

Punctuating Performed Language: The Viewpoints

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In his article “Performing Literary Translations”, dramaturg and translator Per Brask notes the understanding of “Gestus” as the point in the process of translation in which he becomes fully aware of how the literary work should be arranged. He borrows from Brecht in both “the sense of a stance and the sense of something being performed” in the process of translating a literary piece from one language to another.

What I propose is a similar parallel using the concrete technique of Viewpoints, developed by Anne Bogart, as a vehicle for exploring the kinesthetic responses that take place in the process of transforming language into meaningful communication.

The Viewpoints provide a technique for composing bodies in time and space as a means of communication. In essence, the VP can be considered to be process for developing “body thought” and body language. As a collection of skills the VP are an important tool in the recognition of how the body serves to punctuate and extend speech in time and space. In order for spoken language to extend beyond the confines of words and become meaningful as communication, it is important to become aware of these non-verbal language in order to be able to fully engage them in communication.

All Viewpoints will be introduced, however, my presentation will focus on specific Viewpoints that serve to develop kinesthetic response and to advance the recognition of and response to body language. More specifically, I focus on Viewpoints that would be beneficial in the teaching of a second language.