

The Instruction of Imagination: A Theory of Language as a Social Communication Technology

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Abstract : The research presents a new general theory of language as a socially-constructed communication technology, designed by cultural evolution for a very specific function: the instruction of imagination. As opposed to all the other systems of intentional communication, which provide materials for the interlocutors to experience, language allows speakers to instruct their interlocutors in the process of imagining the intended meaning-instead of experiencing it. It is thus the only system that bridges the experiential gaps between speakers. This is the key to its enormous success.

Keywords : experience, general theory of language, imagination, language as technology, social essence of language

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