

Wheel of Culture: A Mixed-Level Speaking Activity

Languages of Asia LEARN Workshop - September 26-27, 2018

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Objective and Outline

To share best practices in language teaching

1. Why teaching culture?
2. How do we apply it?
3. What is Wheel of Culture?

1. Why Teaching Culture?

Language and Culture

“If culture was a house, then language was the key to the front door, [and] to all rooms inside.”

Khaled Hosseini, *And the Mountains Echoed*

1. Why Teaching Culture? (cont.)

Language and Culture

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Khaled Hosseini, *And the Mountains Echoed*

Note:

- ✓ On a **practical level**, language has to do with sounds, symbols and gestures that a community puts in order and associates so that they can communicate.
- ✓ On a **deeper level**, language is an expression of who we are as individuals, communities, nations.
- ✓ Culture refers to dynamic social systems and shared patterns of behavior, beliefs, knowledge, attitudes and values. It provides the environment in which languages develop, even as it influences how they are used and interpreted.

1. Why Teaching Culture? (cont.)

Language and Culture

Good day!



Credit: <http://2quotes.net/upload/icon/20160628/sunny-day-quotes.jpg>



Credit: http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-E8NAVx000/U-esCZWTqKI/AAAAAAAAACcU/RJ6M0t5fNV0/s1600/snoopy_umbrella.jpg

1. Why Teaching Culture? (cont.)

Language and Culture



Credit: <http://2quotes.net/upload/icon/20160628/sunny-day-quotes.jpg>

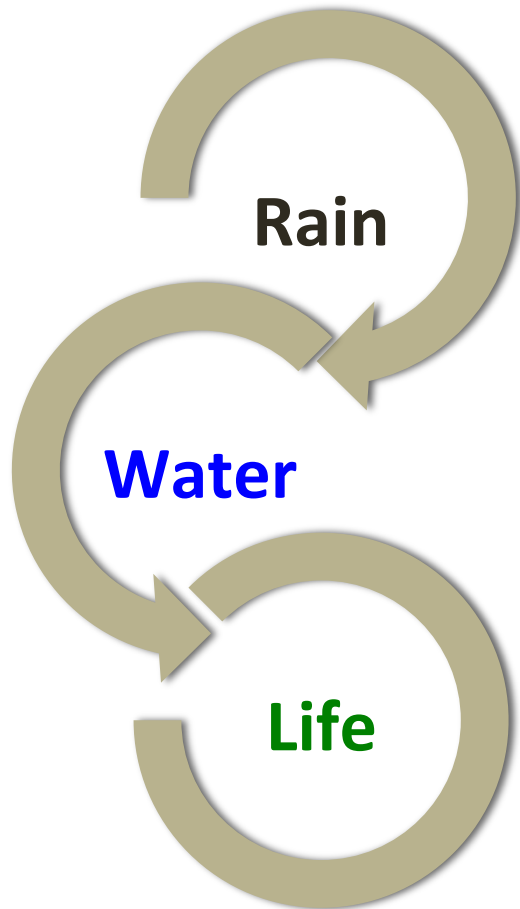
Credit: http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-EBHAvxk00Q/U-esCZWTqKI/AAAAAAAAACcU/RJ6M0t5fNV0/s1600/snoopy_umbrella.jpg

What is “Good day”?

For example, in here, in the US cultures a “good day” could mean a sunny day. For some of us who lives in DC area, “good day” means a perfect day. When it is sunny, but not too hot or humid.

1. Why Teaching Culture? (cont.)

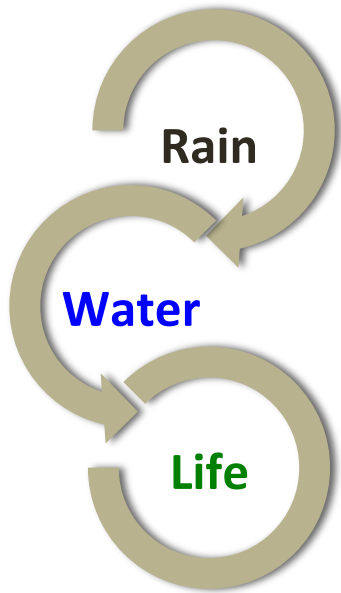
Language and Culture



Credit: <https://images.financialexpress.com/2017/07/Monsoon-PTI.jpg>

1. Why Teaching Culture? (cont.)

Language and Culture

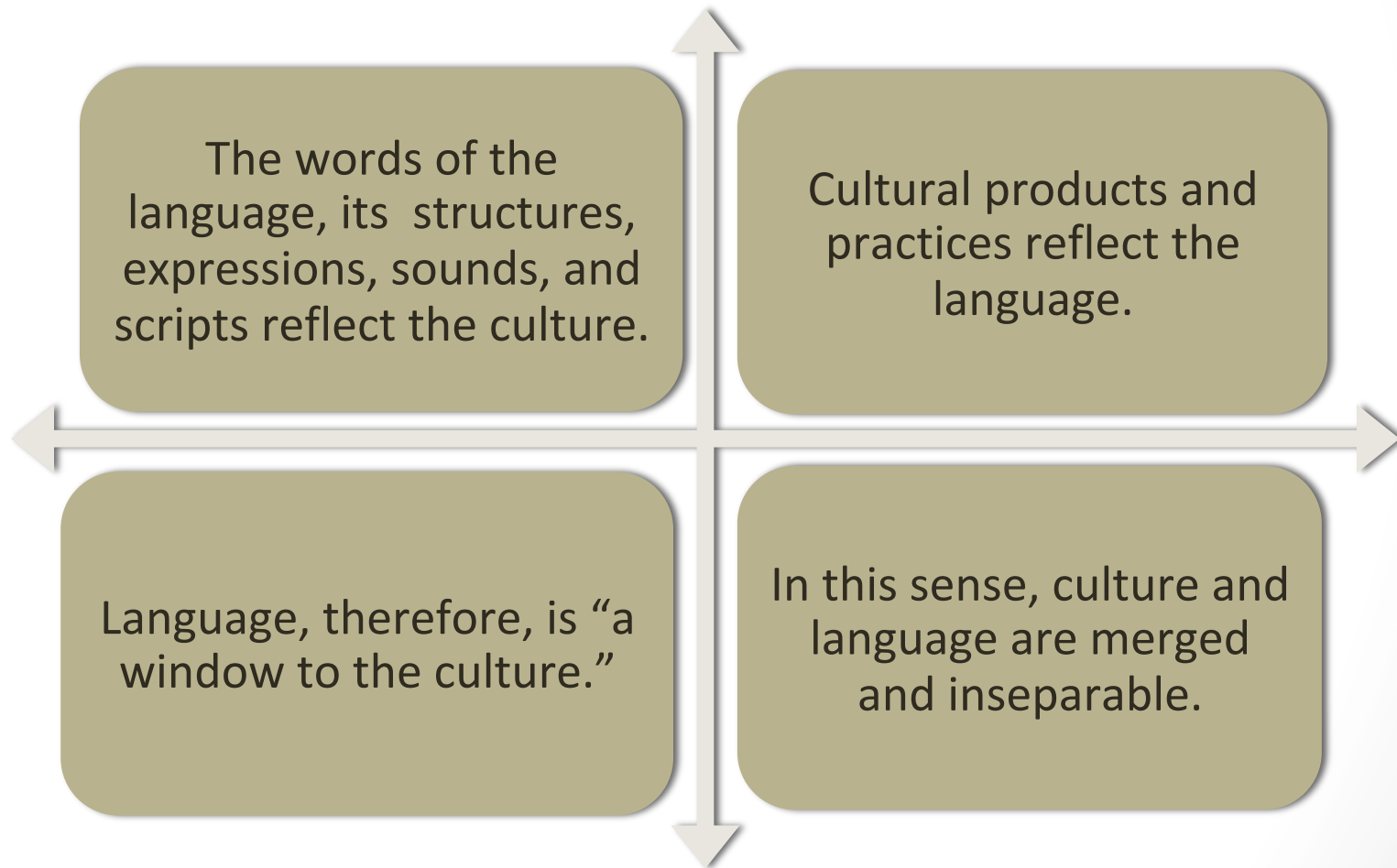


However....

- ✓ in some parts of Indonesia. Let say, in the Island of Lombok, just east of Bali island, a “good day” means a rainy day, when there is an abundance of water that will help the crops to grow well.
- ✓ Rainy day means abundance of water; water means life.
- ✓ **Different culturally shared values provide the context for interpreting the term for “good”.**

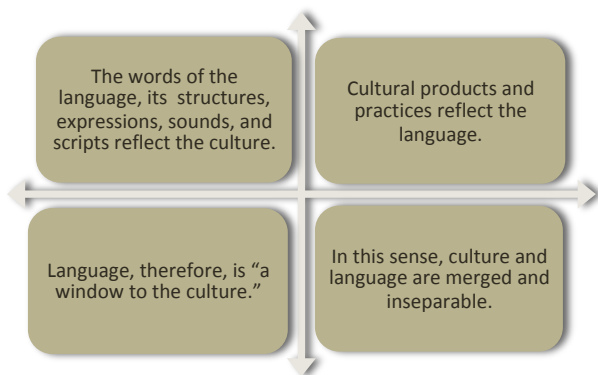
1. Why Teaching Culture? (cont.)

Language and Culture



1. Why Teaching Culture? (cont.)

Language and Culture



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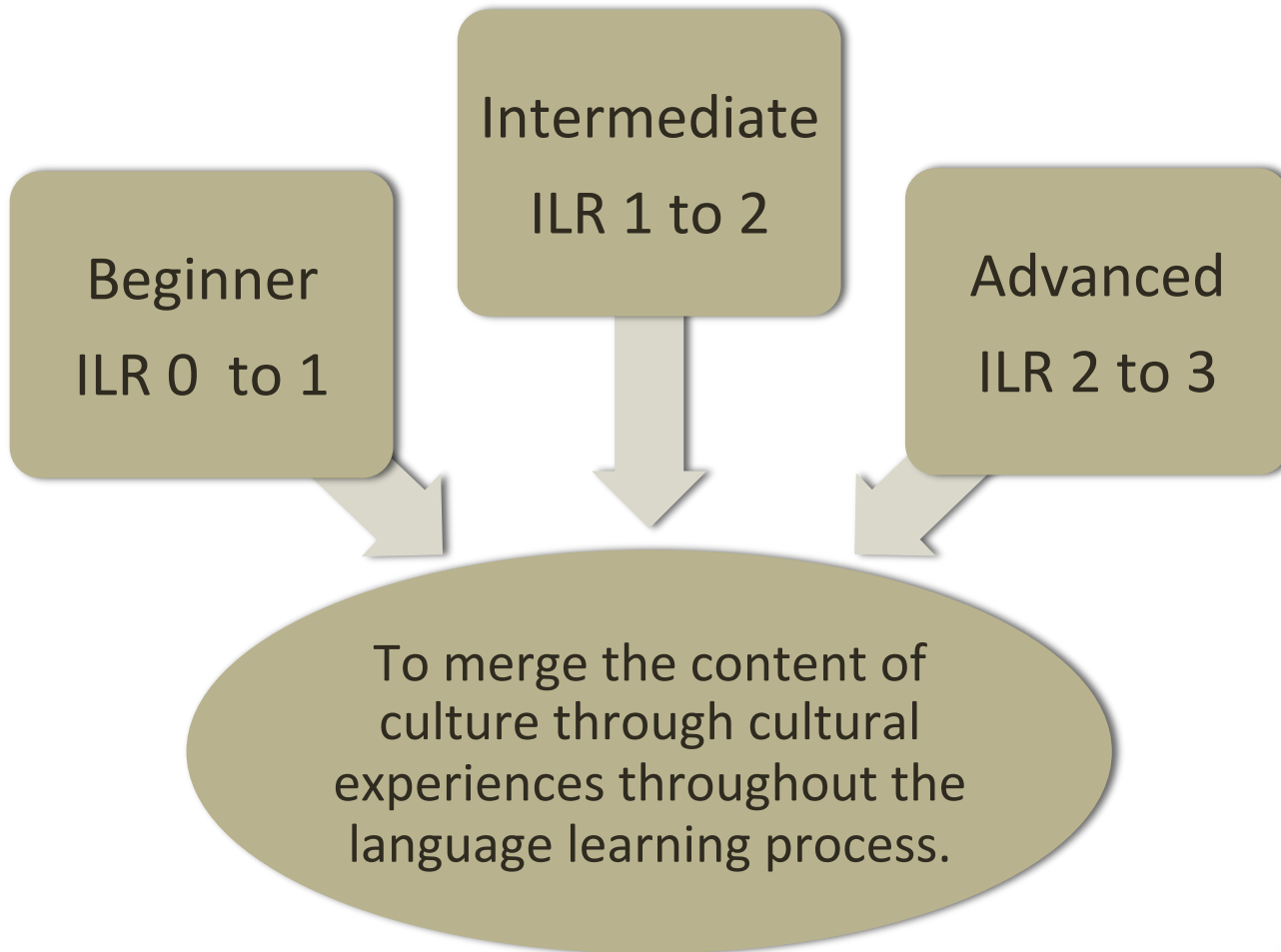
Note:

In here we will examine the relationship between language and culture:

- ✓ The words of the language, its expressions, structures, sounds, and scripts reflect the culture, just as the cultural products and practices reflect the language.
- ✓ Language, therefore, is a window to the culture."
- ✓ In this sense, culture and language are merged and became inseparable.

2. How do we apply it?

Teaching Language and Culture



2. How do we apply it? (cont.)

Application

1. Textbook
2. Cultural class activity
3. Mini immersion
4. Show and tell
5. Inviting native speakers
6. **Periodical language & cultural activity**

3. What is Wheel of Culture?



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3. What is Wheel of Culture? (cont.)

A way to solve the issue of mismatched of expectation due to:

Lack of understanding of the ILR level and the Bloom's taxonomy such as in forming questions (this applies to both instructors and learners).

3. What is Wheel of Culture (cont.)

It consists of:

- Various topics, such as: holiday, food, gender issues, etc.
- Different levels (Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced)
- Accommodate high-order thinking via the Bloom's taxonomy
- All the skills (speaking, reading, and listening)
- Technology integration

3. What is Wheel of Culture? (cont.)



Let's give it a try and have fun!

Thank you

Question and Discussion



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