

MIGRANT WOMEN: INTEGRATION THROUGH CREATIVITY



An Application of the APP METHOD
to Language Learning

*The **EURO-IDEA Association** in partnership with the **Department of Equal Opportunities of Schaerbeek (Bruxelles)**, organizes **French courses using the APP Approach**. These courses are meant for **immigrant mothers of school-age children***



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What is the **APP**?

The **A**udio **P**sycho **P**honology is a Method developed by the French Ear Nose and Throat specialist **Alfred Tomatis**, that helps the 'language integration' process.

The idea of 'language integration' will be soon explained



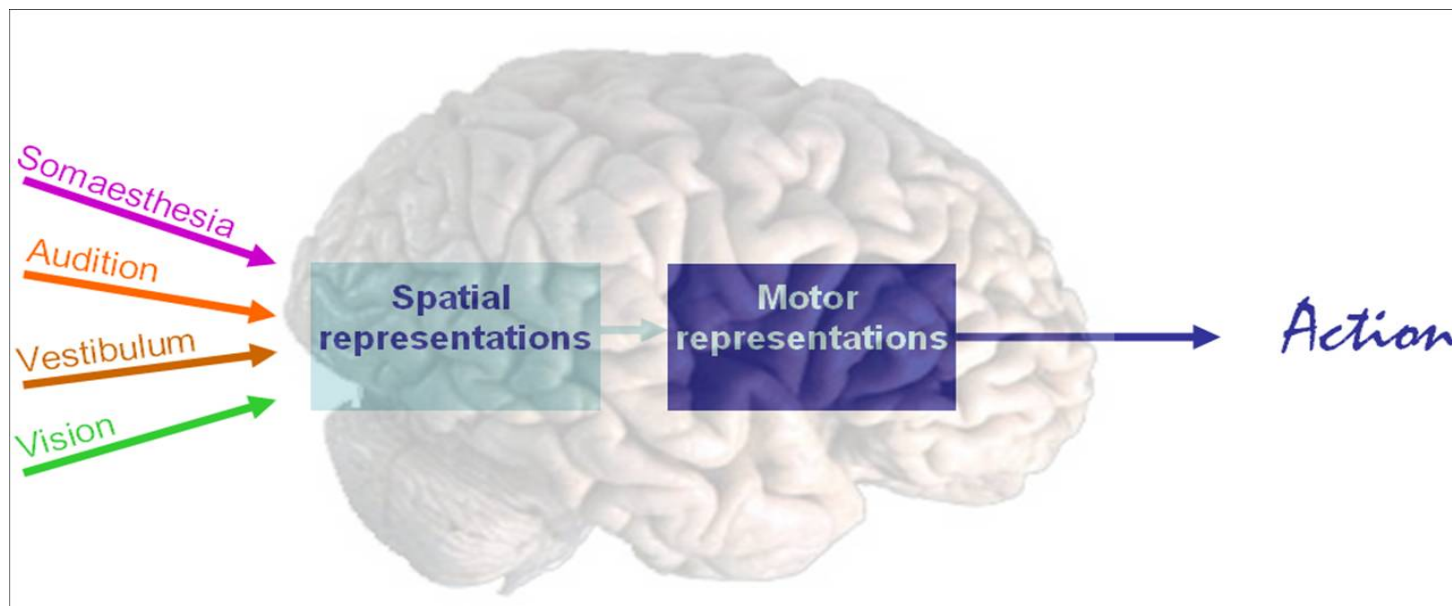
Is the APP just a 'new' language method?

NO



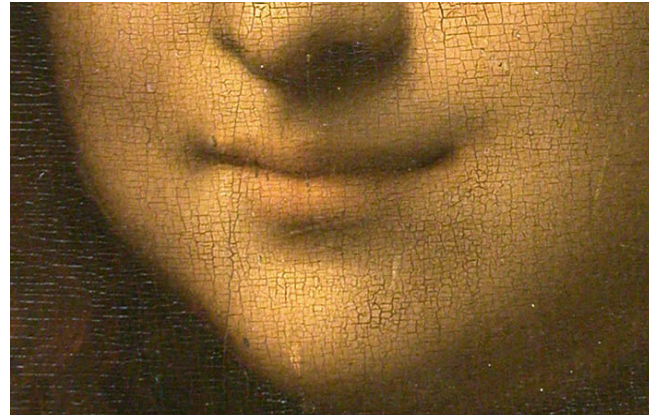
Audio Psycho Phonology

- The name Audio Psycho Phonology refers to the three functions of listening – sensory, cognitive and motor – that Tomatis conjectured to be linked by the same neural network



The Tomatis Effect

(The Fundamental Law of APP)



In 1953 Tomatis discovered that
"The voice does not produce what the ear does not hear"



What does the 'Tomatis Effect' actually tell us?

- It tells us that not only the perceptual system involved in understanding speech is closely connected to the motor system through which speech is produced, but that, in turn, the same motor system, greatly contributes to the perception and understanding of language on a phonological, semantic and syntactic level.
- Basically the ear is a *sensory AND* a *motor* system

The development of language

- In other words : for Tomatis, the perception and understanding of speech were deeply rooted in its activation by the sensory motor system (especially by the auditory-motor system)
- Tomatis believed that language could only develop in humans through the activation of neural nervous networks connecting perception, action and cognition. He named these networks 'listening integrators'

It's all about Listening

- Notice that we talk about the 'LISTENING' integrators, and not about 'HEARING' integrators



You could hear and not listen!



Hearing vs Listening

- Hearing = perceiving sounds
- Listening = perceiving sounds + paying attention to those sounds
- Listening can be defined as the ability to adapt to the constant changes in our acoustic environment by continuously readjusting the content and form of the messages we receive
- **It is possible to have a good hearing but be a poor listener.**

How to 'listen well'

- In order for the listening function to be efficient, our auditory system must not only be able to constant adapt to the changes in the information it receives, but, based on the detected changes, must also be able to make predictions about the representation of the incoming acoustic message.



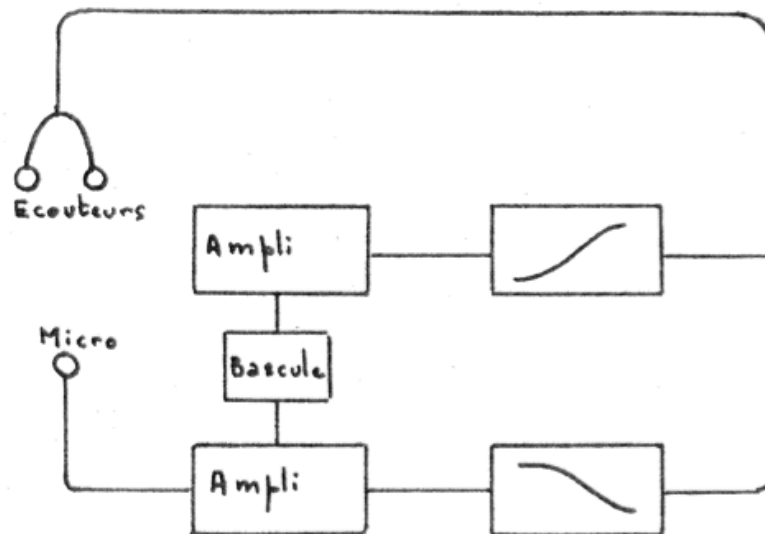
The Electronic Ear (now called 'Brain Activator')

- Therefore in order to establish and develop the listening integrators, Tomatis created an original device called the Electronic Ear, of which the essential principles are the notions of “gating” and bone conduction.



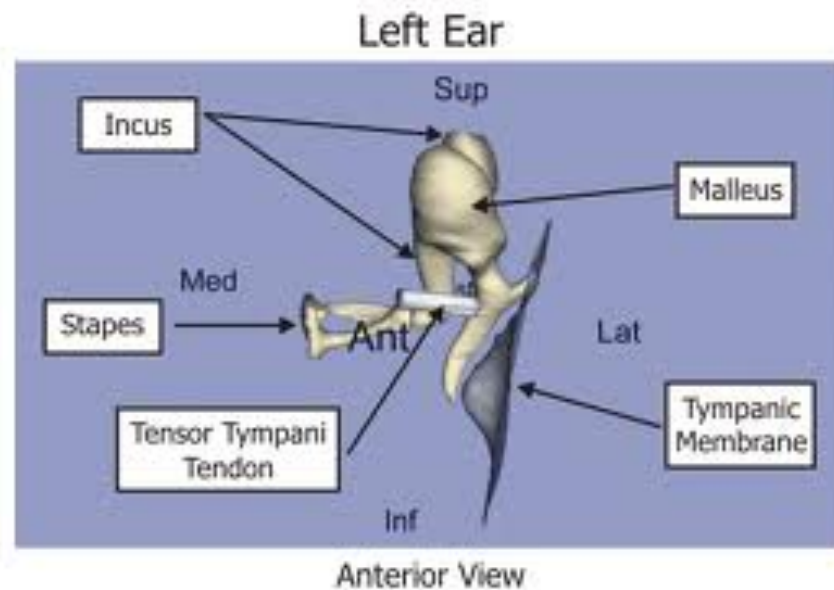
The “Gating”

- The Gating functions as a system of irregular alternation between two different equalizations of the same audio signal



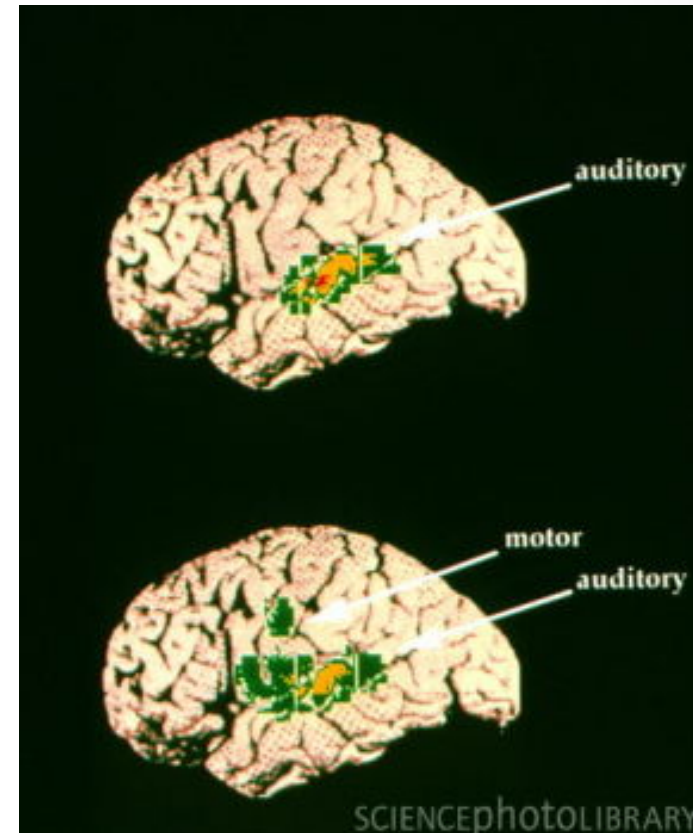
The Gating and the Ears

- The Gating has an effect on the two auditory muscles located in the middle ear.
- It makes them move. This is why the APP method could be compared to Gymnastics of the 'ear'



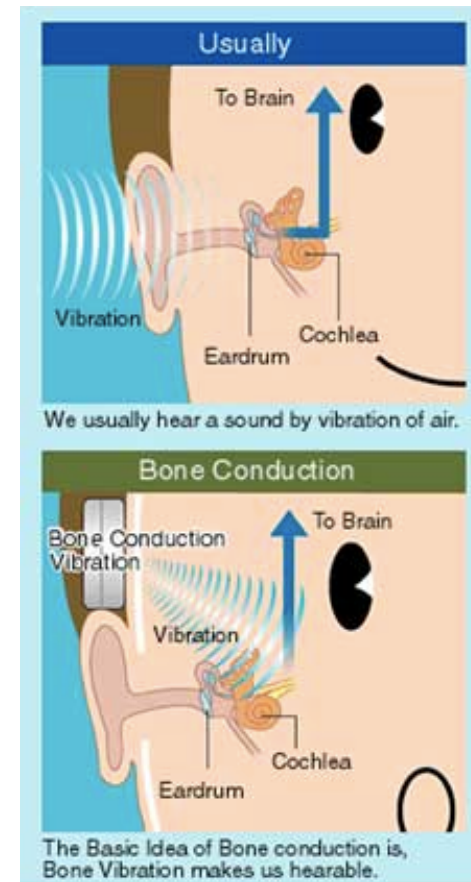
The Gating and the Brain

- The gating effect – being irregular in its temporal pattern - its unpredictable.
- This unpredictability keeps the brain alert and focused on the ever-changing information it receives
- In other words it keeps the process of listening constantly awake



Air and Bone Conduction

- We all hear sounds both through our bones and our ear drums. Most sounds are heard by our ear drums.
- In some cases vibrations are heard directly by the inner ear through our bones – bypassing our ear drums. In fact, this is one of the ways you hear your own voice.
- The APP Approach takes advantage of both Air and Bone conduction



Why Mozart? *Just Because...*



The reason why Mozart is crucial for the APP training is still a mystery. One possible explanation is that his music, being so balanced and rich in overtones, is perfectly suited to trigger the 'Gating effect' of the Brain Activator.



Mark 7:33-35

“... and He put His fingers into his ears, and He spit, and touched his tongue;

And looking up to heaven, He sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened.

And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plain.”