VERBAL LANGUAGE

I know you believe you understand what you think I said; but what you fail to realize is that what you heard is not what I meant.
MEANING

The understanding a specific person has of anything in his/her environment.

WORD

A symbol behavior, arbitrary in nature
Triangle of Meaning

OGDEN’S & RICHARD’S

Meaning (person)

Symbol (word) — — Referent (object)

OGDEN’S & RICHARD’S Triangle of Meaning
LANGUAGE

• A potentially self-reflexive, *structured* system of symbols that catalogue the objects, events, and relations in the world (DeVito, 1983)

• A code
A LINGUIST CHARACTERIZES A LANGUAGE BY

• SYNTAX
• PHONOLOGY
• MORPHOLOGY
• SEMANTICS
SYNTAX — rules for combining the symbols in the language

• English: adjectives are before nouns they modify
• Spanish: adjectives are AFTER nouns they modify
• Latin: predicate at the end of the sentence
• English: predicate after subject
PHONOLOGY – rules for sounding the symbols in the language
Wilhelm Matthias Sault Ste. Marie
MORPHOLOGY – rules for forming the symbols of a language

• Root morpheme – simple; smallest unit with meaning
• Affix morpheme – prefixes, suffixes, and more

inform
SEMANTICS – relationship of meanings and language

- Denotative meanings – explicit, direct, commonly accepted
- Connotative meanings – ulterior, over an above the denotative
dialect

• A set of language patterns used by a subgroup of language users.
• The language patterns of a co-culture
• A social or regional variation of a language
hidden antagonizers
red-flag words
snarl words

Use of these words tends to create a negative emotional reaction in others.
Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis

- Our perception of reality is determined by our thought processes.
- Our thought processes are constrained by our language.
- Therefore, our perception of reality is limited by our language.

Language shapes our reality.
STYLE

the selection and arrangement of those linguistic features which are open to choice

• Appropriateness
• Clarity
• Economy
• Originality
• Sentence structure [vitality]
Language Development in Children

Four stages of Language development
1. Pre-linguistic/pre-conceptual

1. Reflexive vocalization (0-6 months)
2. Babbling (6-9 months)
3. Echololation (9-12 months)
2. Linguistic Stage

1. Begins with holophrase speech (12+ months)
2. Telegraphic speech (18+ months)
3. Whole sentences
4. Internalized speech – no need to count aloud or verbalize as they read
• A 2 year old should have a 300-400 word vocabulary
• 3-3 ½ year old may have a 1000 word vocabulary and often uses the basic acceptable grammar of the environment
• By 4-5 years, a child has acquired most basic rules of syntax
• By 6, a child may possess an almost complete grammatical system. They’ve learned the rules without knowing the rules.
3. Conceptual Stage

- Linguistic ability aids the child in developing concrete concepts, learning to label, categorize, and classify.
- By 11-12 years, a child begins to be linguistically capable of defining abstract concepts (death, love, hate, etc)
4. Rhetorical Stage

In this stage the communicator **consciously** uses rhetoric to manipulate his/her environment.