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The Story of Olaf: Learning a Language Again, First Steps in Barefoot Learning
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From chapter 1: "You can learn to talk again"

Presuppositions:

- *Cultural*: Humans can speak several languages, even though American culture endorses American language as enough.
- *Language*: Language is so much a part of us, that a only continual two-way flow of language can create understanding.
- *Social*: Learning language must occur simultaneously with the making of new friends. It is more a social process than an academic study.

Corollaries:

- Language is so changeable, so detailed, so complex that no one ever learn any language completely. You do not speak American perfectly.
- Anything worth doing is worth doing poorly. You cannot bypass the first stages (below).
- Most people can learn a language better from talking with ordinary people than through formal instruction.
- When you cannot talk, you can learn to talk again.
- Everyone is able to learn another language, not all are ready, [fewer are willing].

Stages of language helper speech:

- a. **inter-language** (simplifying)
- b. **caretaker talk** (coaching)
- c. **teacher talk** (explaining)
- d. **foreigner talk** (adapting)
- e. **insider talk** (trusting).

15 success factors (9-18):

1. Involving your 'significant others.'
2. **Goal** = not language but communication, 'bi-passing' with locals.
3. **Principle**: de-alienation & de-parochialization.
4. Priority of **informal learning** over formal teaching.
5. Two models: Poor model = student (weak) & teacher (strong);
Better model = learner (active) & competent others (passive).
6. Dealing with one's **affective issues** ('mental block'; 'feeling foolish').
7. Follow a **developmental plan**.
8. The **critical point**: using the new language to continuing learning.
9. Magnitude & complexity forbid anyone's teaching or leaning a whole language.
10. The **daily cycle**: Get what you need, learn what you get, use what you get, evaluate what you use. *Be found teachable, then acceptable, finally effective partners.*
11. *In-situ (situational)* learning proves more successful than does *ex-situ*.
12. **Community learning** alone is more successful than classroom learning alone.
13. Learning from **ordinary people** alone is more successful than from teachers alone.
14. Language is inseparable from **cultural meanings** and **social relations**.
15. Managing communicative events works better than mastering parts of speech.

Argument: Learning is best where community and classroom are fully integrated.