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# Language Learning and Cognitive Change

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## Abstract

This paper confirms Bakhtin's language theory that language exists in a social context and supports cognition. Language development is not acquisition of linguistic knowledge. Language development is in fact, generation of meaning related to cognitive changes based on the use of language in daily life. Based on this approach, I shall introduce examples of how cognitive changes result in the generation of meaning by focusing on linguistic data of native and non-native speakers of Japanese in a community-based Japanese language program.

## Keywords

Cognitive change; Language development; Generation of meaning; Dialogue;  
Active responsive understanding

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