

JUDITH KATZ

What's in a Sound? "The Talking Cure" in a Second Language

An infant's first exposure to her caretakers and their language has a profound relational and developmental impact. The accent, tone, sounds, and rhythms, as well as the feelings that infuse and are evoked by this experience retain a visceral, associative power through life. By contrast, a language that is acquired later on, in a different relational context and, at a different maturational level, lacks the intimate connection to the early experience of one's first language.

Based on theory and on my own clinical and personal experience as analyst and analysand, this paper examines the additional potential for emotional growth when a "talking cure" is undertaken in a language different from one's native tongue. The focus of this paper is on what is gained in translation rather than on what is lost, which most people seem to expect.

Since this is in part, a "Single Case Study" of my particular situation regarding languages and analysis, the presentation is infused with pertinent personal information and, videoed "special effects" of my personal linguistic heritage. This provides an acoustical and sensual "in vivo" demonstration of the main points of my thesis. . My goal is to inform, and provide an opportunity to interact and share aspects of clinical and personal experiences. pertaining to the complexity of conscious and unconscious, verbalized and non-verbalized issues encountered in the treatment of bi or multicultural patients.

I am a multilingual analyst who was born and raised in Israel by German speaking parents. In the U.S I had an analysis in English which led to my present interest in exploring the complexities of having an analysis in a second language. I live and practice "bi-lingually" in San-Francisco.