

THEORIES ABOUT PERSON'S LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT*Sh. Otabekova¹**Abstract:*

Language development is considered as a slow process which starts from early childhood. A child acquires language by interacting with people of conditions around him. Indeed, every person is born with this ability. Language itself plays vital role in humanities' social life. Because it is known as a communication tool, firstly. Language is used in verbal or written form. In person's growth language is developed verbally, only.

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Many scientists mainly focus on the theories about nature and nurture. Mostly a language covers two main features, which are a group of symbols representing sounds and grammar rules. Many people think that grammar rules should be learned first and they are the most important part of a language. However, language does not work in this way, rules are formed after everything. Paying attention only on grammar makes learning much slow and monotonous. Person should feel himself free, without borders, or worries about making mistake.

There are numerous theories about language development, we present five of them.

1. Daniel Everett's Theory: Language Scratches the Communicative Itch

Picking up and using a language is something, inventing it from scratch is a whole another thing. Here come the homo Erectus! The language phenomenon may not have started with us, homo sapiens. According to linguist Daniel Everett, nearly two million years have passed since "homo Erectus" first started uttering meaningful sounds. Homo erectus is considered the first human species, which also includes homo sapiens and Neanderthals. These early hominins had big brains, walked upright, and were the first gatherer-hunters. They traveled in groups across the islands, and the ocean couldn't get in their way. Daniel Everett thinks that the most early human species might have had conversation with each other even not near to sounds and words of present day, but they also needed communication tool.

2. Chomsky's Nativist Linguistic Theory: Universal Grammar

Linguist Noam Chomsky, however, thinks language is innate.

What is grammar?

It is "The whole system and structure of a language or of languages in general, usually taken as consisting of syntax and morphology (including inflections) and sometimes also phonology and semantics."

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For Chomsky, who formulated the concept of universal grammar, language has a genetic component to it. In Chomsky's point of view, language is innate, which means language appears itself. It does not require specific factors or revolution. But he considers that grammar is the most important part of language.

Noam Chomsky, a linguistics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology first introduced the universal grammar to the community of linguists in 1960s. He thought of making easier for children to speak in a language. For this, he thinks that instead of learning some expressions or phrases by heart, being aware of grammar rules makes easy to children to create new words and speak fluently. The word "Universal grammar" itself refers to the grammar rules and structures that are suitable for every language.

3. B.F. Skinner Behaviorist Theory

The nativist theory, attributes the emergence of language as a neural mutation that occurred way back in a single individual. Everett thinks it was born from a more social necessity, slowly shaped by many individuals. This means there's no universal grammar shared between all languages and from which they take their linguistic cues. The notion of universal grammar and the innateness of the language faculty is also opposed to the behaviorist concept of language. It's American behaviorist and psychologist B.F. Skinner who developed the behaviorist theory of language acquisition.

4. Vygotsky's Social Interactionist Theory

The social interactionist theory is based on the work of Soviet psychologist Lev Vygotsky.

The basic notion of this theory is that language has a social origin. In that regard, it has some similarities with Everett's model. This concept suggests that the child, from birth, is continually engaging in social interactions, which allows him to develop higher cognitive functions, namely language, and thought. According to Vygotsky's social development model, socio-cultural interactions come first, then cognition and language development.

5. Piaget's Constructivist Theory

For Jean Piaget, a Swiss psychologist, language is not only due to genetic predisposition or imitation. Piaget's constructivist theory argues that language is constructed by following cognitive development. In other words, people develop their language skills and construct overall knowledge based on their own experience.

Beyond just language development, Piaget's theory focuses on understanding the nature of intelligence itself. He defines four stages that cognitive development goes through:

Sensorimotor stage: birth to 2 years

Preoperational stage: 2 to 7 years

Concrete operational stage: 7 to 11 years

Formal operational stage: 12 and up

We have barely scratched the surface here. There are several other theories, each with its unique approach. Like languages themselves, thoughts on them may overlap and cross-fertilize.

After acquiring language, it is turn to developing it. Learning every language requires four skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Person, firstly, starts to learn language by hearing and recognizing his mother's voice. This is called phonological development. It involves the rules about the structure and

sequence of speech sounds. A child starts to pronounce only vowels first, because they do not require effort. After that, usually stop consonants such as p, b, m. The words they first use are much likely to be nouns, then adjectives, then easy words: hello, bye, dad or mom.

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