

The psychology of language learning

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Vygotsky's ideas about the role of speech in thinking and his paper on imagination and play have influenced the field of developmental psychology. Succinctly, Vygotsky argued that play and imagination are products of the power of speech. Subtle but powerful, language acts as the pivot of any play. In this presentation, I hope to lay a solid groundwork for the psychology behind language learning through drama. As is often said, learning is at it best when it is very serious and at the same time very playful. The concept of play will also be used to decipher how African languages can be learned with minimal difficulty.