

# Language Based Thought and Visual Thinking

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Humans are endowed with two very different modes of thought associated with their two different major senses: hearing and sight. Language is the thought mode grounded in hearing while visual thinking is the thought mode grounded in sight. These thought modes function to provide solutions for different kinds of challenges. Oral language provides the primary mode for human communication and rational thought to evaluate and plan. Visual thinking provides the mode for internalizing and reacting to external visual stimuli as well as synthesizing both disparate and remote input to generate insight.

Language based thought relies on the principle of separation – 1) separate sounds combine to make separate words standing for separate things and actions, 2) separate words combine into separate sentences/thoughts, and 3) separate thoughts combine into separate descriptions and arguments. Intellect centered in the rear, left brain hemisphere guides this process, and the material perspective on reality is the overall result.

Visual based thought relies on the principle of synthesis – 1) images connect many “things” together in a whole picture, and 2) kinetic imagery allows this whole to undergo comprehensive change over time. Intuition centered in the right brain hemisphere guides this process, and the unification perspective on reality is the overall result.

Analysis is the hallmark of language based thought while synthesis is the hallmark of visual thinking. Humans need both modes of thought and access to both perspectives on reality in order first to survive as a species – supported by the competitive/separation orientation of language based thought – and second to relate well socially while respecting the limits of the surrounding ecology – supported by the cooperative/unification orientation of visual based thought.

Our modern complex society state of multiple large nations needs government unification at the global level. However, there is a very serious question whether input from the unification perspective generated by the synthesis/cooperative orientation of visual thinking is sufficient to counter the dominating strength of the material perspective generated by the analytic/competitive orientation of language based thought. Unfortunately, balanced input from these two perspectives is not the current situation, and excessive competition invites potential self defeat technologically [nuclear annihilation] and/or ecologically [climate change degradation].