

LINGUISTIC INTELLIGENCE: PSYCHOLINGUISTIC, LINGUISTIC CREATIVITY & METACOMMUNICATION

Fausto PRESUTTI, Ph.D.,

I.S.P.E.F. & E.C.E. President

f.presutti@ispef.it

Abstract: *This Psychology article presents the theoretical-conceptual models that characterizes the keys to understanding and to study mental capacity and communication skills, useful in being able to know and analyses Linguistic Intelligence. Studies on the development of Linguistic Intelligence have been conducted predominantly by the following disciplines:*

- *Neurolinguistics that led to the formulation of mental imaginative insights as the fundamental conception of the Linguistic Generative Intelligence model,*
- *Social Cognitive Psychology that led to the formulation of mental evolutionary adaptation as a fundamental principle of the Linguistic Constructive Intelligence model;*
- *Psychology of Communication that led to the formulation of continuous, dynamic and interactive relationship of the communication cycle as a fundamental axiom of the Communication Sciences.*

Linguistic Intelligence is determined by typical forms of thinking and reasoning, which adopt particular mental abilities and specific expressive competences with respect to other communication codes, such as the graphic-pictorial, the mimic-gestural, the musical, etc.

The structures, properties, and expressions of Linguistic Intelligence, that characterize the conception, construction and formalization of verbal or written communications between people, can be analysed on the basis of three different fields of studies:

A) PSYCHOLINGUISTIC: study the psychological characteristics and rules of codification and decoding of language, in the psycho-cognitive-pragmatic field of study of linguistic communication).

PsychoLinguistics is connoted by 4 models: Structuralist Cognitivism, Empirical Taxonomy, Generative Neurolinguistics, Linguistic Metacommunication;

B) LINGUISTIC CREATIVITY: acts in the psycho-ideative field of study of linguistic communication.

The Creativity is determined by the mental processes of Constructive Intelligence and Generative Intelligence.

The mental processes that characterize Creativity are: the Global Perception, the

Personalizing Insights, the Multifaceted Vision, the Cognitive Originality;

C) LINGUISTIC METACOMMUNICATION: study the types and modes people use to express thoughts and concepts that go beyond, beyond, what the cognitive and affective contents mean at the level of language and communicative message in the psycho-emotional and socio-cultural field of study of linguistic communication.

Linguistic Metacommunication is determined by mental symbols (cultural symbols and psychic symbols) that the person processes and expresses during communication.

Key words: *Linguistic Intelligence; Psycholinguistics; Linguistic Creativity; Metacommunication; Development of Linguistic Intelligence; Neurolinguistic Communication Psychology; Communication Science.*

A. Studies on the evolution of linguistic intelligence: neurolinguistics and social cognitive psychology

Studies on the development of Linguistic Intelligence have been carried out mainly by Neurolinguistics and Social Cognitive Psychology.

Neurolinguistics considers the biological and neurological aspects of the processes and apparatuses involved in the acquisition and use of language.

Neurolinguistics is based on studies of *Genetic Psychology*, characterized by the comparison between the maturation of structures and physiological processes related to language and the expressive-communicative abilities of the same. Thus, Neurolinguistics is based on studies of genetic evolution of human language abilities and studies people's linguistic aptitudes and potentialities

Social Cognitive Psychology considers the conditioning of social reality and the educational environment in the development of Communication and

Linguistic Intelligence and their influence in the cultural context as a stimulus and tool to promote socialization and cultural processes.

Social Cognitive Psychology posits that language development is predominantly determined by environmental and social influence.

Behaviorist Psychology can be aggregated with the theory of Social Cognitive Psychology, whose theoretical model is characterized by the following principles:

1) the child learns to speak through a stimulus-response process, where the approval of parents and the family environment serves as constant social reinforcement;

2) through daily interaction and verbal communication, the social environment progressively shapes language acquisition, reinforcing the learning of language elements and rules that are used in the community. Child distinguishes the right words from the wrong ones based on the association of rewards and punishments exchanged during social interaction.

In a manner diametrically opposed to Social Cognitive Psychology, Neurolinguistics highlights the evolution of language through innate predisposition and genetic programming of the maturation of the structures and physiological processes specific to language itself.

For Neurolinguistics, language is a means of communication particular to the human species; its development is determined by a biological matrix that through the continuous exchange between genetic heritage and environmental influence, allows the maturation of the biological functions and physiological mechanisms of language.

In the Neurolinguistic conception, language evolves into a system of rules and linguistic knowledge, which is used as early as infancy to speak and to understand others who speak.

Noam Chomsky 1957, 1964, 1965a-b, 1968 a-b, 1969/70, 1975a-b-c-, 1977, 1980, 1981,

1987), one of the major exponents of Neurolinguistics, theorizes that each individual is endowed with a physiological apparatus of language acquisition (LAD), determined by genetic factors typical of the human species.

Through activation of this language acquisition system, humans have the ability to process data related to language and can infer correct and socially understandable grammatical and syntactic forms.

Chomsky hypothesizes, then, that the development of language is marked by a generation of language system, which is shaped by social experience.

Aleksander R. Lurija (1951, 1959, 1960, 1968, 1974, 1975 a-b, 1976) in his study of the neuropsychology of language, highlights the fact that language is a regulator of behavior that allows the child to learn about reality in a richer, more evolved way.

This study is characterized by the theoretical contributions of Lev Semenovic Vygotskij(1934, 1960, 1966, 1972) who points out that language ability contributes to the formation and development of thought.

According to this theoretical model, the development of thought and language converge, allowing for a more organic structuring of the experience.

The development of children's mental processes starts with dialogues made up of gestures and words to arrive at communications that use autonomous thinking; these social relationships allow content and vocabulary to be internalized, resulting in complex, conceptualized personal responses.

Since speech is a mental abstraction that can be used as a cognitive or reasoning element, allora il pensiero diventa espressione verbale e il linguaggio diventa contenuto razionale.

Therefore, intellectual development consists of reflection on experience and personal elaboration on the linguistic messages made between individuals.

Therefore, Vygotskij's theoretical model highlights that the convergence of thought and language allows for the formation of a superior synthesis of rational language.

This conception can be schematized as follows

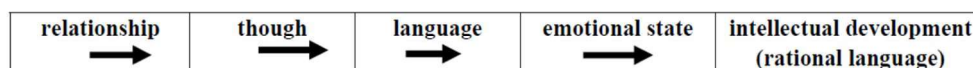


Figure 1: *Vygotskij's theoretical model*

To Vygotsky's model can be correlated Jean Piaget's model (1923, 1937 a-b, 1966, 1967) characterized by the theory that: the development of thinking allows the evolution of linguistic ability.

According to Piaget, it is not accurate to say that intelligence depends on language, instead the conception that language depends on the intelligence developed by the individual is right. However, the processing and use of language is important in human logical-cognitive development in that:

- a) allows you to recall facts and events, freeing them from perceptual limitations;
- b) allows you to represent the elements of a context in an abstract conceptual and rational order so that you can deepen your understanding of them;
- c) is the most complex form of symbolization possessed by man.

For Piaget, language is not the only communicative medium that enables intellectual development.

Jerome Bruner's (1956, 1966, 1968, 1973, 1983, 1986, 1987) conceptual model is significantly grafted into Jean Piaget's theoretical conception.

Bruner views language as a tool of thought and a means of communication.

Language is the final symbolic stage by which the child represents and develops thought, since learning starts with concrete experiences and then arrives at abstract conceptualizations.

Moreover, according to Jerome Bruner, language has the fundamental property of being the means by which the child mentally processes reality and returns to reality through the social communication of its reasoning.

A further development of Bruner's theory is given by Howard Gardner (1983, 1988, 1993, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2013), who considers the Linguistic Intelligence as a specific tool of auditory-vocal thinking, therefore promotes a particular form of mental processing and reasoning.

Language uses specific mental capacities and physiological structures such as to develop a particular form of intelligence, which can be referred to as "*Linguistic Intelligence*".

Howard's theory is based on the conception that. The Linguistic Intelligence is developed through relationships and social experiences.

The meaningful exchange of messages between people on a cognitive and emotional level, allows to communicate contents and concepts expressed through cultural and psychic symbols that go beyond what has been communicated linguistically.

The study of this type of communication allows the researchers of the Palo Alto School to define the concept of Metacommunication. and in particular to Paul Watzlawick and collaborators (1967, 1974, 1976, 1977 a-b, 1983, 1984, 1986) allows us to define the fundamental axioms of human Communication. Linguistic Intelligence and Metacommunication are the main fields of study and application of Psychology of Communication and Communication Sciences. The connections of Neurolinguistics theories with Social Cognitive Psychology theories and with Communication Science theories are multiple and interdependent in a way that creates one complete and complex model, as depicted in the following conceptual representation.

Figure 2: STUDIES ON THE EVOLUTION OF LINGUISTIC INTELLIGENCE

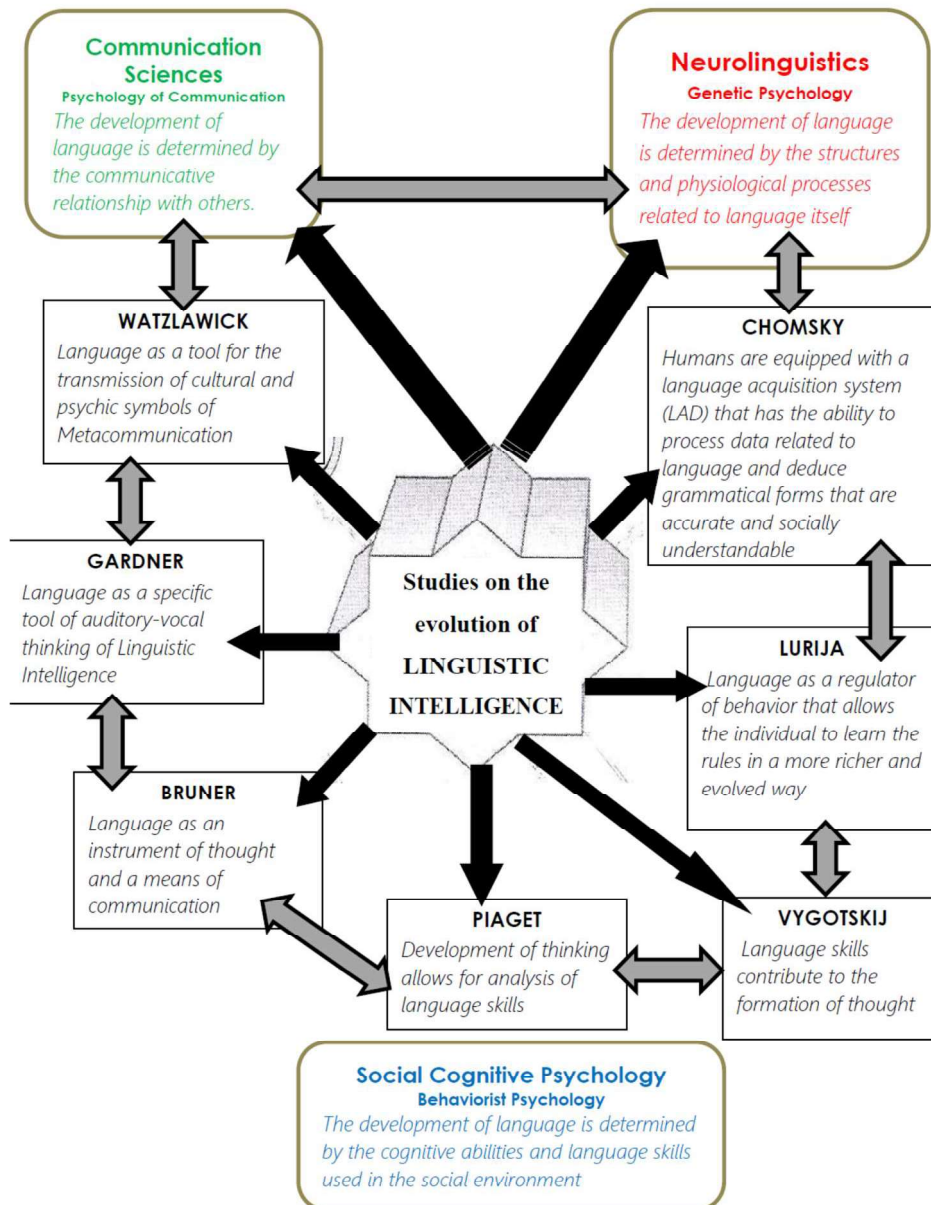
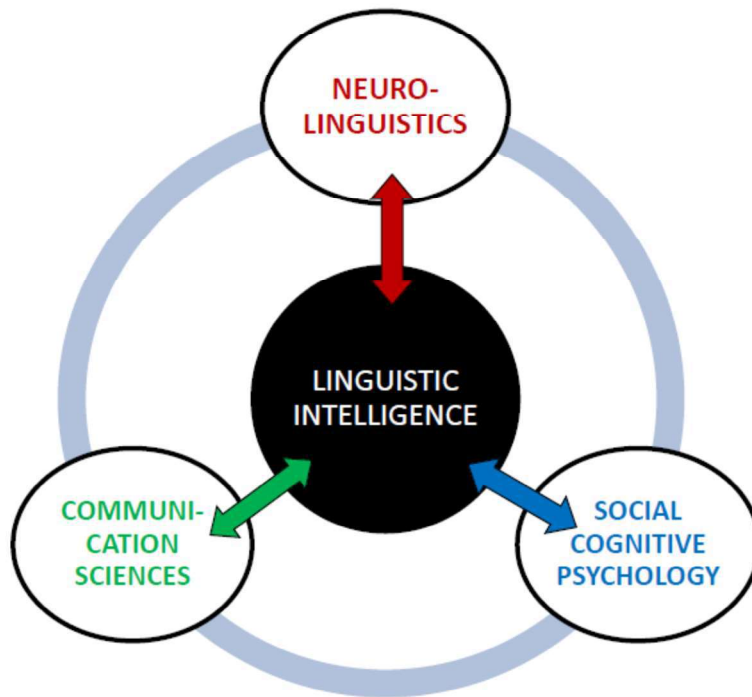


Figure 3: THE DISCIPLINES OF LINGUISTIC INTELLIGENCE



B. THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES OF COMMUNICATION

Communication is defined as: the process that transmits messages from an issuer to a receiver, which in turn transmits a response to the issuer creating thus a continuous, dynamic and interacting communication cycle.

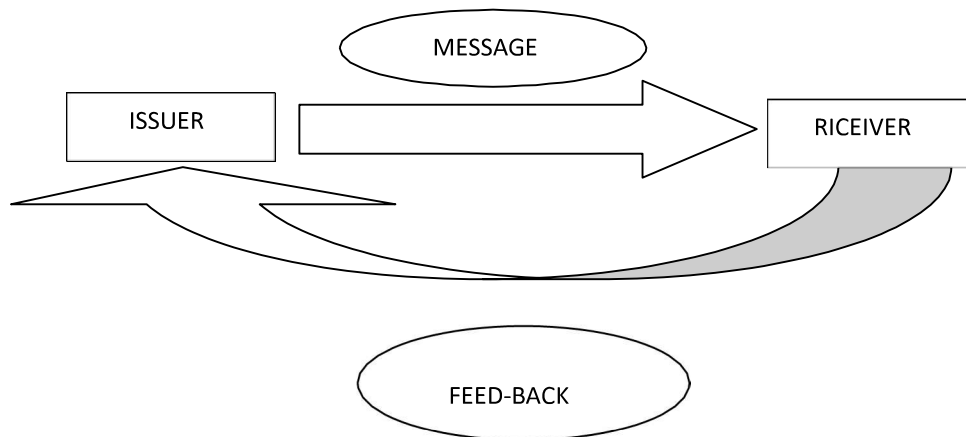


Figure 4: *The communication cycle*

The "communication cycle" is:

- The basic element on which dynamic interactive relationships between people are formed,
- The fundamental principle of the Communication Sciences.

Communication is the vital process for the psychic-mental-social development of people.

Communication is the process that involves the entire personality of each individual and the relationships it implements in the environmental-social-cultural-economic context.

Thus, communication is the *necessary and indispensable process of living socially*, which is carried out by people at every moment of the day.

In the first axiom of the Psychology of Communication, the theory of which was developed in the Palo Alto School (mainly by Paul Watzlawick along with Deavila Jackson and Janet Beavin in the book of 1967, "*Some Tentative Axioms of Communication. In Pragmatics of Human Communication - A Study of Interactional Patterns, Pathologies and Paradoxes*"), is stated "YOU CAN'T NOT COMMUNICATE", which concretely means: people always communicate-even when they remain silent.

Communication consists of messages composed of ideas, statements, directions, concepts, and mental representations, and is connoted by two different aspects (Watzlawick, Beavin, Jackson, 1967):

1. One aspect is characterized by the "information" of the cognitive contents that are transmitted/received
2. The other aspect is characterized by the emotionality of the transmitter and the receiver.

I would add a third aspect that determines the process of Communication, characterized by the flexibility and adaptability that each person possesses in the relational dynamic with the other.

The message that the issuing person transmits and the receiving person acquires is connoted by the *dynamic cognitive/emotional relationship* between people, as it depends:

- a. from what he thinks, from what emotional state, from the modes and communication skills that individuals possess at that moment ("*here and now*"),
- b. by what each person actually and concretely transmits and by his or her ability to listen to and receive the messages received;
- c. from the social context, the goal, and the relationship that exists between the issuer and the receiver.

Tuning between people is an indispensable characteristic in their dynamic relationship; often communication problems arise between two individuals, since there is no tuning between what the broadcaster thinks he has transmitted and what the receiver thinks has been expressed.

Numerous Communication Sciences studies state that to decrease and/or eliminate communication and relationship issues, is necessary for people to be able to convey messages having the following characteristics:

- The *clarity* and *simplicity* of what you communicate,
- The *coherence* and *logical organization* of concepts,
- The *effectiveness* and *meaningfulness* in conveying content,
- The *involvement* and *motivation* in the relationship between issuer and receiver.

Communication Sciences and Psychology of Communication study the *dynamic cognitive/emotional relationships* of people and the *ability to transmit/receive messages* expressed in communicative codes structured in symbols.

Symbols are the basic elements in the communication process, are processed mentally and then expressed socially to people capable of decoding and understanding the cognitive information contained and the psychic emotionality experienced.

C. LINGUISTIC INTELLIGENCE

Linguistic Intelligence is determined by typical forms of thinking and reasoning, which adopt particular mental abilities and specific expressive competences with respect to other communication codes, such as the graphic-pictorial, the mimic-gestural, the musical, etc.

The structures, properties, and expressions of Linguistic Intelligence, that characterize the conception, construction and formalization of verbal or written communications between people, can be analysed on the basis of three different fields of studies:

A) PSYCHOLINGUISTIC: study the psychological characteristics and rules of codification and decoding of language.

The PsychoLinguistic allows to highlight the mental processes, cognitive abilities and linguistic procedures that individuals put in place during the conception-elaboration- description-definition of stories (*psycho-cognitive-pragmatic field of study of linguistic communication*).

PsychoLinguistics is connoted by 4 models: *Structuralist Cognitivism*, *Empirical Taxonomy*, *Generative Neurolinguistics*, *Linguistic Metacommunication*;

B) LINGUISTIC CREATIVITY: study the kind of original, personalizing, contextualized, and multifaceted solutions that people live and represent themselves on a mental level according to their Psychic World and Mental Universe (*psycho-ideative field of study of linguistic communication*).

The Creativity is determined by the mental processes of *Constructive Intelligence* and

Generative Intelligence.

The mental processes that characterize Creativity are: the *Global Perception*, the

Personalizing Insights, the Multifaceted Vision, the Cognitive Originality;

C) LINGUISTIC METACOMMUNICATION: study the types and modes people use to express thoughts and concepts that go beyond, beyond, what the cognitive and affective contents mean at the level of language and communicative message.

Metacomunicative Analysis enables us to understand and reflect on the personal beliefs, emotional processes, and social relationships of each person (*psycho-emotional and socio-cultural field of study of linguistic communication*).

Linguistic Metacommunication is determined by mental symbols (cultural symbols and psychic symbols) that the person processes and expresses during communication.

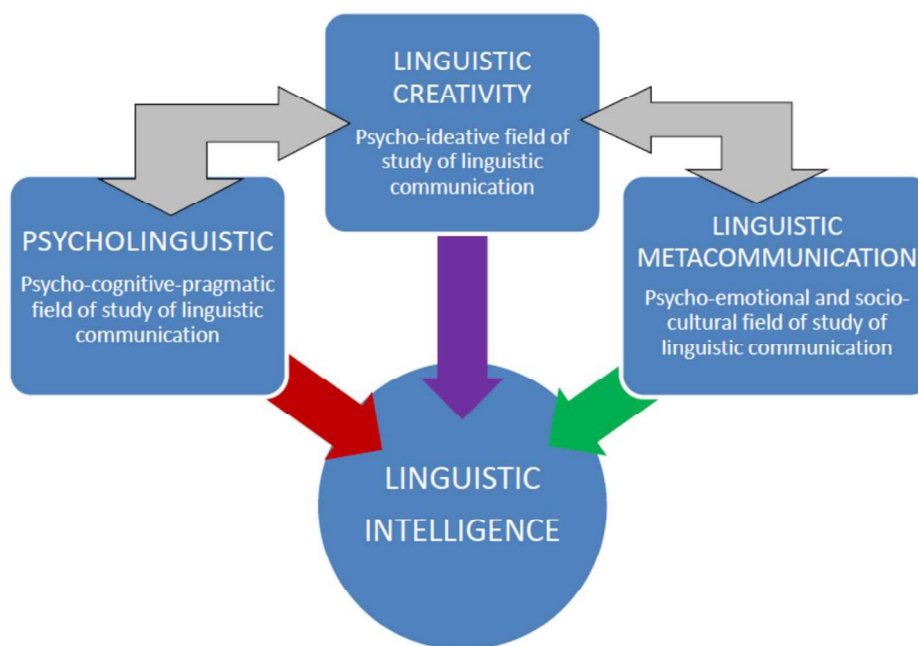


Figure 5: The fields of study of linguistic intelligence

D. PSYCHOLINGUISTIC

PsychoLinguistics is a discipline born to develop and to plan psychological research on language, in particular the characteristics and rules of Communication Sciences during the perceptive learning processes, the cognitive processing processes and the social communication processes.

PsychoLinguistics aims to study how the Mental Universe and the Psychic World of the individual are structured and expressed through language. (Presutti, 1980)

PsychoLinguistics studies and experiments how communication skills in the linguistic field are acquired and produced starting from the personal experience from the subjective experience and the specific abilities of an individual. It is a discipline that seeks to understand how words-phrases-stories are formed, how they are structured and how they are expressed while speaking and listening, writing and reading.

The main psycholinguistic studies can be classified in four different directions, which can be classified in the following models:

1) the Structuralism Cognitive view of Ferdinand de Saussure (1916), exposed since the early 1900s, which influenced the study of linguistic disciplines.

Saussure's theoretical model is characterized by a distinction between descriptive ("synchronic") language analysis and historical ("diachronic") language analysis.

Saussure highlights the importance of synchronic analysis of language and its components, since language is understood as an autonomous and timeless system.

Another fundamental reflection of Saussure is the distinction between "langue", that is the system of rules that govern the use of language in a particular social group, and "words", that is the concrete linguistic act that is carried out individually in a given context experiential.

While the "langue" is an abstract system based on social convention, the "word" is a specific act which is influenced by personal and cultural conditionings that form the individual and make it original, unrepeatable, a source of linguistic innovation. While the "langue" represents the social language of the entire community, the potential linguistic "treasure" to which everyone can draw, the "words" is instead the individual creative potential that underlies the acquisition of language skills, which allow formulate sentences that are grammatically correct.

Jean Piaget (1923, 1947, 1968) takes up the theoretical model on the structuralism of Ferdinand de Saussure, inserting it within the psychogenetic evolution of children's mental abilities and the cognitive development of learning.

2) The Empirical Taxonomy view of Leonard Bloomfield (1933), whose

theoretical model is characterized by a taxonomy of language learning methods.

Bloomfield founded Linguistics as an empirical and independent science from other disciplines, although it could not be studied separately from the influence of other disciplines.

Bloomfield has used in particular the principles of behavioural psychology applied to language, carrying out a taxonomic study of linguistic characteristics and rules, ignoring their deep and universal structures and eliminating any introspective reflection.

The linguistic units are considered regardless of their meaning, with the aim of systematically identifying the criteria for mutual connection and variation of the guiding elements. In this way the linguistic units and their combinations, in the formation of words-sentences-stories, are set within a defined and identifiable taxonomic level.

Giuseppe Francescato (1970) presents effectively the theoretical model on the conception of Bloomfield Linguistics

3) The Generative Neurolinguistic vision of Noam Chomsky (1957, 1966/68, 1975d), whose theoretical model is characterized by the conception that language is structured in a formal way through the use of a "generative grammar" that allows:

- the possible expressions of a language, with consequent enrichment of the vocabulary and the meaning of the words;
- the construction of a system of linguistic production rules, with the consequent acquisition of the correct syntactic formalization;
- the explicit description of the linguistic structure of these expressions, with the consequent development of communication skills (speaking you learn to speak).

According to Chomsky's model, what is spontaneously generated by an individual's grammatical system must be able to be compared with the expressions of the reference linguistic group, which will judge which words and which sentences are acceptable.

4) the vision of Linguistic Metacommunication by Umberto Eco (1968, 1994), whose theoretical model is characterized by the identification of the point of view in which the "I narrating" is posed, which conceives and constructs the stories. (Eco, 1994 p. 19).

Eco highlights the psychological involvement of cognitive understanding of both the speaker-writer and the reader and the various dynamics that it causes to arise in the conception and construction of a story.

The "I narrating" of a communication can speak or write in the first person or describe using real or invented characters or tell a story that was told by a real or invented character, which in turn can refer to a story exposed by a real or

invented character ... and so on, in a series of mirrors that one is reflected in the other without being able to understand who the narrator is.

In fact, the narrator has a listener or an Ideal Reader (also called Implicit Reader, Virtual Reader, Metal lector) to whom he addresses himself and to whom he thinks of communicating his linguistic messages.

Correspondingly, even the listener or law constructs an Ideal or Implicit or Virtual Author who infers the type of "I narrating" of those who transmit linguistic communications.

In this way a Linguistic Metacommunication occurs between the narrator and the listener- reader that allows them to put themselves in the perspective of who communicates.

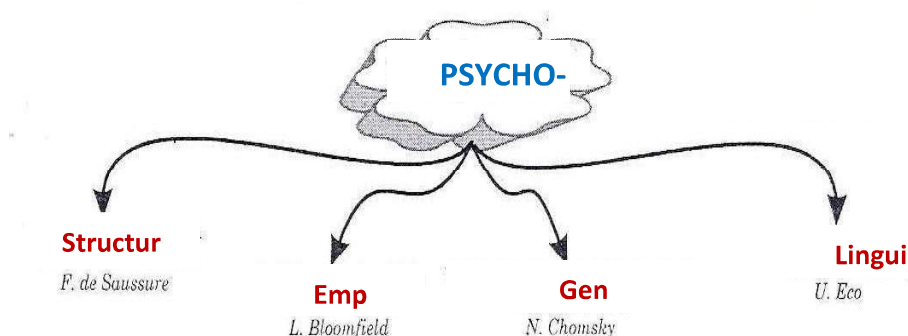


Figure 6: *The models of psycholinguistic*

E. LINGUISTIC CREATIVITY

Linguistic Creativity is determined by the psycho-cognitive-creative processes that use either mental processing and different expressive strategies, for example, to visual creativity, musical creativity or motor creativity.

Language, having a communicative code different from that of images, sounds or body movement, necessarily implies that specific mental skills and processes are used. The difference in the code of communication and in the expressive potentials determines that the logical structuring of the reasoning is also different, even if the same mental processes and capacities are used.

To identify and develop Linguistic Creativity it is necessary to start from the language (code and expression) to be able to grasp the specific psycho-cognitive-ideational processes of *fantasy* and *mental imagination* that are determined both as constraints and as potentialities of expression. For example, the verbal linguistic fantasy is more magical and animistic than the written one because the spoken word is based on an auditory listening that arouses different sensations from the visual listening of the written words ("verba volant, scripta manent"). Furthermore, linguistic fantasy is more abstract and conceptual than motor fantasy, which, instead, is more rhythmic and direct in the expression of messages.

Once highlighted and definite the field of linguistic creativity, its limits and its potential, it is necessary to enucleate the structures and mental processes that determine it.

First of all, Linguistic Creativity is characterized by the use of mental activities of

Linguistic Intelligence.

These mental activities follow two main structures: Constructive Intelligence and Generative Intelligence.

The *Constructive Intelligence* is based on a progressive rationalization and extension of the initially conceived communication.

The *Constructive Intelligence* forms the basis for subsequent elaborations through a logical structuring of concepts that tends to build a complete, coherent and effective message.

The *Constructive Linguistic Intelligence* is characterized by a continuous abstraction and mental generalization of the expressed contents.

The structuring of mental activities of constructive intelligence is organized according to the rules and characteristics of the *Logic of Knowledge* (left hemisphere of the cerebral cortex). (Presutti, 1980)

The *Generative Intelligence* is based on original intuitions characterized by fluidity of thought and global imaginations that often allow the creation of creative and multiform communications.

The *Generative Linguistic Intelligence* allows complex and dynamic ideas that allow the creation of personalized concepts and express messages.

The structuring of the mental activities of generative intelligence are organized according to the rules and characteristics of the *Imagination Logic* (right hemisphere of the cerebral cortex). (Presutti, 1980)

It should be noted that the term *Irrationality* does not correspond to *Creativity*.

Irrationality is the intellectual process that is opposed to the rational ones, characterized by the use of logical rules of reasoning in a manner opposite to that conventionally accepted.

Thus, *Irrationality* arises from the use of the rules of *Logic of Knowledge* with the functional characteristics of *Imagination Logic*.

Linguistic Irrationality arises from the autonomy of ideations, from spontaneous associations that express concepts and meanings without respecting the constraints of the linguistic code, but which play freely with logical rules, so as to grasp the eccentricity (absurdity, paradoxes, nonsense, hyperboles, etc.,).

Examples of irrational concepts can be:

- "human" = man-shaped hand,
- "kite" = large eagle kept on a leash,
- "vitamin" = an explosive life.

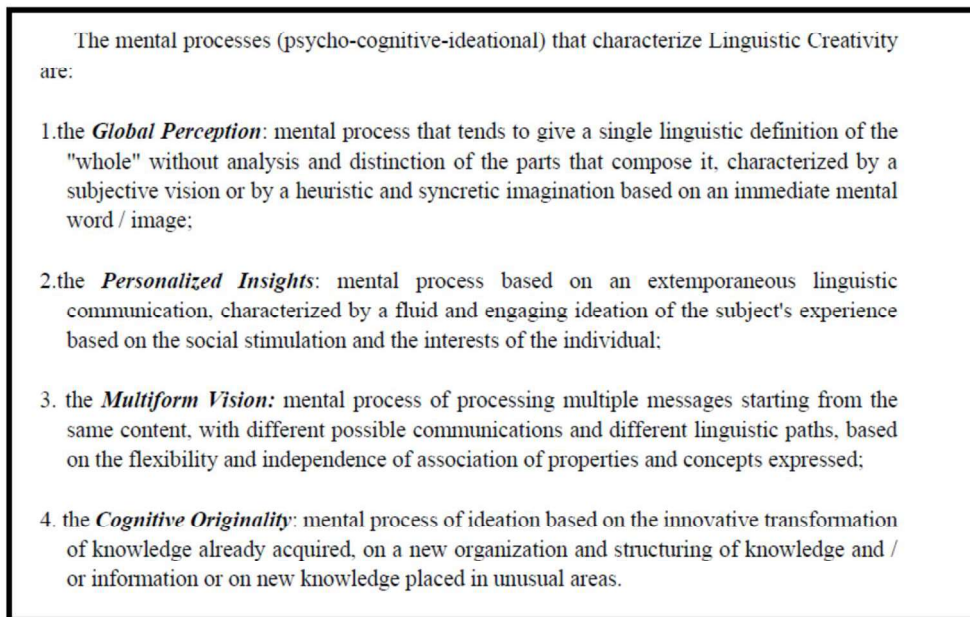


Figure 7: PROCESSES AND STRUCTURES OF LINGUISTIC CREATIVITY

To achieve results and/ or obtain solutions characterized by Linguistic Creativity it is necessary and indispensable that all four processes are used or at least two of the four mental- cognitive-ideational mental processes (Cognitive Originality, Global Perception, Personalized Insights, Multiform Vision).

The 4 psycho-cognitive-ideational processes described above are the basic foundations of any expression of Creative Intelligence (Linguistic Intelligence, Visual Intelligence, Motor Intelligence, Mathematical Intelligence).

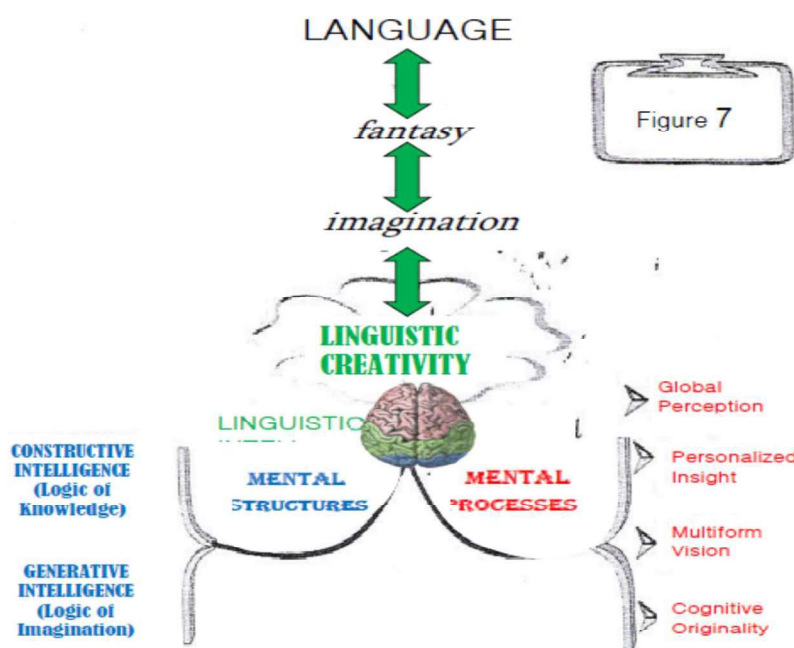


Figure 7: *Processes and structures of linguistic creativity*

F. LINGUISTIC METACOMMUNICATION

The mental activities of Linguistic Metacommunication are determined by communicative forms of thought and reasoning specific to Linguistic Intelligence.

In fact, the mental activities of Linguistic Metacommunication differ from the mental activities of other human communication codes, such as Visual Metacommunication and Mimic-Gestural Body Metacommunication, because language has specific neuromental rules and characteristics for its activation and use.

The basic elements of Metacommunication are mental symbols structured into *communication codes*, that can be understood by surrounding people and that characterize the values of the socio-cultural community to which one belongs.

The symbols that are formed and used in language take on different forms and characteristics than, for example, visual symbols (ideograms) and body symbols.

In addition, the different communicative characteristics and rules between verbal and written language must be considered, that determine the differentiation of linguistic symbols into two categories: the *orally expressed symbols* and the *written symbols*.

The metacommunicative processes (= *symbolic mental activities*) and metacommunicative analysis (= *reflection on symbolic communication*) are characterized by introspection and feedback (= *retroactive verification*) on the contents and messages of the Psychic World and the Mental Universe expressed by the individual. (Presutti, 1980).

Reflection on communicative messages transmitted allows us to develop new ways of using memory and imagination, to build new possibilities for thinking and acting to hypothesize new strategies of reasoning and operating procedures.

Both verbal and written language have a fundamental importance in making the meta-communicative processes mature and evolve as it allows identifying and defining the concepts developed and the messages produced.

Studies on the formation of the symbol, that is on the development of the "semiotic function" during early childhood (Piaget, 1923, 1947) have been taken up by authors of the Piagetian School (Inhelder, Lezine, Sinclair, Stambak, 1972) who have tried to specify the evolutionary stages of the first symbolic behaviours in the child.

The appearance of symbolic behaviours can be identified:

- already starting from the second year of life of children observing the spontaneous manipulation of objects
- from the third year observing the spontaneous structuring of the symbolic games that children create with their companions.

As described in the preceding paragraph, the human brain is structured on two cerebral hemispheres, in which the Metacommunication is processed and expressed through:

- the *content information*: regulated (encoded and decoded) by the Logic of Knowledge, that structures mental processes characterized by Constructive Intelligence, that elaborates and expresses *cultural symbols*;
- the *subjective emotionality*: encoded and decoded by the Logic of Imagination, that structures mental processes characterized by Generative Intelligence, that processing and expressing psychic symbols. (Presutti, 1980)

Metacommunicative processes are characterized by the conception and use of mental symbols, and in particular of psychic symbols and cultural symbols.

The acquisition, formation, development, and expression of *mental symbols* (*psychic symbols* and *cultural symbols*) are determined by:

1. the rules and characteristics of Communication processes,
2. how brain structures and the mental strategies function, that determine and use mental symbols during metacommunicative relationships.

The definition and description of the properties and functions of *mental symbols*, composed of *psychic symbols* and *cultural symbols*, is the topic covered in a subsequent Psychology article.

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