

# THE SKILL-BUILDING HYPOTHESIS

The idea that we acquire language by first learning rules and then practicing them in output is the basis for pedagogy in most language classrooms throughout the world. Several kinds of evidence, however, show that Skill-Building at best plays only a small and peripheral role: We can acquire language without it, the means needed for Skill-Building (output and correction) are scarce, and the rules to be learned are very complex.

—*Stephen Krashen*