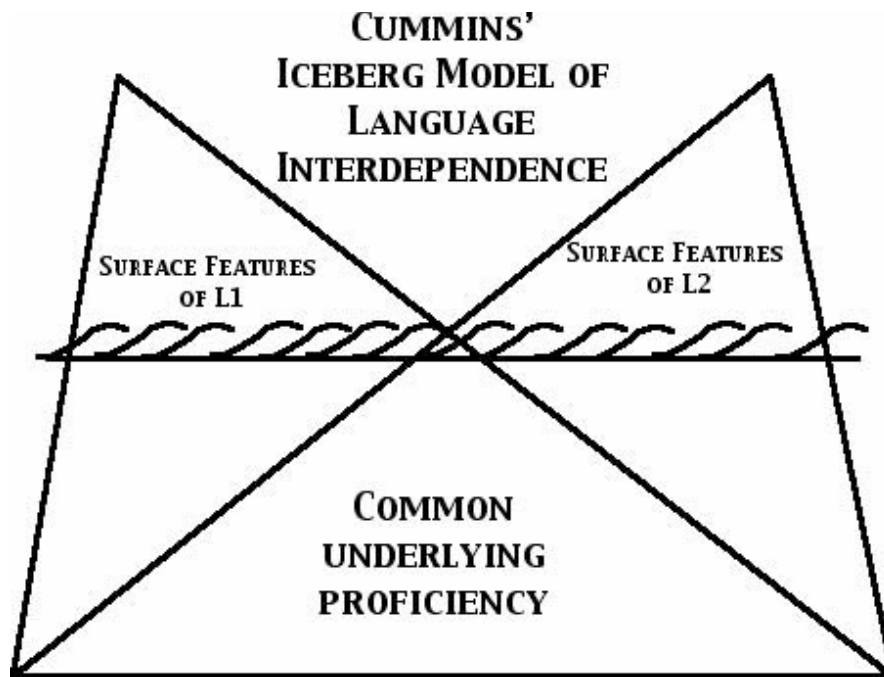


language interdependence & counterbalanced instruction



* image: jillrobbins.com

L1 and L2 skills are interdependent, meaning that skills transfer from one language to the other and help develop the other language (Cummins, 1979, 1981).

Counterbalanced Approach supports pedagogy that integrates form-focused instruction within content-based teaching (dual language) programs (Lyster, 2007). Form-focused instruction involves drawing student attention to linguistic features that are different from students' L1 through an awareness, noticing and practice cycle.

Distinct surface features between two languages might include:

- orthography (Spanish does not contain: s + consonant onset combinations such as in the word STOP, while English does; thus, for dominant English speakers acquiring Spanish, instruction would include explicit attention to this surface feature difference)
- syntax (word order differences)
- grammar (verb formation; use of articles with nouns)

What is common between two languages might include:

- skills such as decoding or reading strategies (drawing connections, inference or prediction)
- ability to synthesize or analyze information