

Online SLA

Through a series of objectives exercises in our learning management system, learners figured out communicative competence, specifically Canale and Swain's definition including linguistic, discourse, sociolinguistic, and strategic competence.

After reviewing learners' answers on the objective exercises, I prepared for a follow up discussion in order to check and deepen their understanding while helping them continue sense-making. During the discussion, my intent was to pick and choose from the questions below based on learners' needs.

1. Which of the four competences are hardest to identify?
2. How can we distinguish between discourse and sociolinguistic competence?
 - a. Which competence (discourse or sociolinguistic) focuses more on language in the context of real-world situations and relationships?
 - b. Which focuses more on language in the context of paragraphs and conversations?
3. What other words would you use to explain or describe sociolinguistic competence?
 - a. What does the *socio* in sociolinguistic refer to?
 - b. How does this help us to understand sociolinguistic competence?
4. What other words would you use to explain or describe discourse competence?
 - a. What does the word *discourse* mean? (Allow dictionary use if necessary.)
 - b. How could we use that definition to understand discourse competence?
5. Think of your own language learning.
 - a. What examples would you give of sociolinguistic competence?
 - b. What examples would you give of discourse competence?

