



Definition:

A temporary linguistic system created by second language learners, combining aspects of their first language (L1) and target language (L2). It evolves over time and can change or fossilize.

Key Characteristics of Interlanguage:

Structured System:

- Learner's interlanguage is a structured system at any stage of development. It reflects the learner's current level of proficiency.

Influences:

- Draws on both L1 (first language) and L2 (second language) rules.
- It can contain features from neither language, creating unique structures.

Dynamic Process:

- Changeable over time, as learners progress.
- Can become fossilized if not exposed to further learning opportunities (e.g., stagnant after years without study or practice).

Subconscious Organization:

- Learners subconsciously organize language input, leading to errors and unique forms not found in L2.



INTERLANGUAGE

Properties and rules of both L1 and L2 (First and Second Language):

L1 influence: In Spanish, the preposition "en" can be used to mean "in" or "on" depending on the context (e.g., *estoy en casa* = "I am at home" or *el libro está en la mesa* = "the book is on the table").

L2 influence: In English, the prepositions "in" and "on" are used more specifically depending on the context: "in" for enclosed spaces or general locations, and "on" for surfaces.

Interlanguage example: "I am in the table."

Features of neither (Features that do not exist in either L1 or L2):

L1 influence: In Spanish, there are no articles in some plural noun phrases (e.g., *Voy a comprar manzanas* = "I am going to buy apples" — no article "the").

L2 influence: In English, articles are required in many contexts (e.g., "I am going to buy the apples").

Interlanguage example: "I am going to buy apples."

The interlanguage that is developed by someone can have:

Properties and rules of L1 (First Language):

This is when learners transfer structures from their native language (L1) into their second language (L2).

Example (Spanish to English):

L1 influence: In Spanish, adjectives usually come after nouns (e.g., *coche rojo* = "car red").

Interlanguage example: "I have a car red."