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Peter Wrycza, MA, PhD

Antoine de la Garanderie:
Pioneer Modeller of the Learning Process

Part II: The pedagogical profile and links with NLP

Pedagogical profiles

One of the powerful elements in de La Garanderie's method is the high degree of predictability in it. Given a few snippets of information about a pupil's learning difficulties or strengths, he is able to predict accurately many other things about that student's learning and also to put his finger on how that student can be helped.

In working with a group of teachers in 1976–77 who were to carry his methods to groups of pupils, de La Garanderie demonstrated at their request how one could quickly recognize a learner's strengths and weaknesses. Without knowing the person who volunteered, he began asking her about how she went about learning when at school, particularly in primary school. It transpired that she learned by putting things into words and did this for all subjects. When she read, she reformulated what she read in words. De La Garanderie proposed that when listening she tended to do the same thing whenever she found it difficult to understand something. She agreed without any hesitation. He now had enough information to continue:

> When you had to take notes, you used to write down everything with a certain fear of missing something. It was with the intention of reviewing them that you took notes. And "reviewing them" had a definite meaning for you: it meant reading them while formulating them verbally, which was the precondition for understanding them. And when your maths teacher said, after expounding a theorem, "I'm going to question you to find out if you have understood," you went into a cold sweat, for, as you had not had the time to undertake the necessary mental operation, you had not yet understood anything. You were good at composition and grammar, weak in spelling, very good at history, quite good at languages, very weak at geometry, average in algebra, very weak at geography and the natural sciences. You are probably a teacher of