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ASSESSING FLUENCY: A CASE STUDY

Abstract

This case study examines the factors involved in evaluating different aspects of fluency. The study investigated how a native speaker of English and an advanced learner of English used a set of pictures to tell a story. The findings were then analysed on the basis of the first two of Fillmore's four measures of fluency. Two questions which have always been the concern of second language teachers were addressed: 1) What is the accepted standard of fluency among advanced second language learners of English? 2) Is this standard to be derived from a standard of fluency demonstrated by native speakers? The study suggests that of the two measures of fluency under consideration, hesitation may not be a useful yardstick in judging fluency.
