



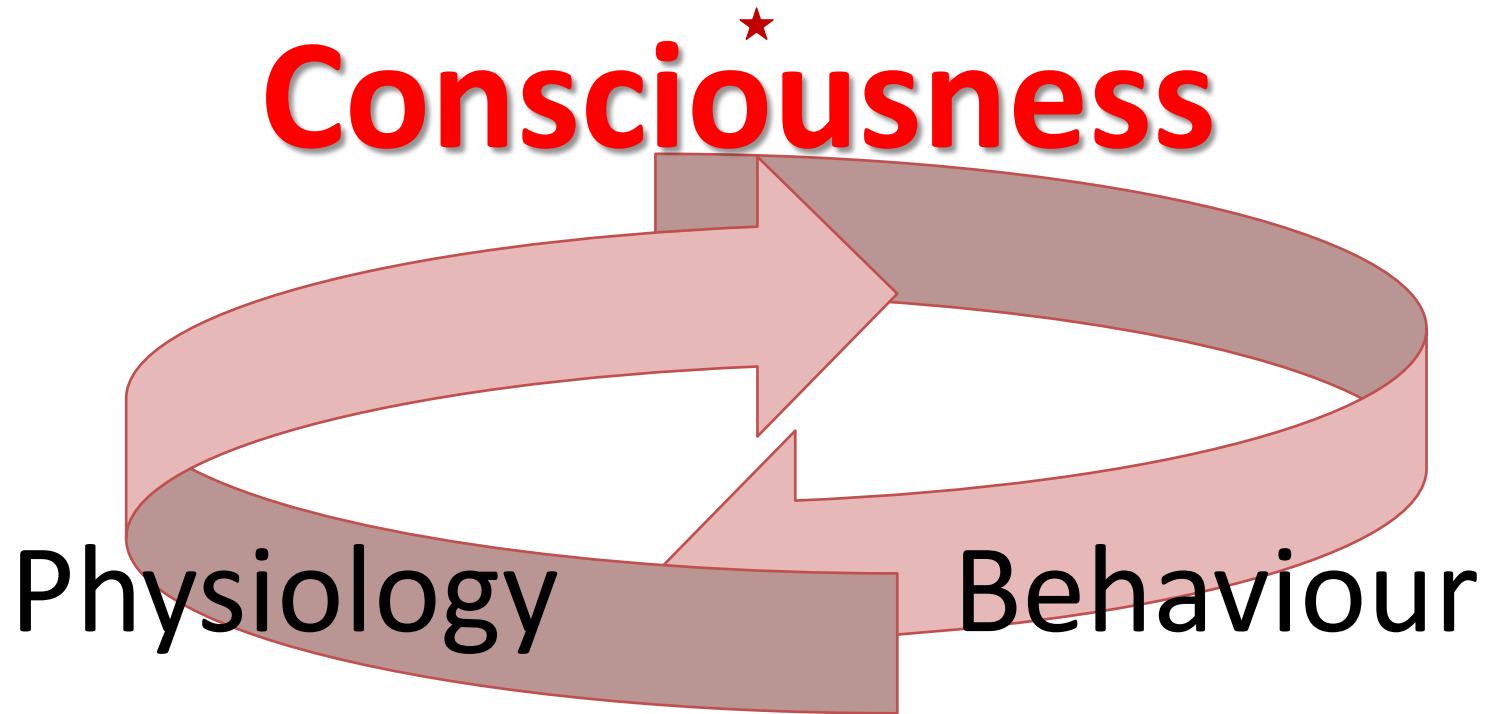
★ Concepts of CHAT Session 1 ★

Action, Behaviour and Consciousness



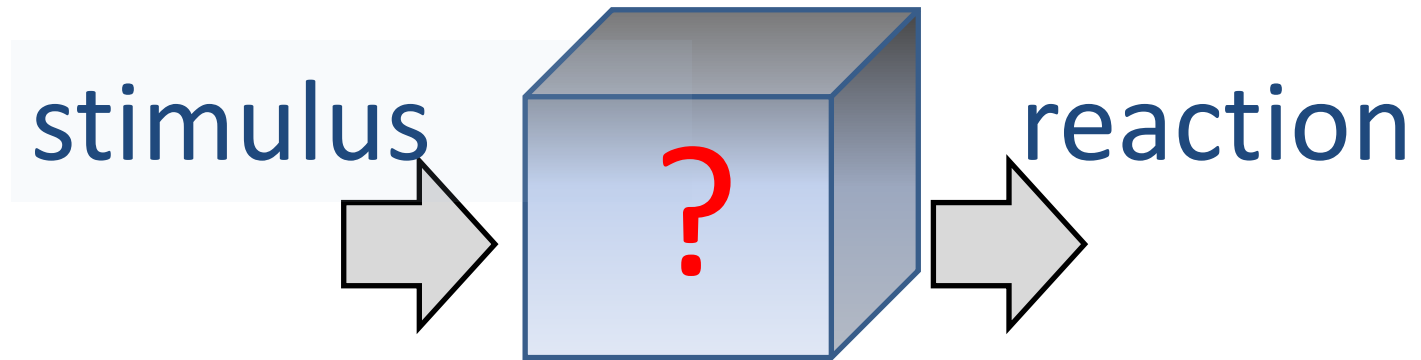
Mind & Matter?

Concepts of CHAT Session 1



Consciousness is the totality of the **subjective processes** of a human being which mediate between a person's physiology and their behaviour.

Behaviour



Behaviourism



Behaviour is the purely objective aspect of activity, excluding any reference to consciousness

Concepts of CHAT Session 1

Action



Actions are what a person *does* - the main units of human life.

Concepts of CHAT Session 1



An action is a (prior?) unity of consciousness and behaviour.

Concepts of CHAT Session 1

Actions



An action is directed towards an object (goal) which does **not** coincide with its motive.

Concepts of CHAT Session 1

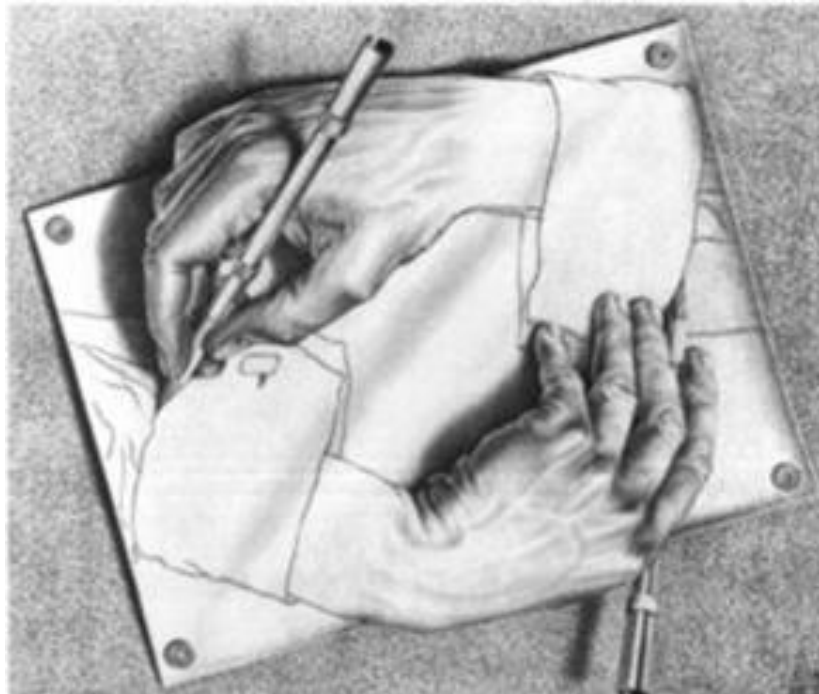
- **Consciousness**
- **Behaviour**
- **Actions**



★ Concepts of CHAT Session 2 ★

Genetic Method

Unity and Dichotomy



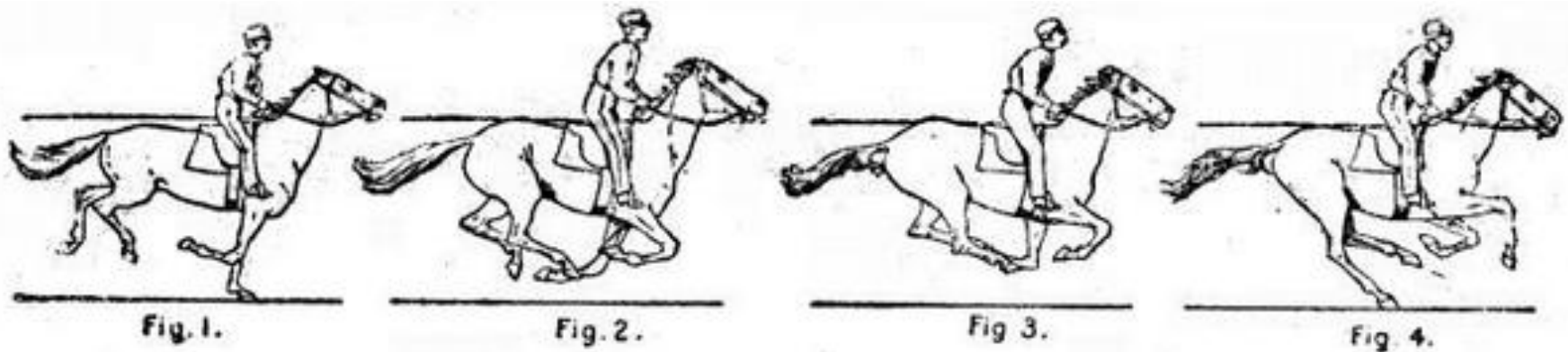
Genetic Method



The genetic method is the research approach used by Vygotsky to reveal the essential nature of particular psychological functions by

- Bringing them into being in an **experimental** setting, or
- Tracing their formation and disintegration in the course of the **natural development**

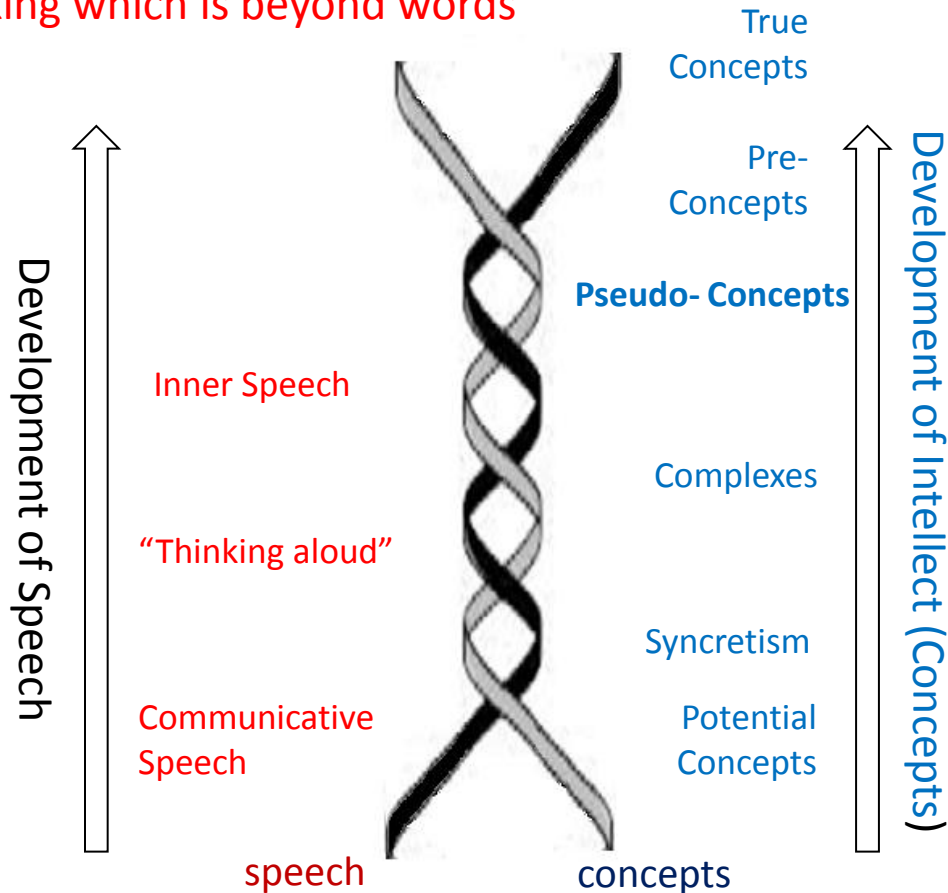
Genetic Method



By looking only at the **product** of a process, or a snapshot, we miss the interconnections and functional relations between apparently separate processes, which make up the whole.

Concepts of CHAT Session 2

Thinking which is beyond words



Pre-Intellectual Speech and Pre-verbal Intelligence

The Genetic Roots of Thinking & Speech

Unity and Dichotomy

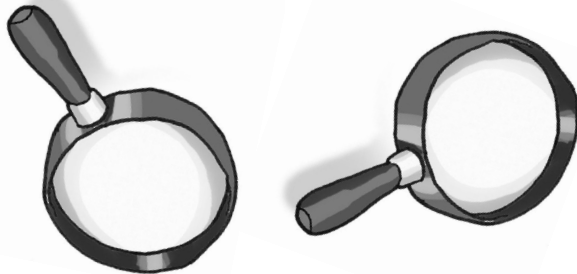


dualism

Concepts of CHAT Session 2

Unity ↔ Distinction

Abstraction



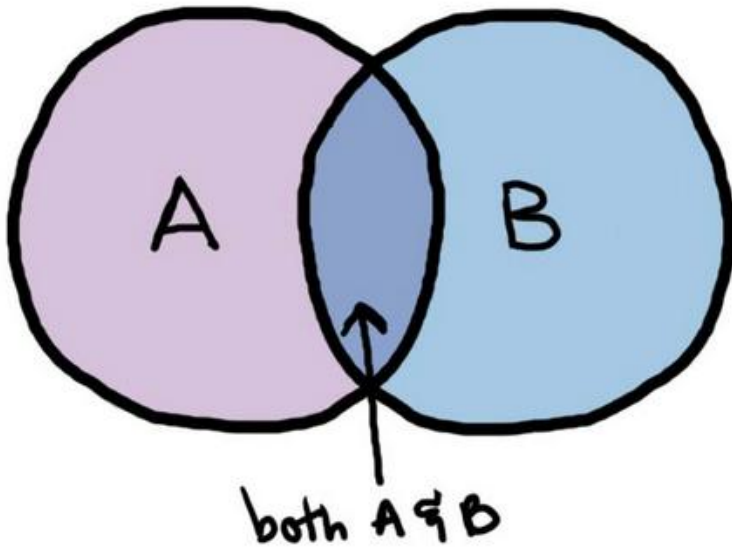
Development



Concepts of CHAT Session 2

Unity ↔ Dichotomy

Union/Intersection



Relation/Identity

For example: person & environment; sound & meaning?

Dualism & Distinction



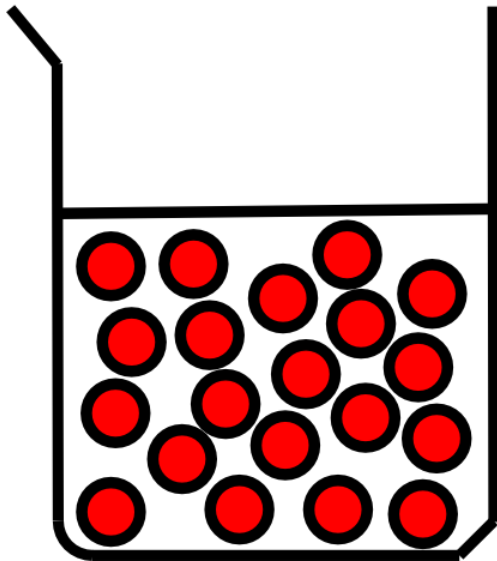
Concepts of CHAT Session 2

- **Genetic Method**
- **Unity**
- **Dualism**



★ Concepts of CHAT Session 3 ★

Unit and Germ-cell



academia.edu

Unit and Germ-cell

In contrast to the term “element,” the term “unit” designates a product of analysis that possesses all the basic characteristics of the whole. The unit is a vital and **irreducible part of the whole.**”

Vygotsky

The specificity of this [commodity] form consists in that it contains, like a ‘cell’ or **embryo**, the wealth **of more complex, more developed forms** of capitalist relations. Ilyenkov



Grundrisse

Concepts of CHAT Session 3

Abstract

Unit ↔ **Germ-cell**

Analysis

Synthesis

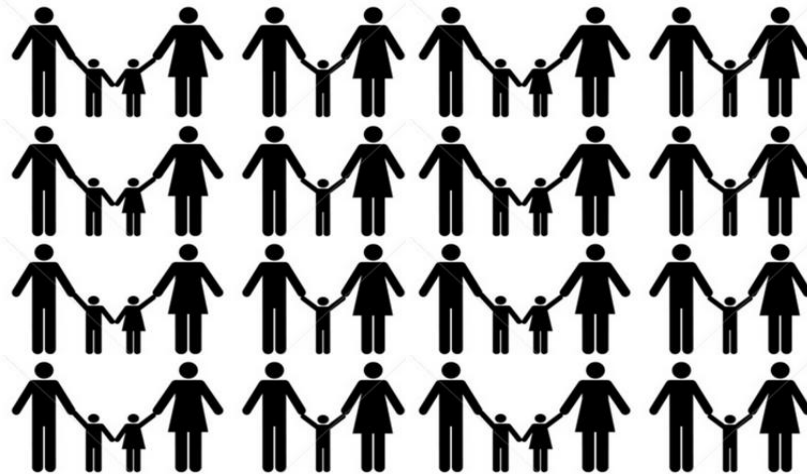
**Concrete
Reality**

Immediate perception

Conceptual reconstruction

Unity and Unit

Unity of A and B = Unit of C



Unit expresses the relation between the whole and the part.

Unity expresses the relation between the elements within each part.

Concepts of CHAT Session 3

- **Unit of Analysis**
- **Germ Cell**
- **Abstract and Concrete**



★ Concepts of CHAT Session 4 ★

Word-meaning and Artefact-mediated action, Dual stimulation



Sign or tool?

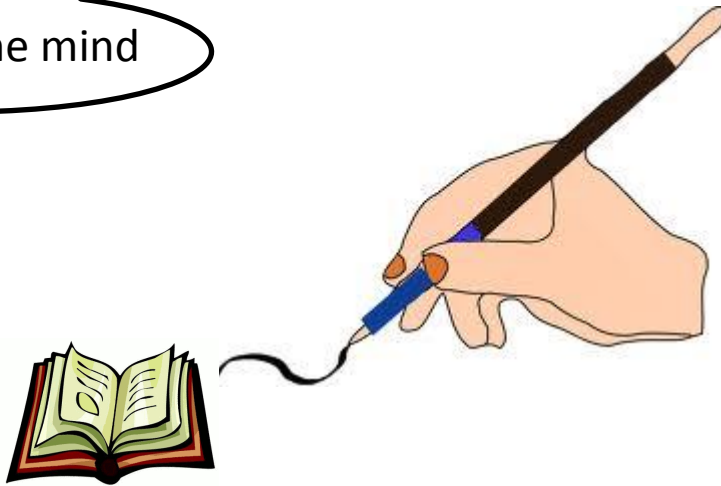


Artefacts

“psychological tools” or “technical tools”

To act on the mind

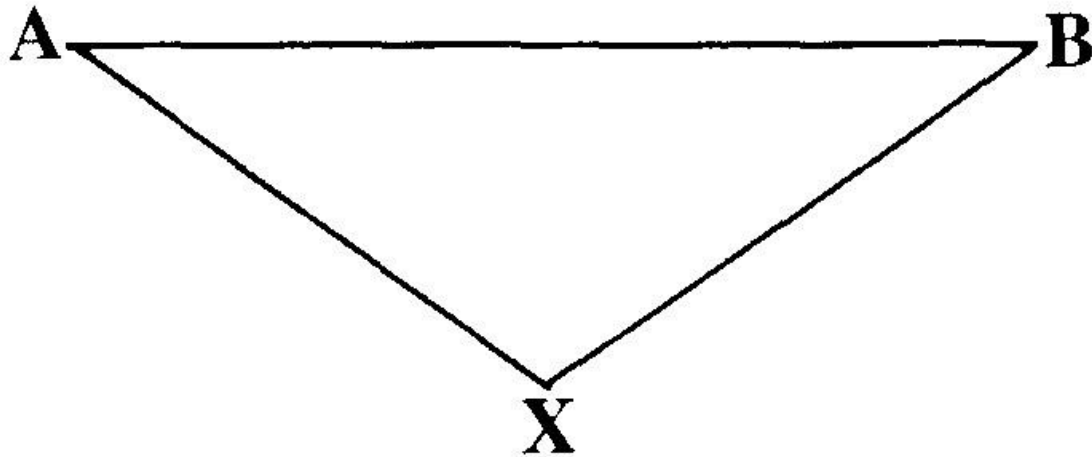
To act on matter



All artefacts are **both material and Ideal**

For example: a spoken word; a car; a pointed gun; a train ticket; a telephone.

Artefact-mediation



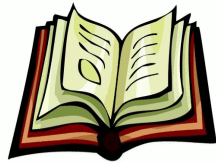
Actions and perceptions are **both**
immediate and mediated

Word-meaning
or **meaningful word**



is an action
mediated by a sound
which is meaningful

Word or Action?



Concepts of CHAT Session 4

Perception is *also* an action



Reflex Arc?



Dewey

Concepts of CHAT Session 4

The artefact-mediation of action
is the key to the cultural
formation of the mind.

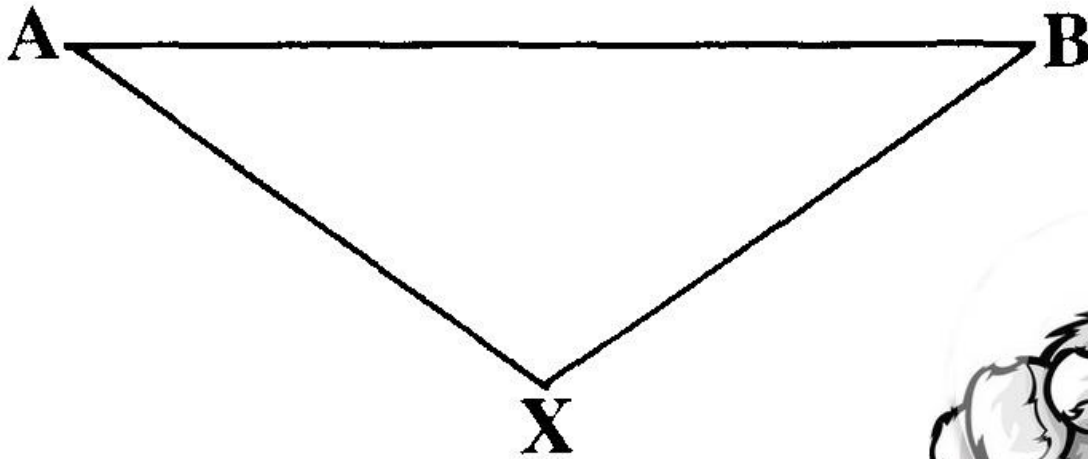


“Every function in the cultural development of the child appears on the stage twice, in two planes, first, the social, then the psychological.”



Genetic law of cultural development

Dual Stimulation



- Perception
- Self-control
- Development
- Genetic method



Concepts of CHAT Session 4

- **Artefact**
- **Artefact-mediation**
- **Dual Stimulation**



★ Concepts of CHAT Session 5 ★

Perezhivanie and Catharsis,
Social situation of development,
Disability/compensation



- Predicaments and Development

Concepts of CHAT Session 5

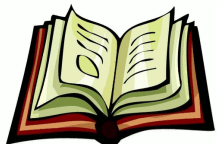
Perezhivanie

plural, perezhivaniya

An **intense experience** which is **worked over**, usually with others.

The personality is formed by a series of perezhivaniya.

Translation?



Perezhivanie

What do we mean by a “unity of individual and the environment”?

What do we mean by “unity of intellect and affect”?

Personality manifested as forms of collective behaviour, and only later ...

An experience plus catharsis



Freud



Social situation of Development

Predicament

Resolved by adopting a new role and being accepted in that role.



Academia.edu article

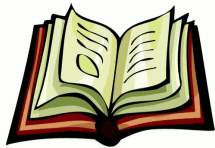


Defect/Compensation

Predicament

The defect is in the social relation.

Resolved by development of psychological functioning of individual and adjustment of the environment to meet needs of individual.



Concepts of CHAT Session 5

- **Perezhivaniya**
- **Catharsis**
- **Social situation of development**
- **Disability/compensation**



★ Concepts of CHAT Session 6 ★

The development of Concepts during childhood

A concept is a form of activity

Concepts are formed to
solve some problem.

Concepts formed in childhood
are generally not *true* concepts.



Concepts of CHAT Session 6

The development of Concepts during childhood

- Syncretic concepts
- Complexes
- Pseudoconcepts
-
- Potential concepts
- Pre-concepts



Concepts of CHAT Session 6

Syncretic concepts

Isolate object from background and name it.

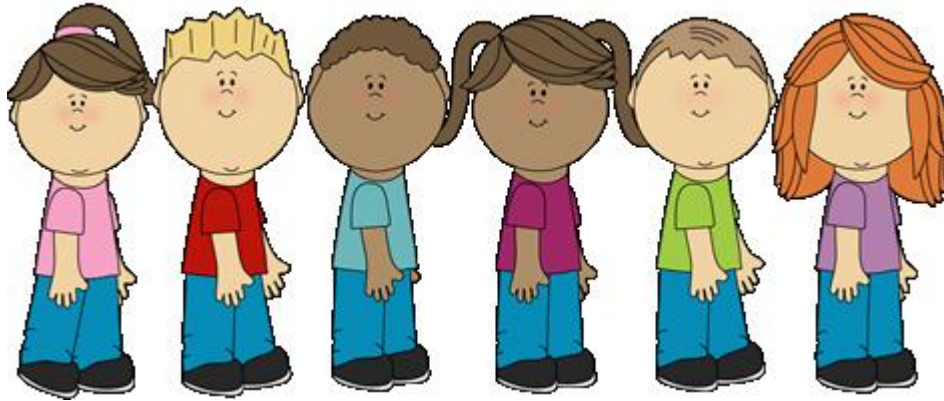


- Incoherent Heap
- Subjective series
- “Those there”

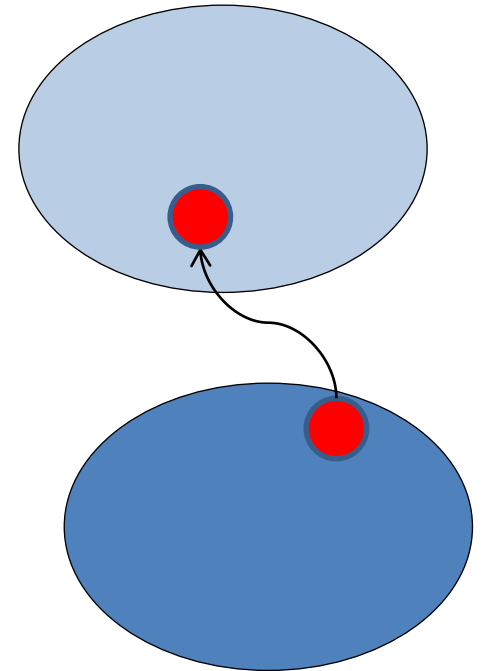
Concepts of CHAT Session 6

Complexes

Abstract a feature and group objects according to the same feature.

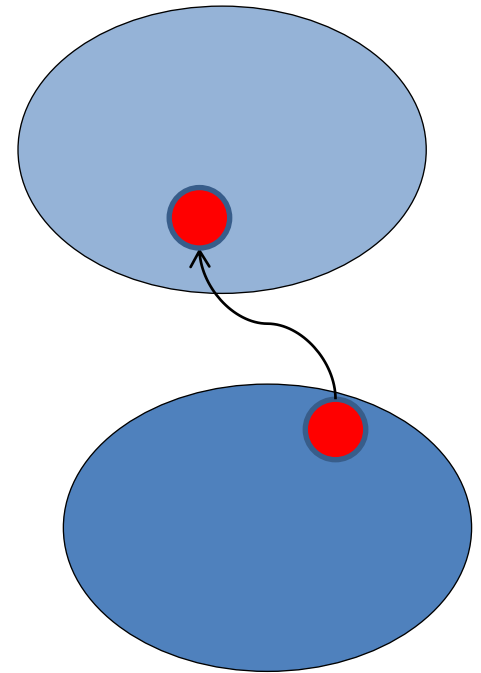
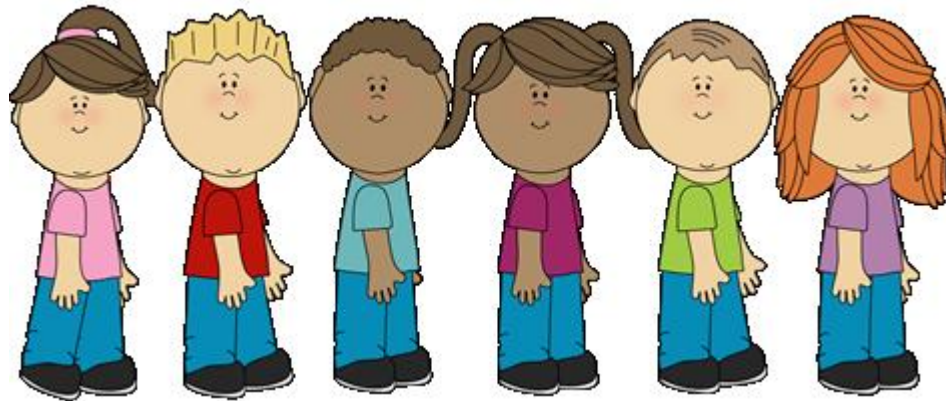


- Chain complex
- Associative complex
- Collection complex
- Diffuse complex



Concepts of CHAT Session 6

Complexes



- Abstract a feature from object
- Hold the feature in consciousness
- Synthesise objects by features
- Extend complex beyond experience

Concepts of CHAT Session 6



Pseudoconcepts

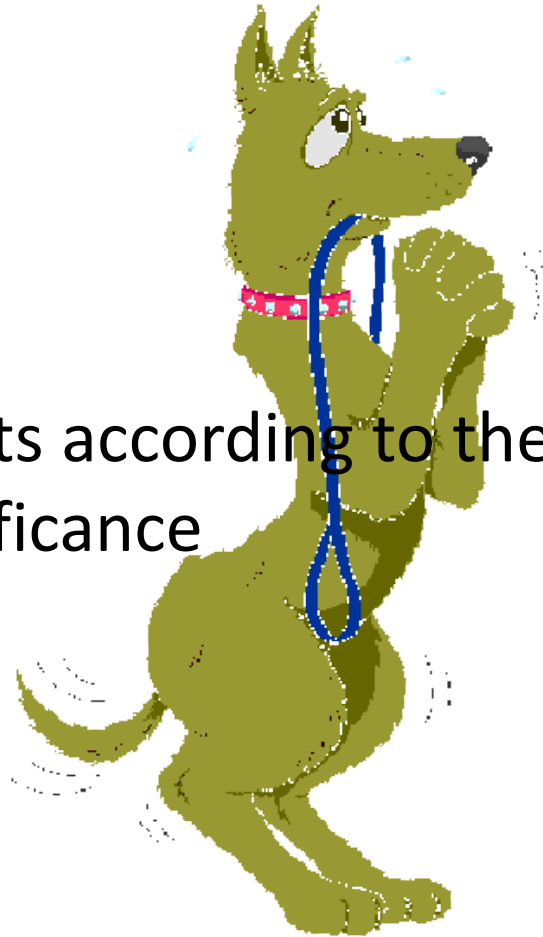


to form complex under guidance of others' word use.

Concepts of CHAT Session 6

Potential concepts

to isolate objects according to their functional significance



Concepts of CHAT Session 6

Pre-concepts



to reason within a finite set of objects according to rules

Concepts of CHAT Session 6

- **Syncretic concepts**
- **Complexes**
- **Pseudoconcepts**
- **Potential concepts**
- **Pre-concepts**



★ Concepts of CHAT Session 7 ★

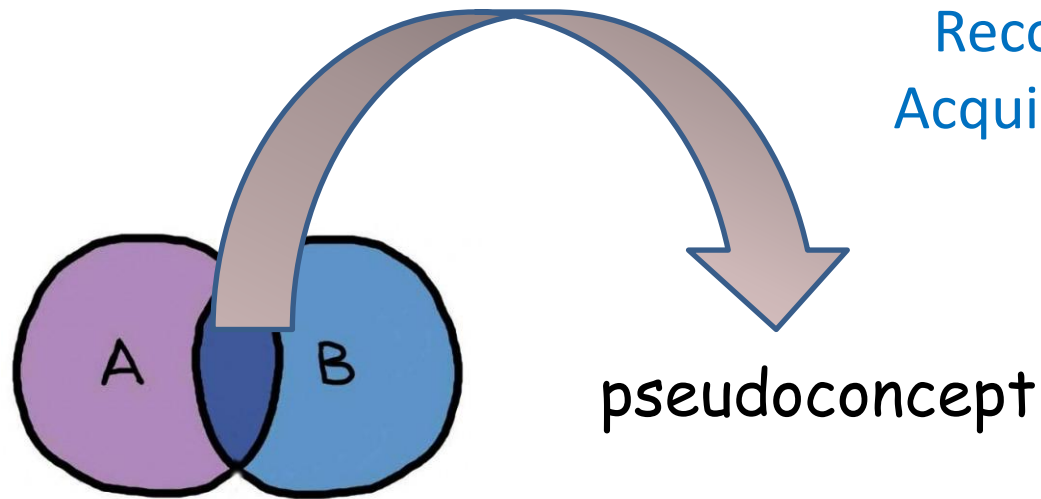
Spontaneous, True and Actual Concepts



Ideal **lines** of development,
not **types** of concept



Spontaneous Concepts

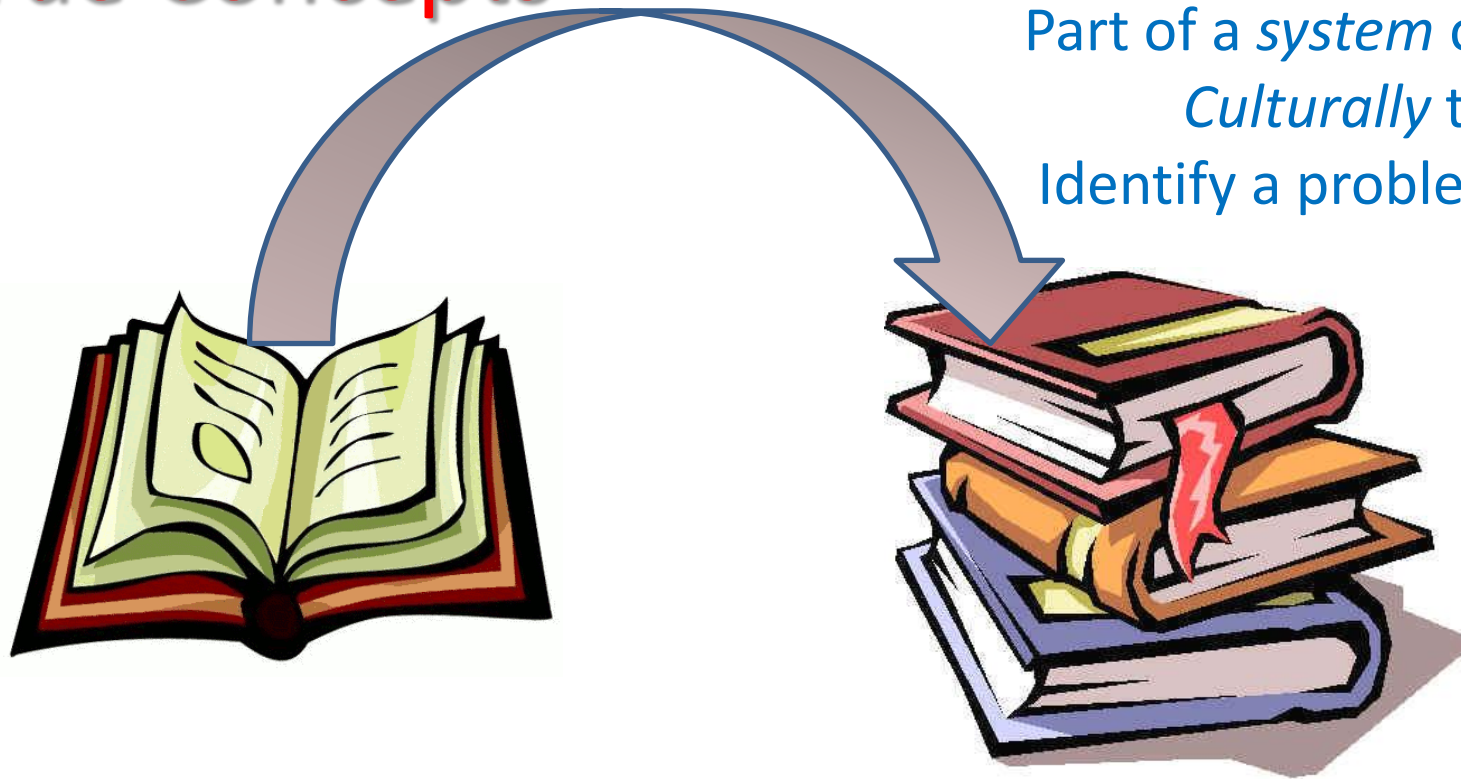


Recognised by features
Acquired interpersonally
Unsystematic

... Everyday or “empirical” concepts

Concepts of CHAT Session 7

True Concepts



Part of a *system* of concepts
Culturally transmitted
Identify a problem/solution

Scientific, religious, literary concepts ...
“book (institutional) learning”

Concepts of CHAT Session 7

Actual Concepts

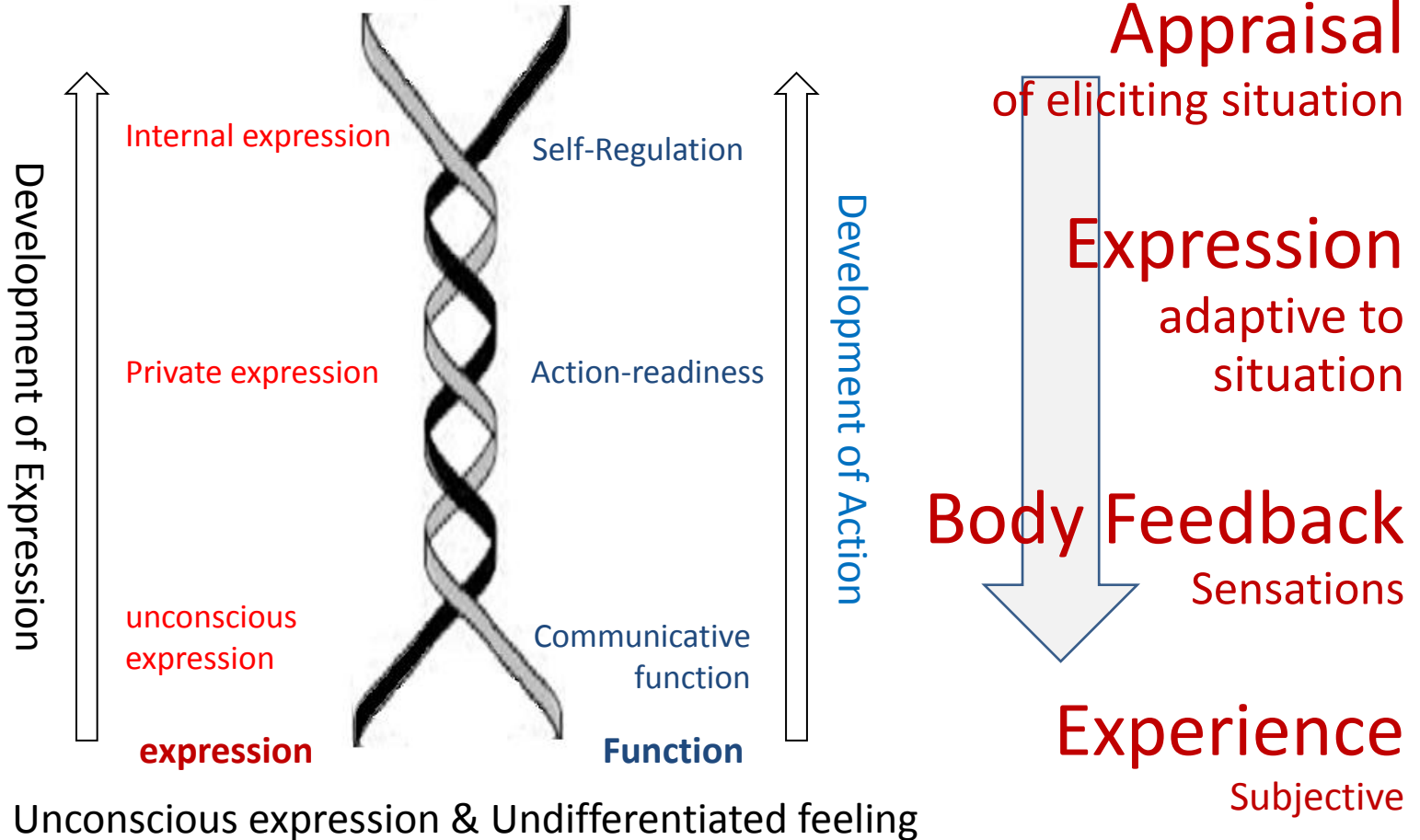


Have roots in both “institutional”
learning and life-experience

The Emotions

Expression solely internal

Conceptual appraisal



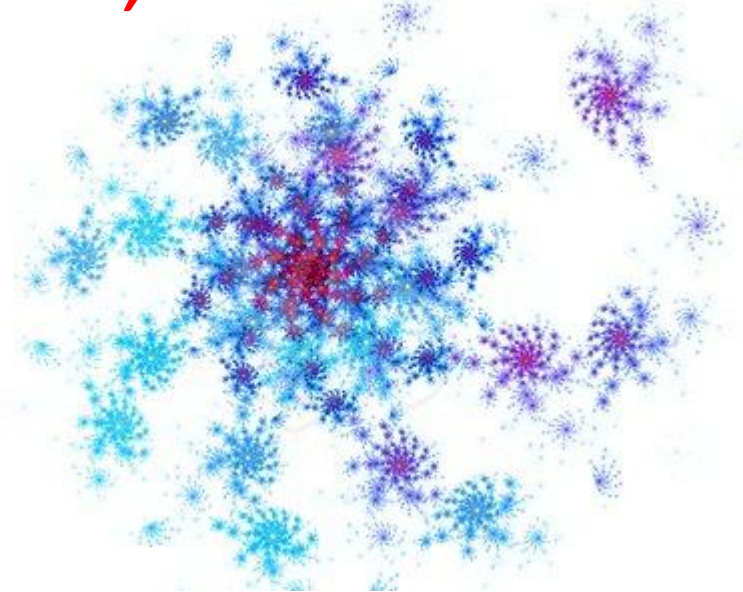
Concepts of CHAT Session 7

- **Spontaneous concepts**
- **True concepts**
- **Actual concepts**
- **Emotions**



★ Concepts of CHAT Session 8 ★

Activity:
operations, actions and activities



“Activity” is a substance

Concepts of CHAT Session 8

(Artefact-mediated) Actions



- An action is directed towards a **goal** which does not coincide with its **motive**.
- An action is determined by its **goal**.
- An action is **consciously controlled** by the subject.

Concepts of CHAT Session 8



- An operation is a **fixed pattern of behaviour** which can be adapted to conditions.
- The subject is **not consciously aware** or controlling the operation, which is controlled by goal of action.
- An operation is determined by its **conditions**.

Concepts of CHAT Session 8

Activities



- An Activity has an **intrinsic motive** or object which can only be realised socially, by many actions.
- The subject is **aware** of the motive of the activity.
- The activity **provides the motive** for its actions.

Concepts of CHAT Session 8

Motivation

Personal Sense

Objective Meaning



Psychological

Non-psychological

Concepts of CHAT Session 8

- **Operations**
- **Actions**
- **Activities**



★ Concepts of CHAT Session 9 ★

The Object

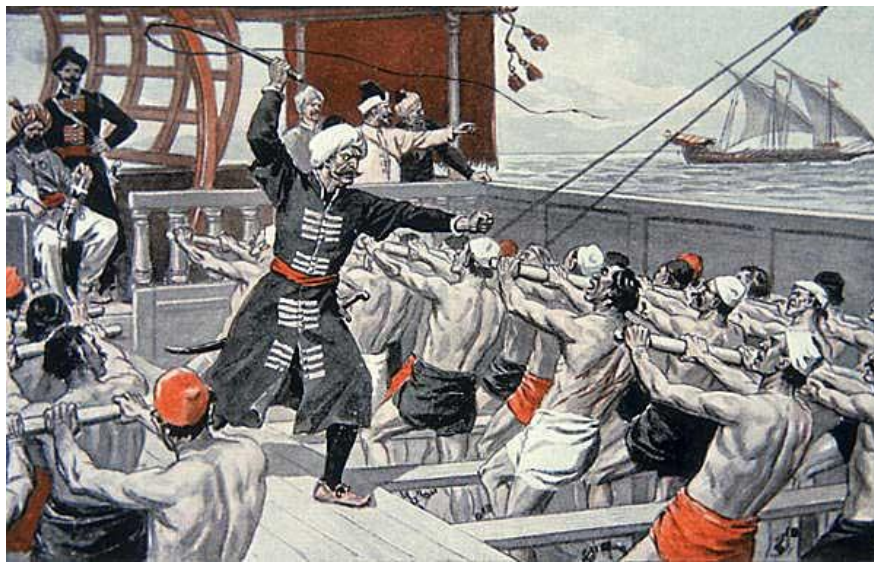
in Leontyev, Engeström and Vygotsky



“Object” is a highly polysemous word!

Concepts of CHAT Session 9

The Object for Leontyev



Leontyev's Activity Theory reveals the structure of motivation

Concepts of CHAT Session 9

The Object for Leontyev



Предмет : 'the object of activity' is the imagined and desired objective product or outcome of the activity.

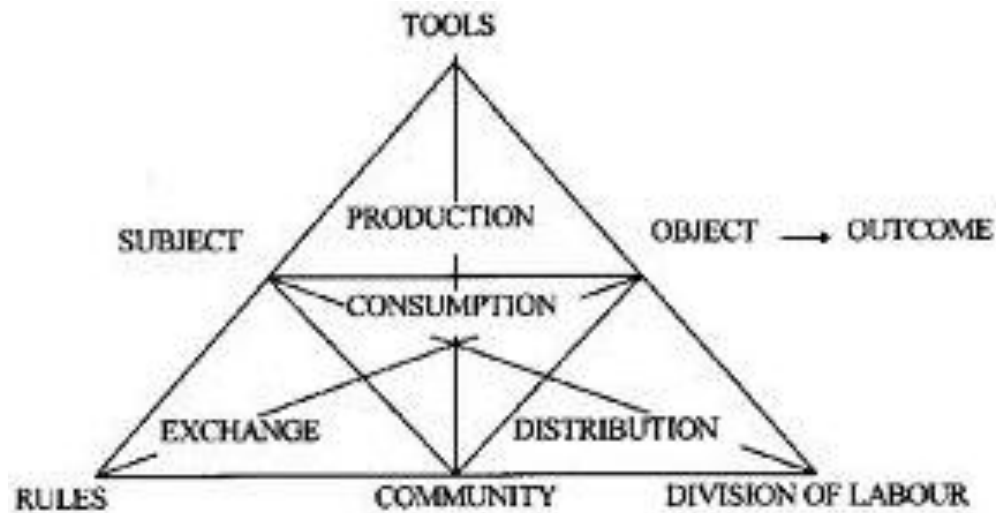
The Object for Leontyev



The object meets a **social** need, which itself arises from activity. But this may differ from the **personal sense** of the object which motivates an individual's action.

Concepts of CHAT Session 9

The Object for Engeström



Engeström's Activity Theory, the object is the 'raw material' at which the activity is directed and which is transformed into the outcome. The object carries in itself the purpose and motive of the activity.

The Object for Engeström



Engeström's Activity Theory does not address how the outcome is/is not intended by individuals, but focuses on actions. *Engeström's outcome* may be Leontyev's *object*.

Concepts of CHAT Session 9

Boundary Object



Cooperation between different systems of activity (which “speak different languages” so to speak) is achieved by means of an object which has features recognised by both subjects.

Concepts of CHAT Session 9

The Object for Vygotsky



For Vygotsky, the object is part of the concept the subject forms of some task or problem. The concept is the form of activity by means of which the object is realised.

Concepts of CHAT Session 9

The Object for Vygotsky



For Vygotsky, the separate actions relate to the object in the same way word meanings relate to the concept.

Concepts of CHAT Session 9

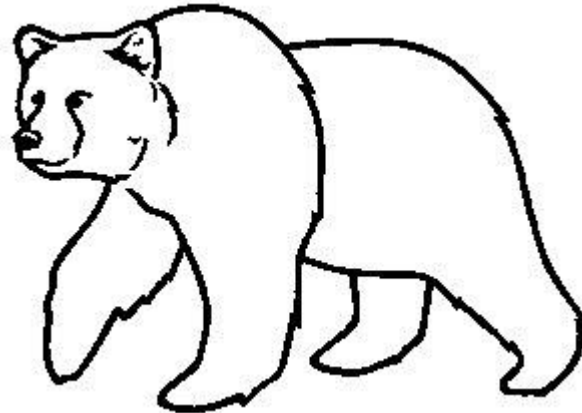
The Object for Vygotsky



People form different concepts of the same task according to their social position. The difference is not one of personal sense; it is social.

Concepts of CHAT Session 9

For example: an encounter with a dangerous bear



A subject will form a different concept according to:

- Social position
- Available means

Concepts of CHAT Session 9

- **The Object for A. N. Leontyev**
- **The Object for Yrjö Engeström**
- **The Object for Lev Vygotsky**



★ Concepts of CHAT Session 10 ★

“Project” is a unit of social life



A project is **an activity**.

Concepts of CHAT Session 10

The object of a project is the
concept it has of itself



A project is a process of **concept formation**.



Concepts of CHAT Session 10

Projects are units of social life



Social life is a large number of projects interacting with one another.

Concepts of CHAT Session 10

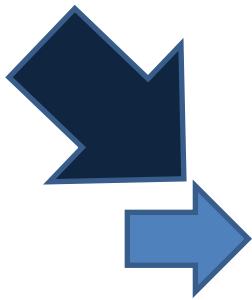
The Project is a practice with an object



The Project provides the “frame” or context in which the judgments are made (**ideology**)

Concepts of CHAT Session 10

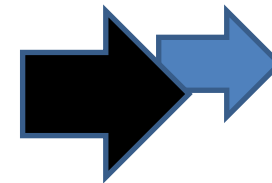
Projects collaborate with one another



by colonisation



negotiation



or solidarity

Collaboration includes both conflict and cooperation

Concepts of CHAT

The End

Thank you

Unit of personal development, an Experience=unity of individual & environment;
Unit of the intellect, a word=unity of sound & meaning;
Unit of economic life, a commodity=unity of exchange-value & use value;
Unit of culture, an artefact=unity of material and ideal;
Unit of behaviour, a reflex=unity of stimulus and response;

Elements disclosed by analysis

Unit of action, an action=unity of consciousness and behaviour;
Unit of language, a sentence=unity of subject and predicate.

Units not dialectically constructed

Unit of formal logic=a proposition;
Unit of discourse=an utterance.

