

## HEINZ WERNER

### Abstract:

This study was conducted to examine which elements of Heinz Werner's theory would be revealed in children's drawings made in response to a multi-media production of images and sounds from September 11, 2001. Fifth grade students from a Catholic grade school were asked to express in drawings their responses to a PowerPoint presentation made up of images from the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center Towers. Students watched the PowerPoint presentation three times: first, as a silent set of images; second, while listening to Sarah McLachlan's "In the Arms of the Angels" (a sad song); and third, while listening to the Boston Pops Symphony Orchestra's arrangement of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" (a patriotic song). Results indicate 1) children express in drawings their own feelings in connection to an object outside of themselves; 2) drawings changed drastically in relation to the music that accompanied the slideshow. The drawings reveal evidence of what Werner explained as self/object differentiation, eidetic imagery, and the effects of synesthesia. This study raises serious questions regarding the impact on children of creative arrangement of images and music in television programming and in movies.

### Key Terms with Definitions

#### Self/Object Differentiation

1. The capability of a child to express a feeling through imagery using a connection between the inner self and the outer self.
2. This is a type of physiognomic perception
3. Ex. Child draws a face smiling and in the background is a sun smiling

#### Eidetic imagery

1. Extraordinarily detailed and vivid recollection of visual images.
2. Vivid detail in the mind – sticks in the head
3. Like photographic memory
4. Intense event causes a vivid image in the mind
5. Problem = many meanings – like a dream
6. Image reproduced from memory

#### Physiognomic Perception

1. The art of judging human character from facial features.
2. Facial features, especially when regarded as revealing character.

3. FACE – express emotions (also body motions)
  - a. Movements and gestures
  - b. Personification of objects
4. Concrete Physiognomic perception = WORDS
5. Unification between self and objects --> connected to synesthesia (unity of the senses)
6. Need synesthesia to adopt a feeling (sound and seeing)

### **Geometric-technical Perception**

1. Object shapes, lengths, direction, width and color all take on meaning BUT on more realistic, non-artistic level

### **Synesthesia**

1. A condition in which one type of stimulation evokes the sensation of another, as when the hearing of a sound produces the visualization of a color.
2. The description of one kind of sense impression by using words that normally describe another. Ex. Child may draw road kill to describe feeling of sadness as a analogy to/reaction to his sadness from the terrorist attacks
3. Connecting color with feeling (Red, white and blue)
4. Children associate words/tones /noises with color value

CHILDREN ARE PROBLEMATIC BECAUSE: 1) personality 2) stimuli 3) Perceptions