

CHILD DEVELOPMENT THEORIES AND THEIR REFLECTIONS TO LAANGUAGE TEACHERS

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Abstract

Child development includes physical, cognitive and socio-affective development. Physical development includes physical changes in the body while cognitive development includes the processes employed to gain information and socio-affective development includes ways of forming relationship with others and expressing their senses. Throughout the 20th. century, numerous child development theories were put forward. According to Piaget, children's development and their worl point of view can be understood by examining their actions and words. According to Vygotsky, culture and society are important in terms of building child's cognitive development. According to Information Processing approaches, human mind is a complex system in which information flows. This study aims to analyse three influential theories; namely, Piaget's cognitive development theory, Vygotsky's language and cognitive development theory and Information Processing theory and to state the reflections of these three theories to language teaching. It also aims to analyse other important theories about child development, children's affective development and draw attention to some controversial issues about child development.

Key words: Child development, child development theories, language teaching, language learning.