techniques are called *input enhancement* techniques. Input enhancement was a term first coined by Michael Sharwood Smith to refer to instructional interventions that make target grammatical forms more salient so that learners will be more likely to pay attention to them. I am using this term in my book to refer to instructional techniques that rely on input as their foundation for instruction. These techniques are input flood, textual enhancement, structured input activities and grammar consciousness-raising (GCR) tasks. After reading this book, you should:

- understand the important role that input plays in second language acquisition;
- have a working knowledge of the basic theoretical underpinnings and research findings that motivate the use of input enhancement techniques;
- be familiar with the input enhancement techniques presented;
- know how to implement these different input enhancement techniques in your own classrooms.

#### WHO IS THIS BOOK FOR?

This book assumes no prior knowledge of second language acquisition. The tone and style taken in the book are purposefully informal and are meant to be reader friendly. It is intended for those who are beginning or have already begun a teaching career. It can be read by undergraduates pursuing certification, graduate students in methods courses and in-service instructors who wish to explore and/or expand their knowledge base of different input enhancement techniques as well as to understand the theoretical and research implications of such techniques.

This book can be read with profit in a number of contexts:

- It can stand alone as the text to a course that focuses on different types of classroom interventions in instructed SLA
- It can stand alone as the text to a course that explores possible ways that L2 learners' attention could be drawn to form in acquisition-rich L2 learning environments such as content-based instruction and other communicative rich environments

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 It can serve as an adjunct to a number of "methods" books used in introductory language teaching courses (e.g., Lee & VanPatten, 2003; Omaggio-Hadley, 2001)

 It can be used in conjunction with other introductory books on SLA (e.g., Spada & Lightbown, 1999; VanPatten, 2003)

#### ORGANIZATION AND FEATURES

This book is organized into eight chapters. Chapter 1 provides a historical overview of grammar instruction in order to situate the context for input enhancement. Chapter 2 explains what SLA research is and defines what acquisition means in terms of ten generalizations about the nature of acquisition. The second part of this chapter discusses the relationship between SLA research and real-world teaching. A discussion on how instructors should approach the application of research findings to the classroom is included. Chapter 3 focuses on the role of input in SLA and how learners get linguistic data from input in order to provide a theoretically sound rationale for the use of input enhancement in the classroom. Chapters 4-7 are devoted to detailed discussions of actual input enhancement techniques: input flood (Chapter 4), textual enhancement (Chapter 5), structured input activities (Chapter 6), and grammar consciousness-raising (GCR) tasks (Chapter 7). Each chapter begins with a definition of the technique and how the technique is carried out. This is followed by a concise review of selected relevant research in a non-technical manner to show what the technique could be expected to do. A discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of each technique is provided followed by suggestions on how to implement the technique in actual language classrooms. Each chapter concludes with sample materials from a variety of languages (e.g., English, French, German, Italian, Romanian, Russian, Spanish) to give instructors good models for material development. Finally, Chapter 8 brings all the techniques together by addressing issues such as (1) how to choose the appropriate technique for different classroom needs, (2) how these techniques may be integrated into different types of classrooms, (3) how to assess whether input enhancement techniques have been successful, and (4) the role of output in SLA and other types of pedagogical interventions.

Within each chapter, you will also find boxes entitled *Pause to Consider* . . . dispersed throughout the text. These boxes are intended to help readers reflect on some of the topics that are discussed in the text. When you come across these boxes, you are invited to stop and ponder a particular issue. If you are using this book in a class, these boxes could be used as springboards for discussion.

At the end of each chapter, you will find a section called *Enhance Your Knowledge*. This section contains full references to primary reading sources that are related to the topic at hand. You will also find a complete reference section at the end of the book as well as a glossary of key terms and concepts that appear in boldface type within chapters.