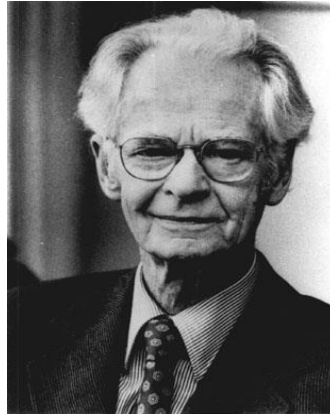


# Theories of Language Emergence



1



3



2



4

**Behaviorist/Stimulus-Response Theory**

**3 Skinner**

**Predetermined/Human Capacity Theory**

**1 Chomsky**

**Interactional/Cognitive-Transactional Theory**

**4 Vygotsky**

**Inheritance/Maturational Theory**

**2 Gesell**

Johnny learns to talk because he gets a reward for doing it (food, toys, attention, a person's response). He learns from the reactions of people in his environment. 3

Every child has an individual Language Acquisition Device (LAD) which enables him to master any language that he has been exposed to since birth. The LAD has the language rules to all languages. The child learns the language that he is first exposed to by his mother ("mother tongue"). 1

Children are primarily a product of genetic inheritance and environmental influences are secondary. They inherit their abilities to learn language. A child will move from one stage to another and needs to be ready or "mature" in order to graduate to a higher level. 2

Children are shaped by "transactions" with people in their environment. Social and emotional drives (the need for love and care) prompts a child to learn language. 4

A child learns language (such as the quality, quantity, attitude of it) as a result of the reactions of the people in his environment. He will further develop his language skills based on the feedback or "responses" he gets from others when he talks. 3

**Johnny learns to talk because he was born with the ability to do so (all humans have an LAD). He learns the first language he's exposed to it at birth. 1**

**Johnny learns to talk because it is in his genes. He inherited his language abilities from his parents. He would talk early because his parents talked early (inherited). 2**

**Johnny learns to talk because he is curious and his interactions with others motivates him to do so. He learns language so that he can relate to others (socialize). 4**