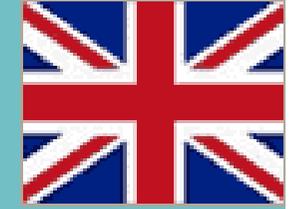


Lingua Inglese e Traduzione

Scienze e tecniche psicologiche (7 CFU)

Docente: Alessandra Nucifora a.nucifora@unict.it



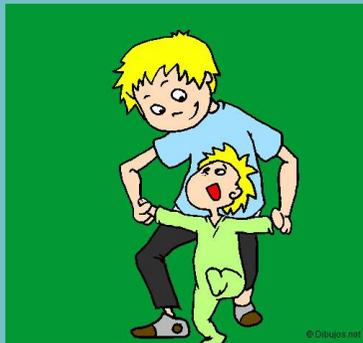
Jerome Bruner (1915)

***Actual Minds, Possible worlds
(1986)***

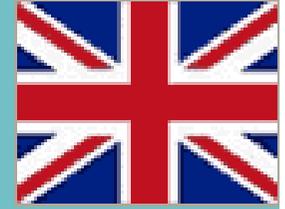


American Psychologist and Educator.

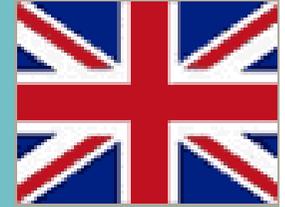
His work on **perception, learning, memory,** and other aspects of **cognition** in young children has, along with the related work of Jean Piaget, influenced the American educational system.



Main concepts in the passage



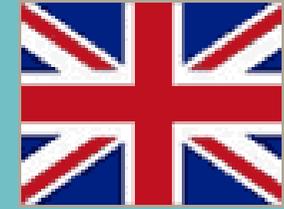
- ◆ We know the world in different ways, from different stances.
- ◆ Each of the ways in which we know it produces different structures or representations or “realities”.
- ◆ The more we grow to adulthood → the more we are adept at seeing things from multiple perspectives and entertaining the results as alternative possible worlds.



- ◆ Child → capable of imposing principles of organization that have an *internal “logic”*

In the perspective of development/language acquisition:

- ◆ Children easily master syntax
- ◆ With more difficulty they learn HOW TO MEAN (= how to refer to the world with SENSE)
- ◆ **Purpose:** *getting things done in the world: requesting, indicating, affiliating, protesting, asserting, possessing, and the rest.*



Jerome Bruner

Language Learning/acquisition

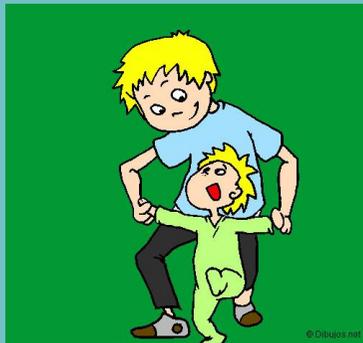
What is language? Is it an inborn attitude in little children?



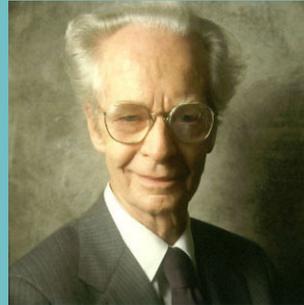
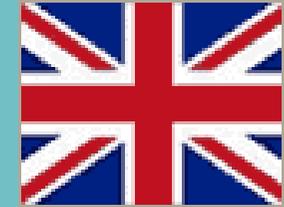
It is a system of symbols abstracted from experience

It provides an important vehicle for thinking

Many different theories exist about language acquisition in little children



Discrimination-learning model



According to Skinner linguistic concept formation is based on the same principles that describe how a rat learns to push a bar ***in response to a specific signal.***

This is called ***discrimination-learning model***

It seems to account for name-learning but not for other aspects of language learning such as specification of feasible transformations, sentences equivalence, grammatical changes.



Genetic disposition

- According to other theories, humans are genetically prepared to acquire some language at any early age, much as some birds show readiness to learn any song pattern to which they are exposed when they reach a certain age (age 1 to 6)



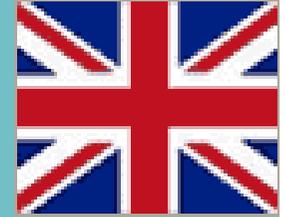
All human languages should therefore obey constraints established by the linguistic limits of *genetic endowment*.

Language

as an *independent biological function?*

Biological bases for language learning remain to be identified and incorporated in such theories.

Such an array of theories is a sign of how little is known of the way people learn the concepts of a language.



Bruner says that *adults become increasingly adept at seeing the same set of events from multiple perspectives or stances and at entertaining the results as, so to speak, alternative possible worlds.*
What does it mean?

Discuss the topic in pairs, then write a personal answer making examples and explaining your own view.

Howard Gardner (1949)

- ❑ Born in Pennsylvania, Gardner is developmental psychologist . He teaches Cognition and Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.
- ❑ His major achievement is his theory of ***MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES*** described in his groundbreaking book *Frames of Mind* (1983) according to which human beings have different forms of intelligence (seven, although he has added two more in the last years)



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