

Beyond Drilling

Pronunciation for Learner Intelligibility in Vietnam's Changing English Context

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"Pronunciation is the Cinderella area of foreign-language teaching." *Kelly, 1969*

Cinderella
step-sisters
step-mother

grammar & vocabulary
some English teachers
pronunciation

the Cinderella

Isn't pronunciation still

of language teaching?



Why does pronunciation matter?



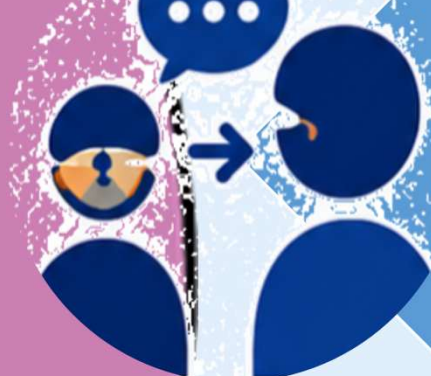
Be more easily understood



Produce language intelligibly



Prevent fossilized mispronunciation



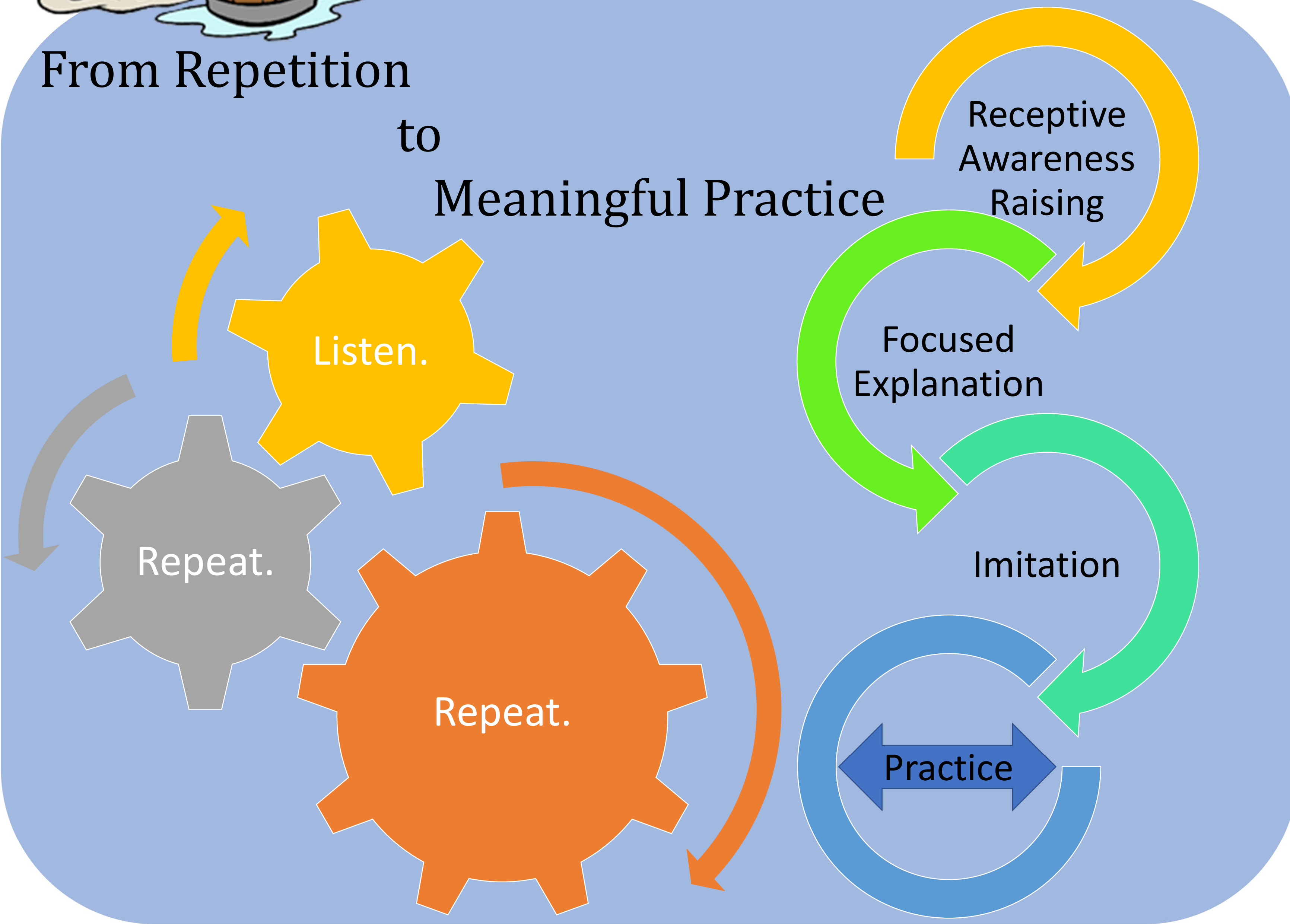
Build confidence in real communication

L1 Transfer in Vietnamese Context

L1-related feature	Potential difficulty	Example
/ʃ/-s/ distinction	/ʃ/ → /s/ substitution	shopping → /'sa:.pɪŋ/ /pus/ for push /'sou.səl/ for social
Restricted final consonants	Final consonant omission	nice → /naɪ/ is /ɪ/ like /laɪ/ milk /mɪl/
Limited consonant clusters	Cluster reduction	longest → /lɑ:ŋəs/
Tonal L1	English rhythm/intonation	ch o pp y

If pronunciation difficulties are partly shaped by L1 transfer, pronunciation teaching should move beyond repetition to focus on awareness, perception, articulation, and meaningful use.

From Repetition to Meaningful Practice



Techniques

A. Meaningful Minimal Pairs

On a sunny day, I took a long **bike ride** to see my friend. As I **rode** past a big cat sitting by a cake **shop**, I noticed a **cute** little bird **hop** from one tree to another. I decided to **stop** for a bit, **hoping** to catch my breath. The **shop** had a **rope** hanging from a sign that said "**Hope Bakery**." I smiled, thinking about how sweet it would be to **sit** and **eat** a slice of **cake** before **heading** home.

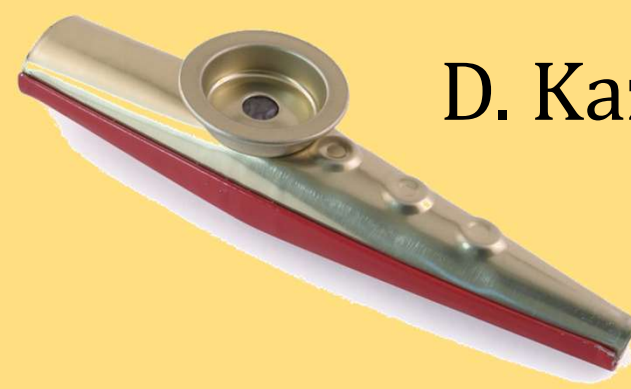


B. Meaningful Quizzes

- What's the **longest** river in the world?
- What's the **largest** country in the world?
- What's the **fastest** land animal?
- Which planet is the **nearest** to the sun?
- Where is the world's **coldest** city?

C. Meaningful Dialogues

Nicole: **Robert gave me some flowers.**
Katarzyna: Wow! I would never have expected that of Roger.
Nicole: No, not Roger! **Robert gave me some flowers.**
Katarzyna: Oh, Robert. What did you say he gave you?
Nicole: Flowers. **Robert gave me some flowers.**



D. Kazoo

Shift attention from spelling to sound, rhythm, and articulatory sensation.

E. Energy Distribution

Pronunciation, like other language components, is fun. **Keep it playful.**

F. Walking Stress

1		2		3		4.
1	and	2	and	3	and	4.
1	and a	2	and a	3	and a	4.
1	and then a	2	and then a	3	and then a	4.

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