ASSESSIN
G
SPEAKING

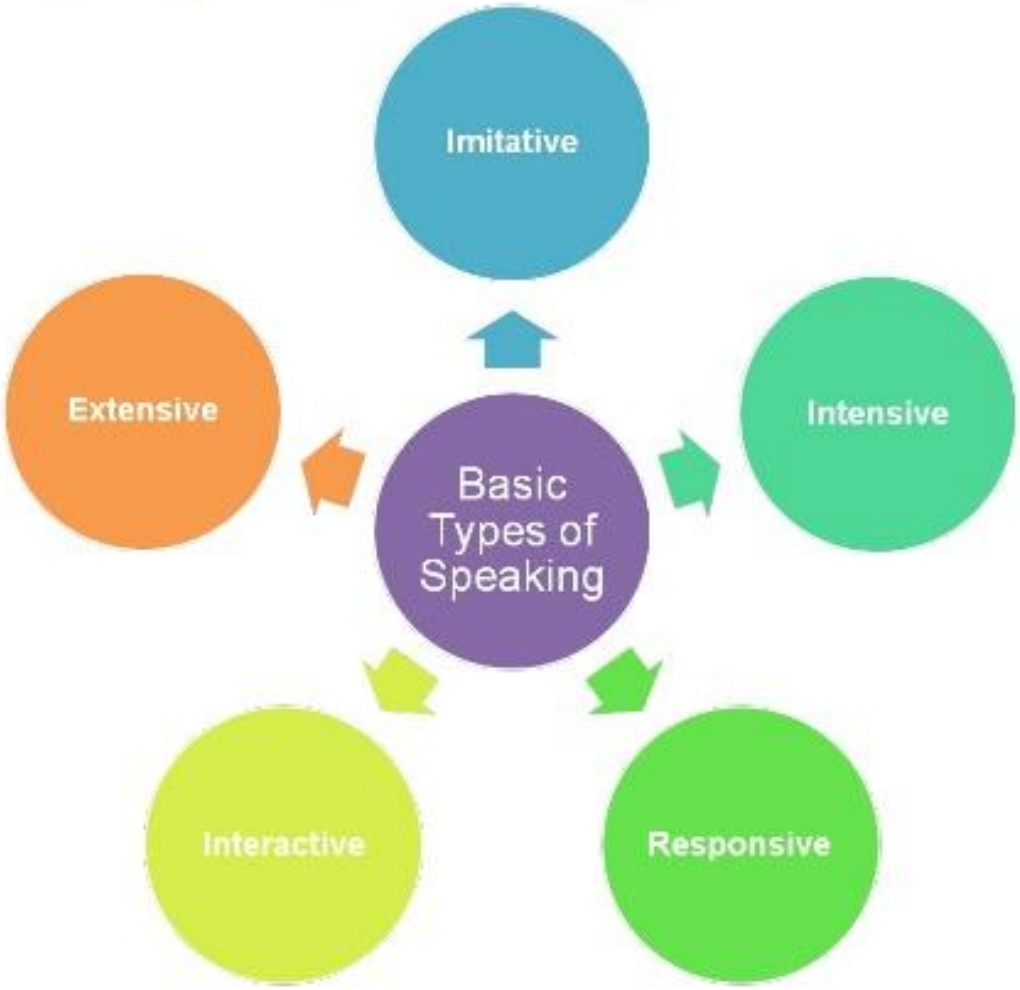
Teaching speaking

- What is Speaking?

¨Speaking is an interactive process of constructing meaning that involves producing and receiving and processing information¨ (Brown, 1994; Burns & Joyce, 1997).

According to Kramsch (1986) cited in O´Malley and Valdez (1996) ¨Speaking means anticipating the listener ´s response and possible misunderstandings, and arriving at the closest possible match between intended, perceived, and anticipated meanings¨.

Assessing Speaking



Source: Brown, D (2004)

Assessing Speaking

Imitative: Word repetition Task (repeat after me…)
PHONEPASS TEST

Intensive: Directed Response Tasks, Read-Aloud Tasks, Sentence Dialogue completion tasks and oral questionnaires, Picture-Cued Tasks, translation (of limited stretches of discourse).

Responsive: Question/answer, giving instructions and directions, Paraphrasing, Test of Spoken English (TSE)

Interactive: Interview, Role Play, Discussions and Conversations, Games, Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)

Extensive: Oral presentations, Picture-Cued Story-Telling, Retelling a Story, News Event, Translation (of Extended Prose)

Source: Brown, D (2004)

Role Plays

ROLE-PLAY STRENGTHS
helps make abstract problems more concrete
provides immediate feedback
facilitates learning across many areas of curriculum content
involves comparing and contrasting positions taken on an issue
involves manipulating knowledge in exciting ways
promotes lifelong learning
demonstrates a practical integration of knowledge, skills and abilities
facilitates expression of attitudes and feelings
involves applying knowledge to solving problems
provides opportunities to speculate on uncertainties
involves direct, experiential learning
develops sympathetic understandings

Methods of Assessing Speaking

Structured Approach

-Perform one or more specific oral communication tasks
- Performance is evaluated

Observational Approach

- Student's behavior is observed and assessed unobtrusively

-Communicate meaningful content to real audience
- Tasks should focus on topics students can easily talk about

Rating Systems for Structured and Observational Approaches

Holistic Rating

- General impression of the performance
- Primary trait score assesses the student's ability to achieve a specific communication purpose

Analytic Rating

- Capture the student's performance on various aspects of communication

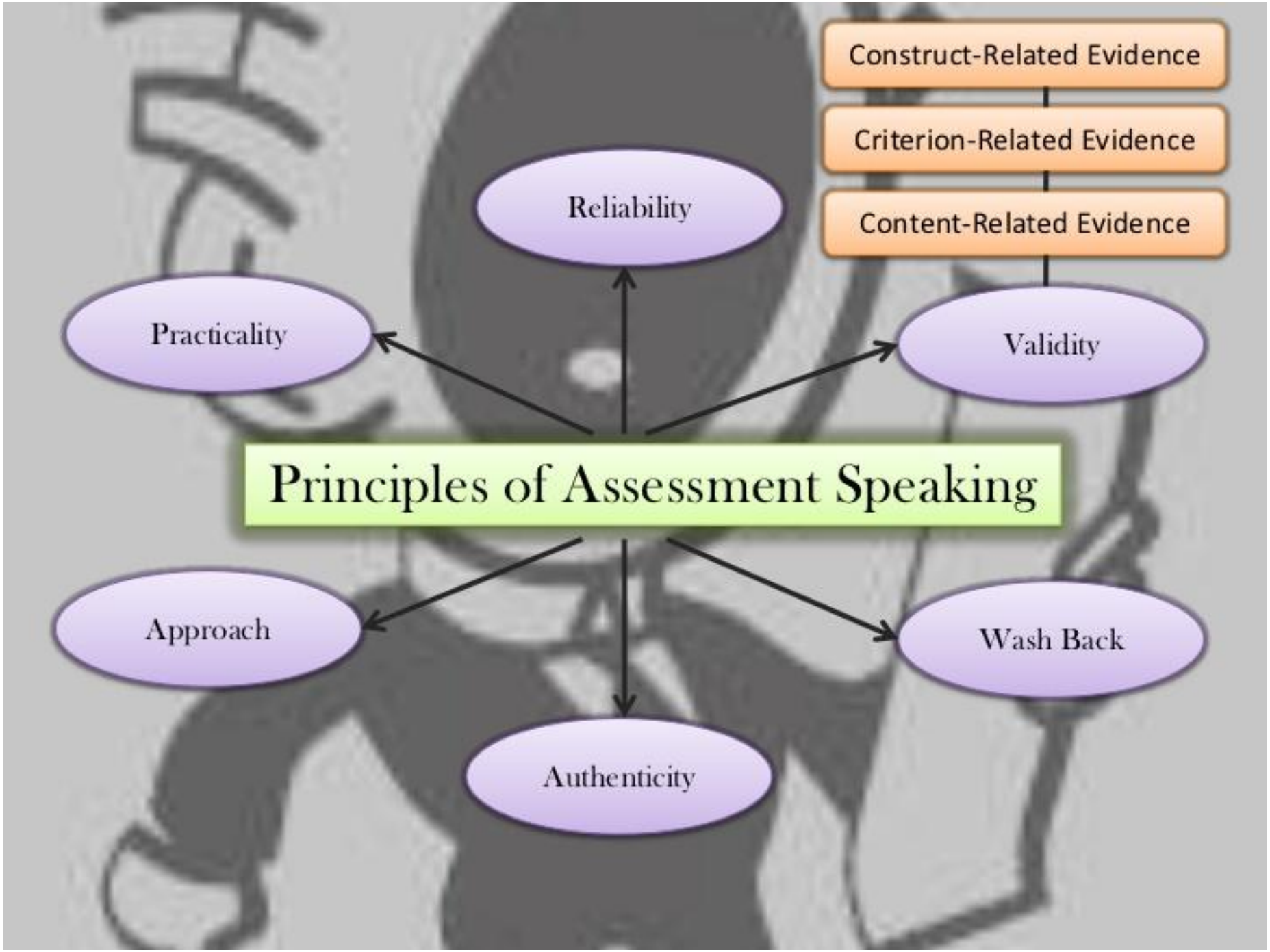
Micro- and Macro of Speaking

- The micro-skills refer to producing the smaller chunks of language such s phonemes, morphemes, words, collocations, and phrasal units.
- The macro-skills imply the speaker's focus on the larger elements: fluency, discourse, function, style, cohesion, nonverbal communication, and strategic options.

Sample Assessment for Speaking Activities

Extensive Speaking	Responsive Speaking	Giving Instructions and Directions
-Picture-cued story telling - Retelling a story or news event	- Question and answer	- Question and answer

Test of Spoken English	Interactive Speaking	Interview
• Categories -Give a opinion - Describe something • Specific Tasks -Give an opinion about (specific topic) - Giving a personal direction - Defining a technical term	-Interpersonal tasks - Interview - Role play - Discussions - Conversations - Games	-Oral proficiency interview


Construct-Related Evidence
Criterion-Related Evidence
Content-Related Evidence
Reliability
Practicality
Validity
Principles of Assessment Speaking
Approach
Wash Back
Authenticity

Conclusions

- Speaking assessment is very difficult.
- It is important to determine what criteria to use to assess whether accuracy or fluency. Such criteria can be based upon created models or adapted ones.