
JEROME BRUNER



OVERVIEW

Hamida: Who is Jerome Bruner

Jenna: Jerome Bruner's Perspective on How Children Should Learn

Bronte: Jerome's Narrative Perspective

Sylvia: Jerome's Mode of Thought

Paul: Cognitive Functioning, Influence on Language/Culture & Other Research



SUMMARY TO THIS PRESENTATION

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Bruner, His Theory
& Spiral Curriculum



How Should Children
Learn



A Good Story



A Well Formatted
Argument



Cognitive
Functioning, Other
Research & Daniel

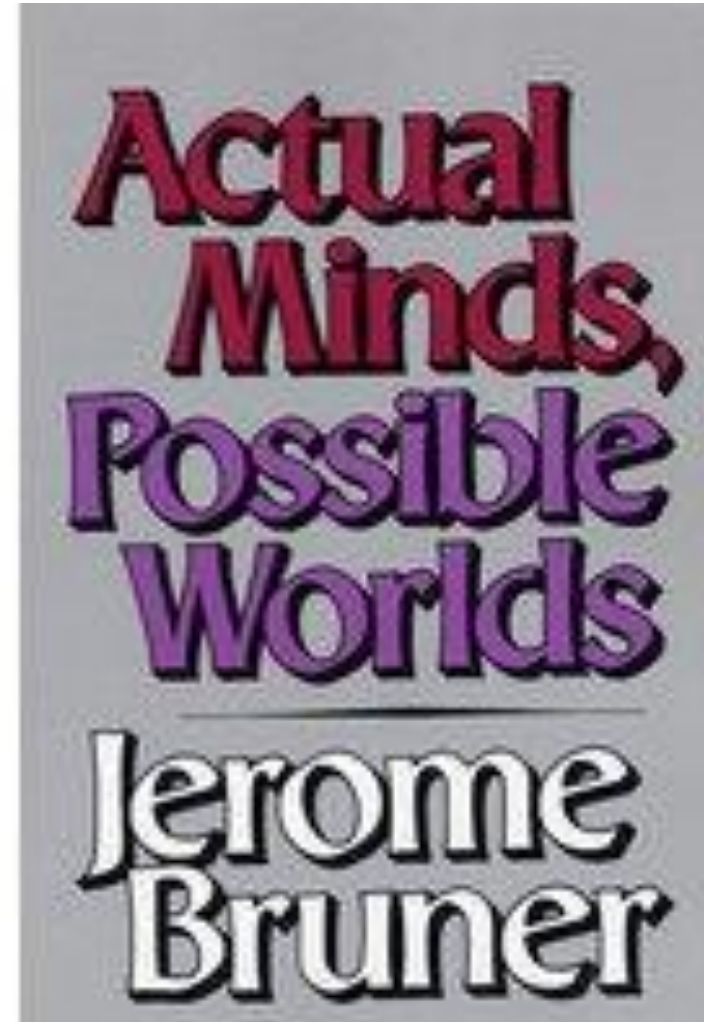
WHO IS JEROME BRUNER

- Jerome Bruner was a renowned American psychologist and one of the leading figures in cognitive psychology. He died in 2016, at age 100.
- He made significant contributions to the fields of education, learning theory, and narrative psychology.
- Bruner's work emphasizes the role of culture and language in cognitive development and how individuals understand the world.



OVERVIEW OF "ACTUAL MINDS, POSSIBLE WORLDS"

- Published in 1986, *Actual Minds, Possible Worlds* focuses on how human beings construct meaning through narrative.
- Bruner argues that people organize their experiences in the form of stories, which helps them understand both the world around them and themselves.
- The book introduces the idea of "narrative as a way of knowing" and how individuals shift between "actual minds" (the real world) and "possible worlds" (imagined or hypothetical scenarios).



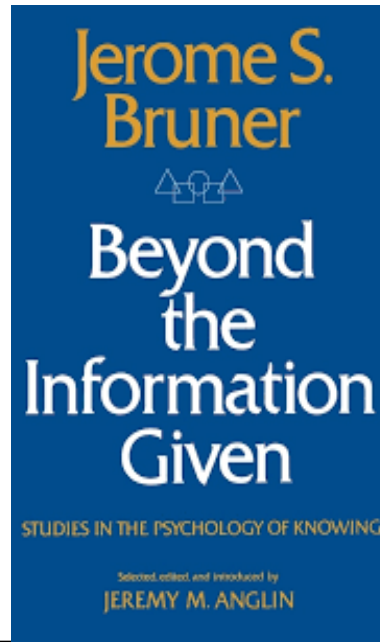
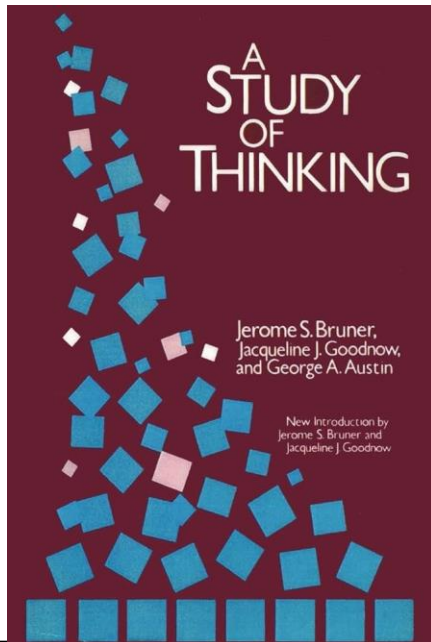
KEY CONCEPTS : THE “TWO MODES OF THOUGHT”

- **The Narrative Mode:** Based on stories, often involving people and emotions.
 - **The Logical or Scientific Mode:** Involves structured, factual explanations.
- These modes are not separate but interact, influencing how we perceive reality and imagine alternatives.



SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WORK

- The book highlights the crucial role of storytelling in shaping our cognition, learning, and understanding of reality.
- views of learning, showing that we are not just passive receivers of information but active creators of meaning. Bruner's ideas have influenced not just psychology, but also education, literature, and cultural studies.
- His insights challenge traditional



BRUNER'S PERSPECTIVE ON HOW CHILDREN PERCEIVE THE WORLD & LEARN



We are storytelling creatures, and as children we acquire language to tell those stories that we have inside us.

meetville.com

Jerome Bruner

BRUNER'S 6 KEY IDEAS: HOW
CHILDREN SHOULD LEARN & HOW
WE SHOULD TEACH CHILDREN



Discovery Learning:

Spiral Curriculum:

Active Engagement:

Cognitive Apprenticeship:

Meaningful Contexts

Cultural Tools and Language



Learning Modes

Enactive

Learn through movement or action



Play with a book



Iconic

Learn through images or icons



Look at pictures



Symbolic

Learn through abstract symbols



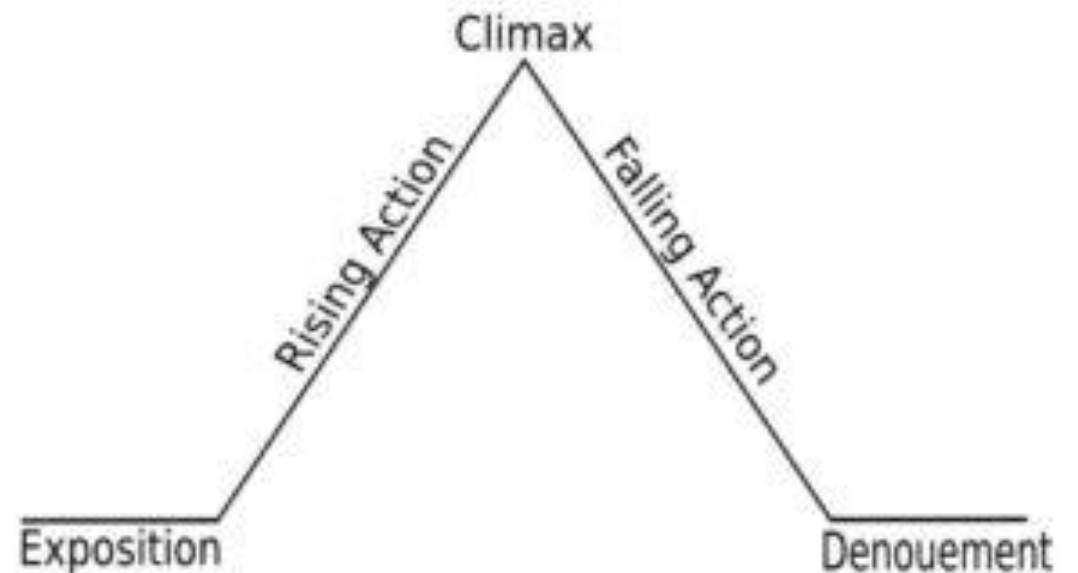
Read for research



WHAT IS NARRATIVE?

- The fundamental ways in which we make sense of the world.
- Helps us to understand human action, experiences, and intentions.
- Clear beginning, middle, and end.
- **Constructions** shaped by culture, language, and personal interpretation.

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BRUNER'S VERSION OF A GOOD STORY

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- A means of convincing others.
- Fact VS storytelling.
- Stories organize events into meaningful frameworks giving them purpose and emotional resonance.
- Explores human intentions, giving the listener a chance to deeply engage with the narrative.



BRUNER'S CONSTRUCTIVIST APPROACH

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- A central premise to "world making".
- The mind's principal function – applies to arts and sciences (exception: autobiography).
- Narrative power is the ability of stories to shape human understanding allowing us to explore "possible worlds".

NARRATIVE POINT OF VIEW

- Knowledge is never "point-of-viewless" - The Narrative Construction of reality (P.3)
- Example: Socrates VS Glaucon or Ancient Egyptians

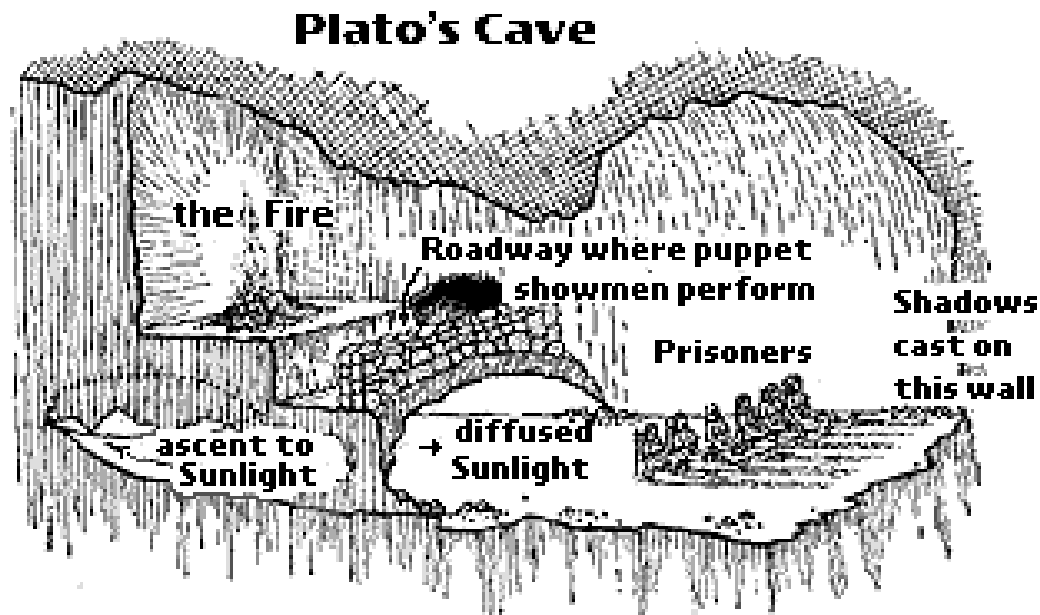


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PLATO AND BRUNER

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- In Plato's allegory, prisoners are chained in a cave, seeing only shadows of the world outside.
- The allegory bridges the "actual minds" and "possible world".

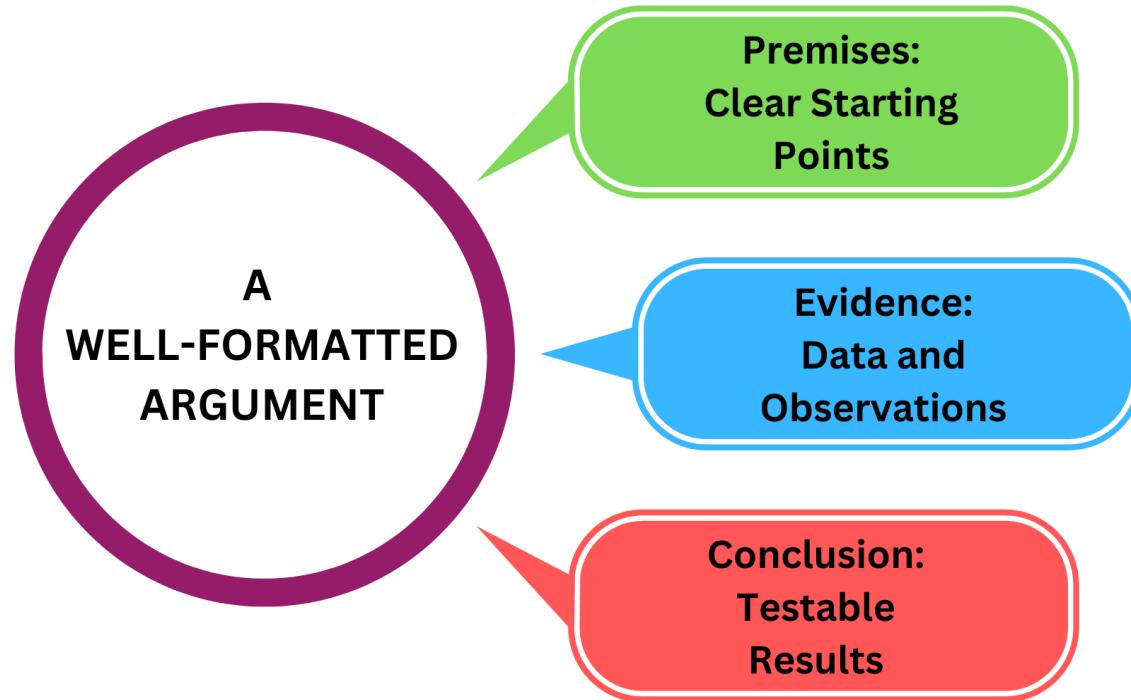
BRUNER'S TWO MODES OF THOUGHT

LOGICAL-SCIENTIFIC VS. NARRATIVE MODE EXPLAIN HOW WE CONSTRUCT KNOWLEDGE IN UNIQUE WAYS

Aspect	Logical-Scientific Mode
Definition	Creates knowledge by reasoning, scientific proof, and universal truths
Purpose	Explains events using general laws and theories
Key Features	Objectivity, methodical analysis, and results that are repeatable
Examples	Scientific experiments

WHAT MAKES AN ARGUMENT “WELL-FORMATTED”?

WELL-FORMATTED ARGUMENTS ENSURE CLARITY, LOGICAL CONSISTENCY, AND EVIDENCE-BASED CONCLUSIONS, CRITICAL FOR CONSTRUCTING UNIVERSAL TRUTHS



A well-structured argument flows logically from clearly stated premises to evidence-based conclusions. Premises serve as the foundation, offering distinct and explicit beginning points. Verifiable data and logical analysis provide evidence to support these premises, confirming the argument's credibility and objectivity. Finally, conclusions bring the argument together by presenting testable and experimentally proven consequences.

THE IMPORTANCE AND REAL-WORLD APPLICATION OF WELL-FORMATTED ARGUMENTS

WELL-FORMATTED ARGUMENTS ARE CRUCIAL TOOLS FOR BUILDING KNOWLEDGE, ENABLING STRAIGHTFORWARD COMMUNICATION, AND MAKING INFORMED JUDGEMENTS IN A VARIETY OF SITUATIONS



Critical Thinking and Knowledge Construction

Clear premises, evidence, and conclusions help us analyze and validate information logically.

Example: Scientific Research

Scientific reports use systematic reasoning and verifiable evidence to test hypotheses and establish universal truths.



Media and Communication

In media and journalism, well-formatted arguments ensure accurate and trustworthy reporting by grounding narratives in evidence and logical reasoning.

Example: Fact-Based Journalism

Policy briefs or investigative reports rely on logical arguments to present factual, unbiased perspectives.



Decision-Making in Real Life

Causal explanations and systematic analysis guide decision-making by clarifying the "why" and "how" of a situation.

Example: Legal and Policy Contexts

Lawyers and policymakers use structured arguments to present cases, debate policies, and persuade stakeholders.

THE IMPACT OF WELL-FORMATTED ARGUMENTS

WELL-FORMATTED ARGUMENTS GO BEYOND LOGICAL REASONING—THEY SHAPE HOW WE COMMUNICATE, SOLVE PROBLEMS, AND ENGAGE WITH THE WORLD

1. A Tool for Critical Thinking

- **Well-structured arguments allow us to separate fact from opinion, challenge assumptions, and engage in logical reasoning.**
- They train us to ask the right questions and build strong, rational perspectives.

2. The Bridge Between Logic and Communication

- Logical arguments are not just used in science or academia—they are the foundation of persuasive and credible communication.
- Whether in journalism, policymaking, or everyday discussions, arguments structured around evidence and reasoning **build trust and clarity.**

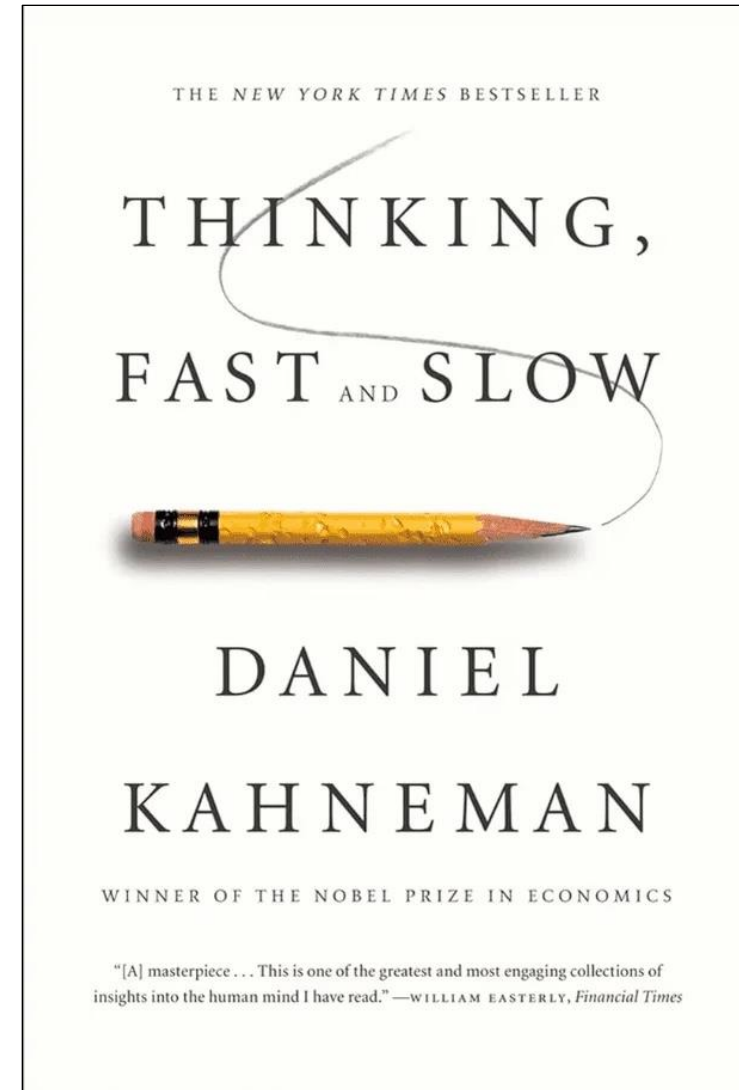
3. A Lifelong Skill for Decision-Making

- From evaluating news to making personal or professional choices, the ability to **construct and analyze well-formatted arguments leads to better, more informed decisions.**
 - Arguments **aren't just about proving a point—they are about making sense of complex realities** in a rational and structured way.
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KAHNEMAN AND BRUNER



Daniel Kahneman (1934-2024) Author of *Thinking, Fast and Slow*. Both Kahneman and Jerome Bruner explore human cognition from different perspectives.



EXPERIENCING SLOW THINKING

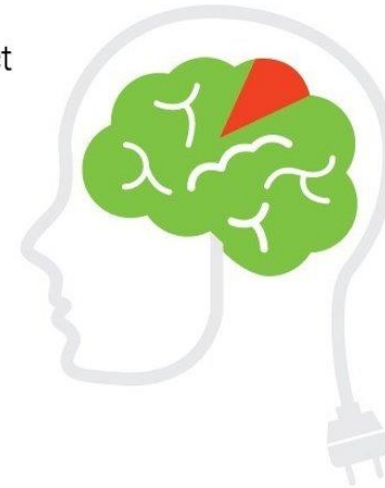
Two Systems of Thought

- **System 1:** Operates automatically, quickly, and with little effort. It's responsible for everyday judgments and instinctual reactions.
- **System 2:** Requires conscious effort, reasoning, and deliberation. It's activated when tasks are challenging or unfamiliar.

SYSTEM 1
Intuition & instinct



Unconscious
Fast
Associative
Automatic pilot



SYSTEM 2
Rational thinking



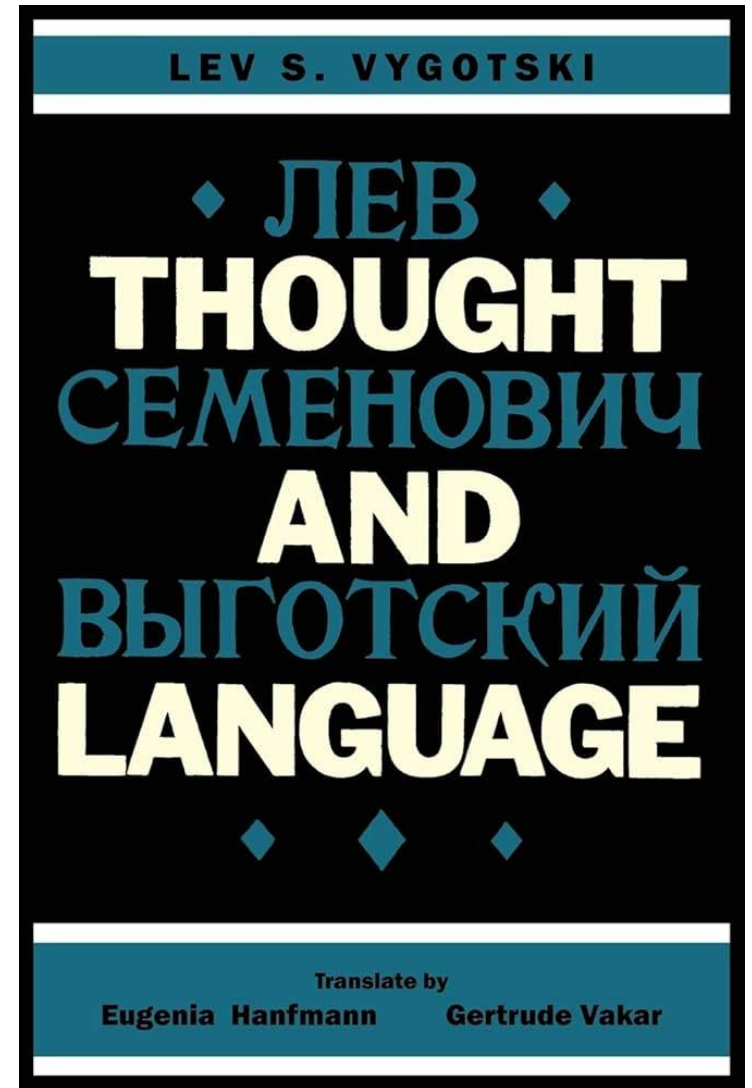
Takes effort
Slow
Logical
Lazy
Indecisive

Trading Fast and Slow. (n.d.). <https://fbs.eu/en/analytics/tips/trading-fast-and-slow-26041>

VYGOTSKY AND BRUNER

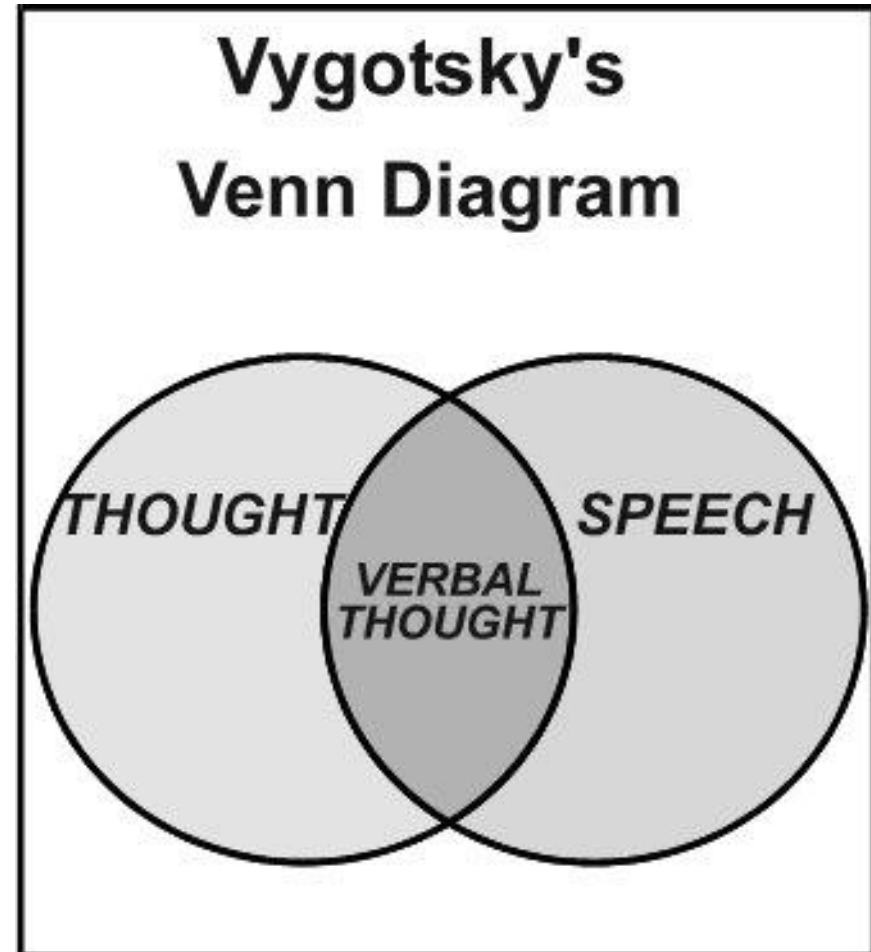


Lev Vygotsky (1896-1934) Author of *Thought and Language*. Both Vygotsky and Jerome Bruner delve into the profound relationship between language and cognition, illustrating how language shapes mental processes and our understanding of reality.



VYGOTSKY'S VENN DIAGRAM

- The developmental interplay between thought and language
- Language shapes mental processes and our understanding of reality.
- The transformative impact of language on cognition and our ability to interact with and make sense of the world.



(N.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.joanwink.com/vision-of-vygotsky/vision-of-vygotsky-joan-meets-vygotsky/>.

IN CONCLUSION

We chose to focus on Jerome Bruner's key findings, highlighting the ideas that resonated with us most and sparked our interest. We explored these concepts in depth and built our presentation around them to share with you today. *Thank you!*



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