

Thinking and Language

language structure

Phonemes: the smallest distinctive sound units and a language.

869 phonemes in human speech

Morphemes: the smallest units that carry meaning in a given language.



Grammar = communicative rules in language - sounds vs sentences

English language : 40 phonemes -> 100,000 morphemes -> 616,500 words -> infinite # of sentences.



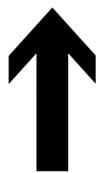
Language and Thought

Language affects thinking

(influences but does not dictate)

- Bilingual people have different self-perceptions based on what language they think in.

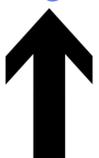
People better remember differences in color if their language as multiple words for different shades.



Thinking in images

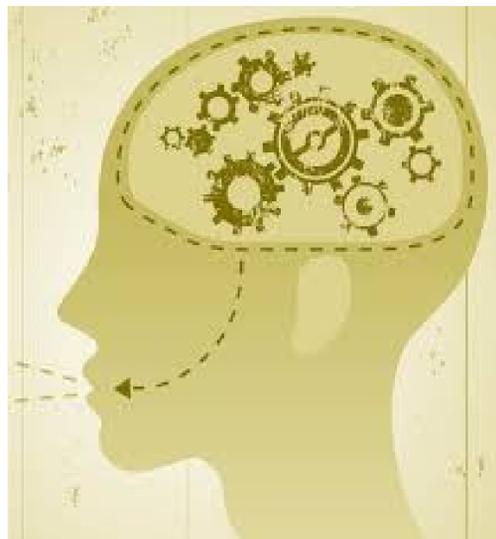
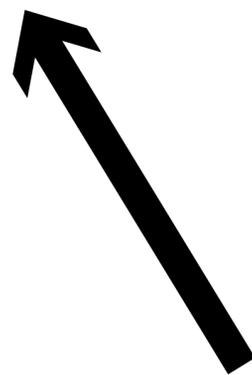
Mentally picturing things can be practice

Language influences how thinking is perceived, thinking influences how language is formed



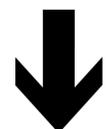
Explaining Language Development

Humans have a built-in predisposition to learning language and grammar rules. This makes it very easy for us to learn language. Infants have a very easy time soaking up new language structure and grammar. However, as we get older, our ability to learn new languages diminishes. In fact, by the age of nine, humans cannot learn a language as well as if they had began learning it earlier.



Language Development

There are three main types of language that facilitate language development. The first type is Receptive Language, which is first developed in infants. Infants begin to recognize patterns and differences in sounds of speech, often attempting to associate them with faces or people. Infants also begin to read lips during this stage, recognizing which shapes of the mouth make different sounds. Receptive language helps infants begin to understand what is said to or about them.



Babies also develop Productive Language, which is the ability to produce words, after they develop the Receptive language. During the development of this stage, babies go through the babbling stage, the one-word, the two-word stage, and then begin constructing sentences in the telegraphic speech. After this stage, language develops rapidly and becomes more applicable through everyday life, facilitating further development.

