

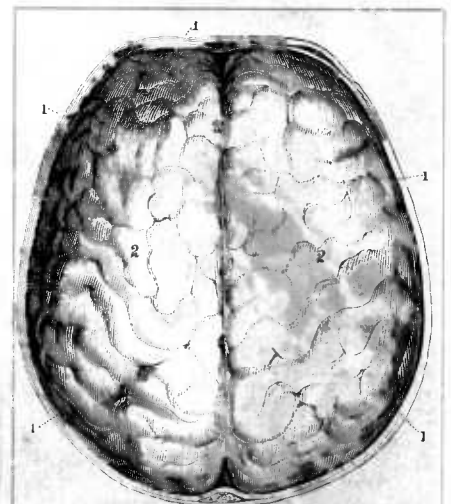
5. I almost fear to mention a fourth dimension of dialectic in psychophysiology and therefore in language, viz. the sexual--my fear being based on the complexity and mystery of this factor--more complex and mysterious even than the conscious/unconscious dialectic. Also, I'm in trouble if I locate, as I do, the feminine primarily in the right brain and lower coil.

1. Audio-wise, the "roots" of language are certain basic sounds, "phonemes" in the strictest sense, which presumably derive from mimesis [the imitating of "natural" sounds, sounds in "nature"] and from the psychophysical organism's "mechanical" [i.e., anatomical] and process [i.e., physiological] responses and initiatives. Chiefly monosyllables, these basic phonemes are described through various metaphors. Organismically, they are called "roots," or "radicals," from the earliest and basic part of plants as they develop from spores and seeds ("radical," from the Lat. for "root"). Architecturally, they are called "building blocks," as they are the basic components of communication by sound; and clusters are called "structures"--indeed, "structuralism" is the philosophy of using language's concatenation of sounds as the fundamental clue to the world of human experience.

2. More than our fore-mothers/-fathers, we have objective-scientific understanding of the complex psychophysical dialectics behind and within language. A vertical polarity or conversation within our body is between the two coil-systems called (lower) the viscera [the locus of "feeling"] and (upper) the cortex [the locus of "thinking"]. The English language here is tricky. When the big hole between the coils says "I feel," the person may actually mean "I think" and be offended if the hearer takes what was said as "only" an emotional expression. And vice versa: When the hole says "I think," the person may actually mean "I feel" and be offended if the hearer takes what was said as an objective idea in which the speaker's feeling world is not significantly involved. But even if a language is not, as is English, in this respect ambiguous and thus defective, one will have to combine nonverbal with verbal signals in deciding, when one hears sounds out of the biggest hole in another's head, whether the sounds come predominantly from the lower or predominantly from the upper coil, and what the relationship of the two coils in the communication effort. Cutting across this four-coil encounter (including your coils!) is the dimension of unconscious/conscious, fantasy/"reality," as well as sign-use (semasiology or semantics, the theory/practice of encoding/decoding).

3. And a horizontal polarity, now massively documented by brain psychophysicists such as Chas. M. Fair [THE PHYSIOLOGY OF THE BRAIN and THE DYING SELF], appears in the box herewith, from today's [31May75] SRW. The upper coil is "cooler" than the lower, but it's left hemisphere is yet "cooler" than its right, as the propositional is cooler than the appositional. Ideas are "PRO-posed," put forward structurally-sequentially-cognitively-ratiocinatively-architectonically: images are "APposed," put alongside each other to see what happens, what heats up, what sparks jump and what juices flow to the feet, to action. [NB: We cannot move from "reflection," cerebration, to "action"; we get into action only when there is "inflection" of the whole system--both brain hemispheres, and the lower coil. Otherwise the action does not deserve to be called "human" and "spiritual."]

4. Thus "the roots of the roots" lie in this inflectional process, and the interpreter-persuader will seek to master the primordial images.



Bettmann

"Thinking people are left-brained in development.... Yet TV, we are informed, appeals mainly to the right hemisphere of the brain, which controls appositional—that is, non-sequential, non-analytic—thought."