



In this article some limitations of the increasingly popular theories of the Russian semiotician L.S. Vygotsky will be identified. Emphasis will be placed on the lack of an account of social positioning within discourse as well as the social, cultural and historical production of discourse. At the heart of these concerns there lies an underdeveloped perspective on the social function of language, particularly when it is used to influence interpersonal relations. The theories of cultural transmission developed by Basil Bernstein in the later stages of his career will be discussed in terms of the potential for refining the Vygotskian thesis.

Part A:

- 1) What can we infer about the person who wrote the paragraph?
- 2) Who is he writing for? How do you work this out?
- 3) Where can we find it?
- 4) What's its function or purpose?
- 5) Does this type of text have a name?

Part B:

- The text above is an *abstract*.
- What are the salient features that are in this abstract and that you might find in other abstracts?

List them under the following headings:

Text organisation and form	Register	language

Part C:

- 1) Work in pairs. Read out the abstract to each other a few times.
- 2) Put the abstract away .Then try and remember it.

(Abstract taken from Daniels, H. (2006) Theory Psychology Volume: 16, Issue: 1, Publisher: SAGE, Pages: 37-49)

3) Have a look at the following word cloud of the abstract. Now try and re-write it in pairs.



http://www.wordle.net/show/wrdl/6567881/Academic_writing%3A_Abstracts

Part D:

Think about the last assignment you wrote and prepare to write an abstract for it. Use the table you filled in (Part B) to help you.

