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July 2022

Box 15, Folder 32 - "The Incarnation of Language or The Sensitive Period for Language" (E.M.S.)

Edwin Mortimer Standing

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Recommended Citation

Standing, Edwin Mortimer, "Box 15, Folder 32 - "The Incarnation of Language or The Sensitive Period for Language" (E.M.S.)" (2022). *Notes, ca. 1929-1948*. 22.
<https://scholarworks.seattleu.edu/standing-notes/22>

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THE INCARNATION OF LANGUAGE

THE SENSITIVE PERIOD FOR LANGUAGE

Last time discussed SENSITIVE PERIODS IN GENERAL

THE DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF A S.P.

- (a) a phenomenon of development
- (b) Has to do with the environment - a special focus or search light on some particular aspect of the Env't.
- (c) It fixes a faculty or a disposition (Concentration)
- (d) it is an evanescent phenomenon .

SP. for Order

Not just like a House wife ... "I like order in my home "

It is a deparate need of life

the very ground we need for walking on

How you feel in an Earthquake .

It affects the child's whole being with distress

It is the basis of all that follows

builds up on it -- like the Geographer map maker .

NOW THE SENSITIVE PERIOD FOR LANGUAGE

The firther we go back the more mysterious it becomes

Wordsworth

Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting
 Our lifes star the star that rises with us
~~has had elsewhere its setting~~
 And cometh from afar ...
 Not in entire forgetfulness , and not in utter nakedness
 Do we come
 But trailing clouds fo glory
 From God who is our Home.

the mystery of birth -- and so of death

Sunset and evening star

And may there be no moaning of the bar
 When I put out to sea
 But such a tide as moving seems asleep
 Too full for sound and foam
 When that which drew from out the boundless deep —
 Turns again home .

By the way?
 Any more
 examples
 Marietta S.
 offers

(1) ↑

Comparison with the Incarnation

There is something mystical in the idea that the tiniest baby has a mental life in it. It might lead us to contemplate the newborn infant in the same spirit as that in which in religion we contemplate the Child Jesus

AS THE INCARNATION OF A GOD TRULY PRESENT IN THE TINY BODY, Even SO, WE MIGHT IMAGINE, IS A HUMAN SOUL HIDDEN IN THE TENDER HELPLESS BODY OF THE BABY - a soul already developed and sensible, albeit dumb.

Now comes the surprise which at once shows us:

- a) the brilliance of Montessori's scientific observation --
- and —
- b) the depth and clarity of her theological knowledge ~~through faith~~.

THE LOGOS

IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN -- like a magnificent Prelude -- we in the beginning was the Word -- the Logos -- (Immanent Reason, Geology, Conchology, Biology --) The Words with God and the Word was God.... All things were made by him etc....

AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONGST US.

"THE INCARNATION OF THE WORD."

IT IS NOT IN THE LEAST NECESSARY FOR YOU TO BELIEVE IN THIS TO APPRECIATE WHAT MONTESSORI IS TRYING TO MAKE CLEAR.

This Word the Logos, was utterly complete infinite knowledge ... perfect -- the Second Person of the Holy Trinity -- could not develop and unfold its potentialities it was always infinitely complete and infinitely perfect ...

God is always in evering infinite - beyond development in TIME

BUT NOW IN A SENSE IT IS QUITE TRUE TO SAY THAT IN A CHILD THE WORD BECOMES FLESH.... but in a quite different meaning

By the word we mean LANGUAGE ... THE POWER TO SPEAK AND EXPRESS ONE'S THOUGHTS. (as the word is the infinite expression of the father)

Have compared Child in (3) Supreme Being
Now

COMPARISON BETWEEN LANGUAGE OF MEN AND ANIMALS

let us imagine

We go to PERSIA

(a) Ourselves, (b) the Baby and (c) the kitten .

The kitten still "miaow" does not change its language. — *Kills to its species*

if it were it
if a dog would bark (not in Persian or Chinese)

(Story of the Man in the Restaurant)

What is this meat ? Moo . 'Click cluck Baa baa

no Bow wow !)

We Adults

WE CAN LEARN IT A LITTLE)) BUT WITH A GREAT EFFORT

THE CHILD AT THE END OF TWO YEARS WILL SPEAK PERSIAN

OR CHINESE OR ITALIAN OR FRENCH .

*without effort —
supported by learning*

This is a very strange thing (if we look into it .

LANGUAGE IS LIKE A WALL — shuts in the group

keeps out the others .

BUT IT IS ABSORBED AT THIS AGE SIMPLY BY LIVING

To
GO ON
WITH THE
COMPARISON

Last
MONTESSORI'S GREAT BOOK

THE ABSORBENT MIND .

THE ANIMAL HAS ALSO THE MOVEMENT OF THE SPECIES

COMPLETE)) THE CHICKEN ? THE COLT ? CALF ETC

But the child how different

THE CHILD IS BORN INCOMPLETE

... AND HOW ?

As one Paralyzed

ABSORBENT MIND PAGE 109 - 110

50

IT HAS TO CREATE ITS OWN INSTRUMENT OF EXPRESSION

MORE THAN THAT ITS OWN EGO

BODY + LANGUAGE

THE SOUL PERMEATES INFUSES ITSELF INTO THE FLESH

TO MAKE IT THE INSTRUMENT OF FREE HUMAN BEING

soul is form of BODY

THE LANGUAGE TOO IS NOT A MATTER OF INSTINCT

BUT ADAPTATION TO A SOCIAL WORLD

why the Baby's head os so bog !

(diagram)

Before it can move it has to construct itself to a large degree ----- Takes in the world around it subconsiously .

To come back to Langau ge

SECRET OF CHILDHOOD P.34

"What exists is a predispostion

34.....a d 35

To 39 , 40 to 41 (ne third)

then 45 .

QUOTE FROM ABSORBENT MIND ...

THIS WONDERFUL MUSIC P-174

172 For the moment
173 -

Agam →

NATURE THE MOST WONDERFUL TEACHER

1) the sounds a fixed in the subconsious

we cannot see it sounds like letters gugu

Baby Langauge " tu tu " ba. ba!

2) The syllables

3) then words

the baby fixes the sounds then the syllables

(even before that wordless movements)

4) Names come first

Adjectives

conjunctions and adverbs

verbs (in the infintive)

conjagation of verbs

declension of nouns

prefixes suffixes

syntax and exceptions .

Grammatical
Order

So this is
THE INCARNATION of
LANG.

The Word Becomes
Flesh.

Sweet Baby Jesus , in Your Mother's arms , we thank You for coming down from Heaven to live on earth to help us to be good ~~and~~ save us from our sins .

The whole world was yours with all its treasures of gold and silver , and yet you gave them all up for us and became so poor that you did not even have a proper bed to sleep on.

Dear Baby Jesus help us to be kind and good so that our hearts will make a nice warm bed for you to rest in . Help us to obey our Mummy and Daddy as you did , and to be always kind and loving and ready to forgive those who do anything against us .

Dear Mary , Mother of God - for your little Baby is God - pray to your little son for us that we may be always pure and innocent as he is , and never to do or think anything which he and you would not like .

Dear St. Joseph , so strong and gentle , pray for us and be our strength and help even as you did support Holy Mary and her Heavenly Child .

In the name of the Father