Mohamed Kheider University
Faculty of Letters and Foreign Languages
English Division

Level: Master One (Sciences of the Language)   Teacher: Dr. Betka Rezig Nadia

Course Two: Language Planning in Speaking

In the present lesson, we'll be introduced to the following points:

First, that there are various levels of planning when constructing an utterance. Second, that planning is reflected in patterns of pausing and hesitation. Third, that speech errors are an important source of information about utterance planning. Fourth, that the way we pronounce a sentence is an indication of the grammatical structure.

1- Conceptualization as a first level

Conceptualization is the pre-linguistic phase because it does not involve any form of language. The speaker needs to make a general decision about what to say taking into consideration the present context where the conversation is taking place and using all the information the speaker has about communication principles. The speakers has to know if there are specific parts of his speech that must be focused on. The result of the conceptualization is a preverbal message which consists of a set of ideas that are often called language of thought.

Example: imagine that the speaker wants to say that a cat is chasing a mouse, in this case the pre-verbal message will reflect the intention to communicate three main concepts:

1- The hunting of one animal by another
2- The concept of a cat as an entity doing the hunting action (agent)
3- The mouse as the entity on which the action is taking place (the theme)

1-1 Pauses as a key of planning

A key of source information about the processes of conceptualization and planning in producing spoken language is the pattern of pausing that speakers produce because the planning process involves a mental activity that competes for attention with the actual process of speaking ie the more planning we need to do, the less easy it is for us to continue speaking and the more we hesitate. Pauses can occur also because of punctuation to give speakers time to read sentences correctly but this type of pausing is totally different from pause a speakers makes when speaking spontaneously.

2- Formulation as a second Level

The formulation processes are the powerhouse of language production. Formulation involves grammatical encoding and phonological encoding which allows us to construct the appropriate sequences of sound to express

the message. Words are accessed from the mental lexicon on the basis of their meanings. These semantic aspects of words are known as "Lemmas" which can be explained as the content –based aspects of words. The Lemmas are linked to the forms of words known as Lexemes, which can be the spoken shape of words or their written forms.

2-1 Grammatical Encoding

Grammatical encoding is an important aspect of taking the message generated by the conceptualizer and turning it into language. Grammatical encoding involves two separate components:

a- **Functional Processing**: to give the appropriate job to the words in the sentence,   these words will express the speaker's intended meaning through vocabulary selection and function assignment. In simpler terms, we can say that abstract forms of words are chosen, based on the concepts that the speaker wants to express. These lemmas are fleshed out into actual word forms or Lexemes.
In the previous example, the lemmas are: "hunt", "cat" and "mouse"
The word "cat" is given the job of a subject and the word "mouse" is given the job of an object.

b- **Positional Processing:** the selected lemmas are organized into a given order in a sentence. The frame of the sentence is dependent on a number of things: the grammatical consideration like tense correctness and which element in the sentence has to be focused on.

It is very important to mention here that the formulation of a sentence in the passive form is more complex than the active one because the former is derived from the latter. It has a relation with the surface structure of the sentence that is obtained from the deep structure after transformation. According to the scheme below, the pre-verbal message includes the intention to express the incident from the mouse perspective.

In sum, we can say that words' abstract entities (lemmas) are selected in the functional process and ordered in the positional process in a sentence frame.

In the process of conceptualization, we use what we know about the world and the current situation in order to sort out our ideas. We need then to put together the elements of language that will express these ideas drawing our knowledge of language including grammar and lexicon. Which involves a process of formulation. Finally , in order to speak this utterance, we go through a process of articulation.

These steps are presented in the following scheme:

Processes and knowledge types involved in language production (Levelt, 1999)

Conceptualization

Generating a message

Discourse Model

Situational and general Knowledge

Pre-verbal message

Formulation

Grammatical and phonological encoding

Grammar and Lexicon

Phonetic Plan (internal speech)

Articulation

Producing Speech Sounds

Speech Motor Commands

External Speech