

COMPETENCE versus PERFORMANCE



DEFINITION

COMPETENCE

- Person's knowledge of his language.
- The system rules which a language user has mastered so that it would be possible for that user to produce and understand an infinite number of sentences and recognise grammatical mistakes and ambiguities

PERFORMANCE

A term used in the linguistic theory of transformational generative grammar, refer to language is seen as a set of specific utterances produced by native speaker.

LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE

- What you know about the language.
- Concern:
 - -communicative competence-grammatical sociolinguist, discourse and strategic.
 - pragmatic competence-how language is used.
 - literary competence- ability to handle special properties of literary language.

Linguistic competence of native language

- One can recognize whether the word belongs to his native language.

e.g. Slip
*slib
*sbill



Linguistic competence of native language

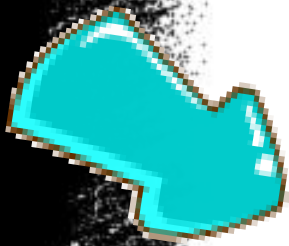
- He also can know the morphology, such as prefix, suffix.

e.g. Re-cuddle

nonderiveable

en-rich-ment





Linguistic competence of native language

- He can distinguish sentence and non-sentences.

e.g. The accident was seen by thousands.

* The accident was looked by thousands.



Linguistic competence of native language

- He can distinguish some sentences which have the same structure but the different meanings.

e.g. The cow was found by the stream.

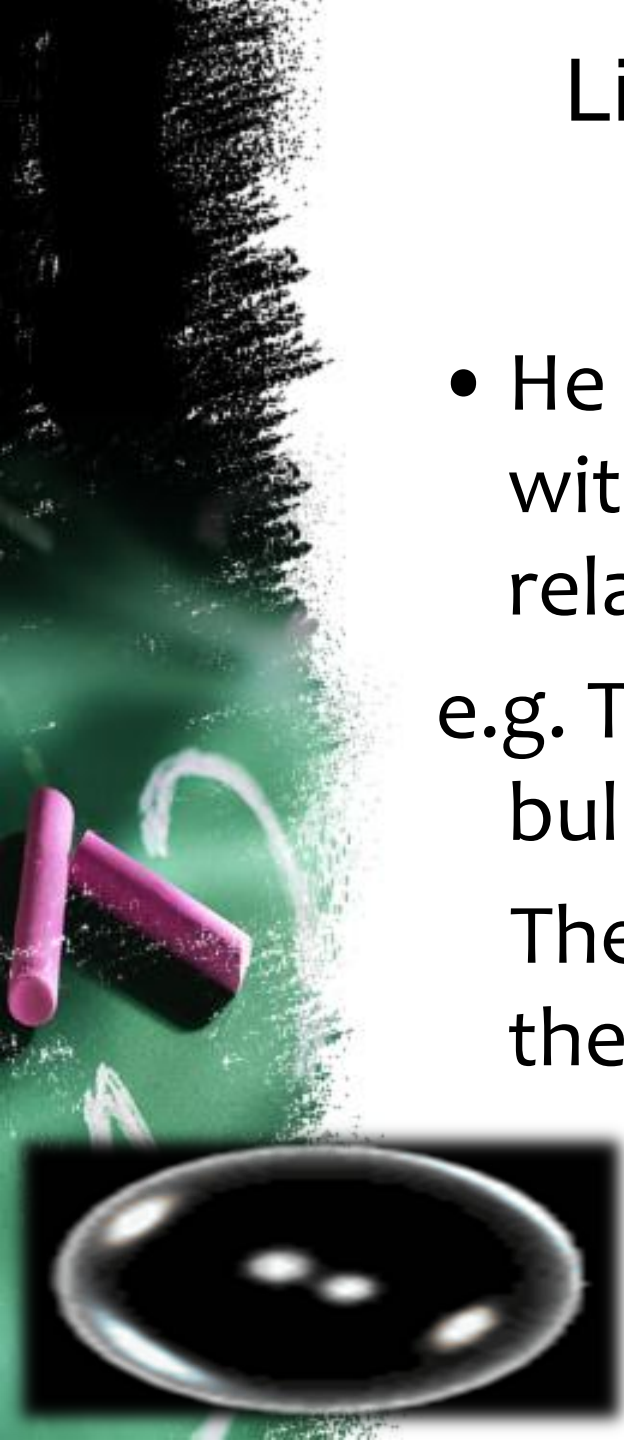
The cow was found by the farmer.

Linguistic competence of native language

- He can know some sentences with different structure, but related meanings.

e.g. The police examined the bullet.

The bullet was examined by the police.




The dispute about the derivation of linguistic competence

- ✓ Produced by the influence of the environment.
- ✓ Produced by both influence of the environment and human inherent ability.
- ✓ It is the human inherent ability- Language Acquisition Device.

LINGUISTIC PERFORMANCE

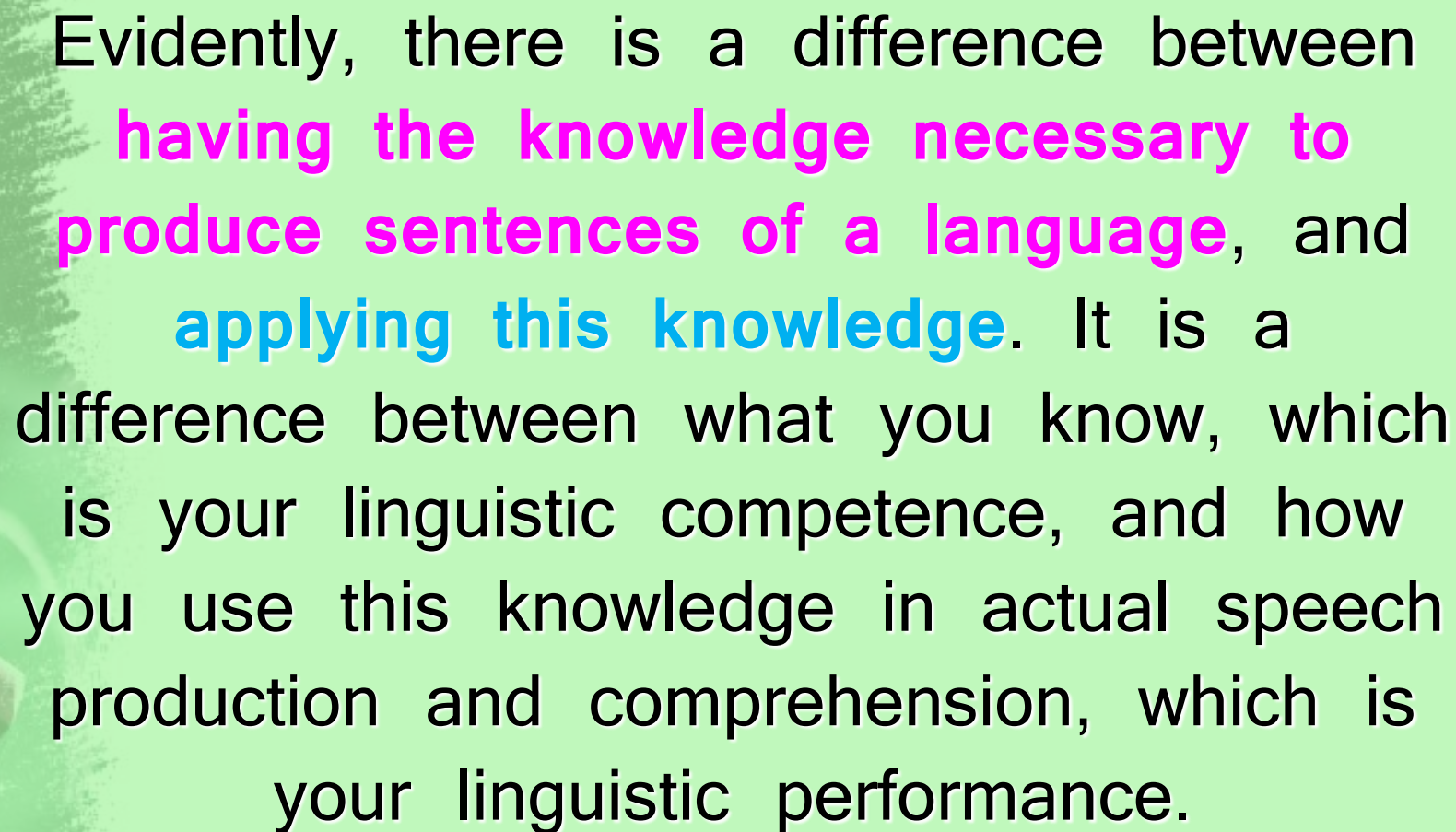
- How you actually use your knowledge about language.
- Performance is the actual use of the language by individuals in speech and writing.
- Utterances might :
 - Contain features irrelevant to the abstract rule systems-hesitation, unfinished structure.
 - Involve psychological and social difficulties-lapses of memory, limitations, tiredness

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- Describe the **psychological process** involved in using the linguistic competence in all ways that the speaker can actually use it.
 - Psychological process:
 - ☐ Producing utterances
 - ☐ Understanding them
 - ☐ Making judgments about them
 - ☐ Acquiring the ability to do all these

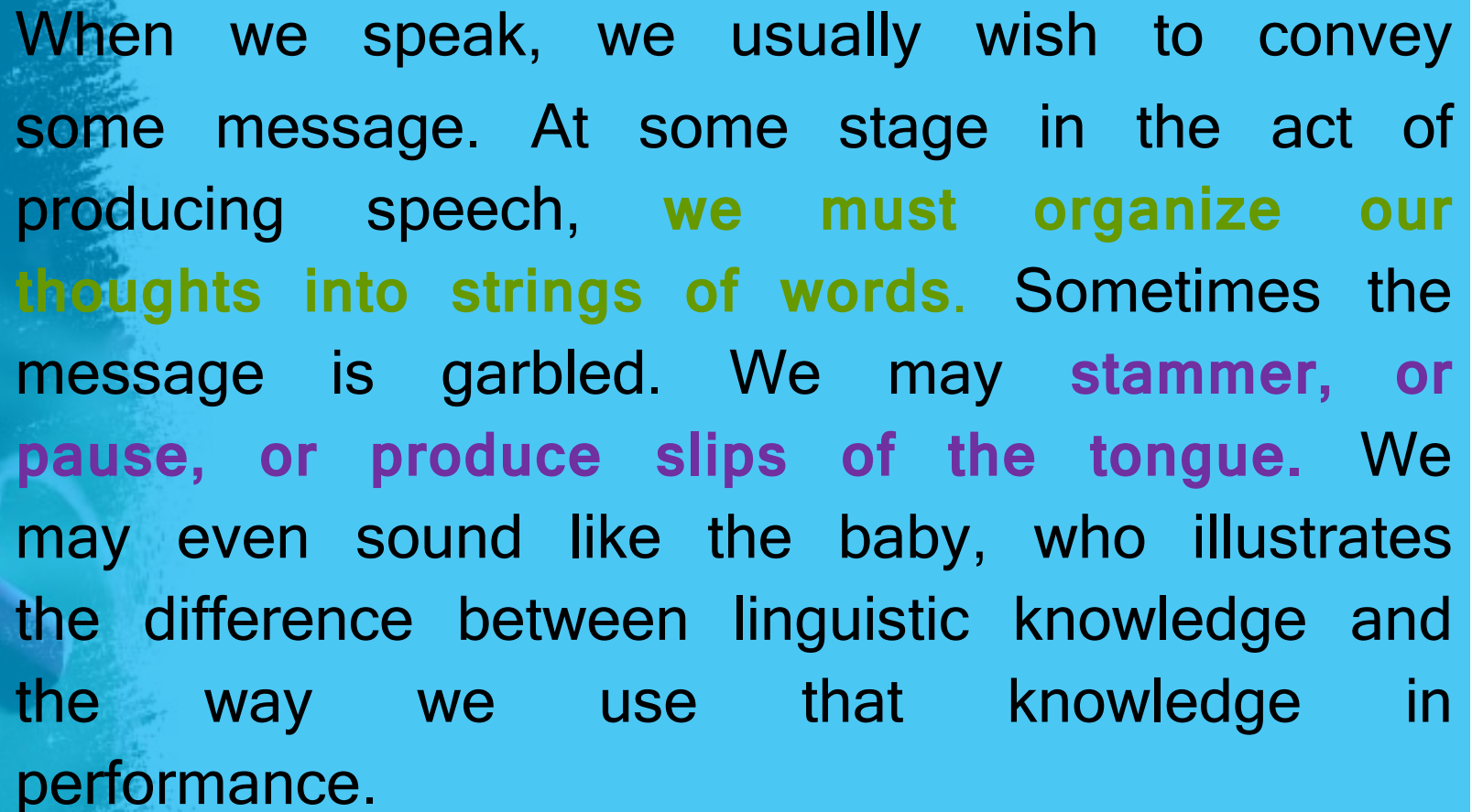
A chalkboard with two pieces of pink chalk and some white chalk markings.

Relationship between Competence and Performance

- If you make grammatical mistakes, but you know they are mistakes, then your performance does not match your competence.
- If you don't know they are mistakes, then your competence matches your performance, and you are probably not native



Evidently, there is a difference between **having the knowledge necessary to produce sentences of a language**, and **applying this knowledge**. It is a difference between what you know, which is your linguistic competence, and how you use this knowledge in actual speech production and comprehension, which is your linguistic performance.



When we speak, we usually wish to convey some message. At some stage in the act of producing speech, **we must organize our thoughts into strings of words.** Sometimes the message is garbled. We may **stammer, or pause, or produce slips of the tongue.** We may even sound like the baby, who illustrates the difference between linguistic knowledge and the way we use that knowledge in performance.

THANK YOU

