LEVEL/CRITERIA	FUNCTIONS	CONTENT/CONTEXT	ACCURACY
NOVICE	Can use limited material in simple statement or question form. Naming/Identifying objects, people, places, signs. Giving name, place of origin, simple personal information. Expressing belonging to organization, family. Institution. Expressing minimal courtesy. Expressing agreement/disagreement	General topics as: Basic classroom objects Colors Numbers 0-100 Clothing Telling time Dates(month/day/current year Weather/seasons Family members Self-identification (nationality and profession) Money denominations Courtesy expressions like thank you, sorry, pardon me etc.	Utterances consist of isolated words and perhaps a few high frequency phrases. Mispronounciations are frequent.
BASIC	Can create with language. Can make up own sentences not limited to very familiar memorized material. Can participate in short conversations. Can ask and answer questions. Can get into, through, and out of a simple survival situation. Can transfer current learned material to new situations/contexts.	Everyday survival topics such as Personal/biographical information Restaurant/foods Asking/giving directions Activities/hobbies Transportation Talking on the phone Lodging/living quarters Money matters Health matters Post office Numbers 1-100 Customs Shopping/making purchases Courtesy/social requirements such as: Greetings/introductions; Making appointments Making meeting arrangements; Accepting/refusing invitations; Polite, formulaic expressions	Comprehensible to native speaker used to dealing with target-language learners. Some accuracy in basic structures. Uses short sentences. Minimal sociolinguistic knowledge in evidence. Very basic vocabulary related to content areas listed. Accent sometimes difficult to understand.
INTERMEDIATE	Can narrate and describe in present, past, future time. Can fully participate in casual conversations. Can give instructions, simple reports. Can deal with complications in such situations as one might encounter in living in the target culture. Complaints, emergency situations, talking one's way out of trouble. Can make simple comparisons.	Content widens to include numerous topics, generally of a factual nature, such as: Current events Politics Press, media Education Economics Cultural and moral issues Leisure, travel, vacations Customs and mores History	Comprehensible to native speakers not used to dealing with foreigners. Sometimes miscommunicates, though good general vocabulary with come circumlocution. Accent intelligible. Elementary grammar/syntax quite accurate. Patterns of error in more complex structures. Able to express ideas in a fairly complete manner.
ADVANCED	Can hypothesize. Can support opinions. Can describe in detail. Can narrate in detail. Can narrate in detail with precision.	Can handle most practical, social, abstract, and professional topics. Special fields of competence. Particular fields of interest.	All the language forms are controlled relatively well. Occasional (unpatterned) errors in common structures. Some patterns of error in more complex structures. Errors rarely disturb the native speaker or interfere with comprehension. Vocabulary broad, though not always idiomatic or precise.
SUPERIOR	Can persuade and counsel. Can represent different points of view. Can represent and defend point of view. Can convey a specific tone or attitude.	Can handle all topics of Advanced level with more precision and nuances. Can change contexts with ease. (Such as informal to formal, presentational to conversational).	Can tailor language to fit audience (adopt different registers). Although accent may be present, will rarely mispronounce. Only occasional errors in morphology and syntax. High level discourse structures. Speech is effortless and smooth. Extensive, precise and appropriate vocabulary.