

Titel: notes, [Uldall] 008-0010

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Anvendt udgave: Louis Hjelmslev og hans kreds

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much cruder systems of suggesting their <sup>expressions</sup> and or ideas to their fellows. Side by side with this we have developed other systems such as writing and gestures which come outside the scope of my subject tonight.

We see this system working in its simplest form if we watch a small child. The first cries of an infant when it is hungry or in pain are ~~gener~~ probably just reflexes without any thought of obtaining anything as a result. But later on, as the child grows bigger, it realizes, that when it cries, people appear and administer to its needs and it begins to employ this means wilfully to get attention when it is bored and wants company, thereby taking a mean advantage of the soft heart of its mother. Some mothers are sensible enough to stop this practice by ignoring the howling, which then very soon stops. But others, as some of you will know to your cost, allow their children to bully them and become humble slaves of the little tyrant in the cradle.

At the same time the child comes into the babbling stage. It discovers that it can make amusing sounds with its tongue and lips and proceeds to do so, much to the delight of the enthusiastic mother, who at once proclaims her child as a future Demosthenes and is very annoyed at your stupidity when you cant understand what Baby is saying. This babbling is very useful as it trains the muscular feeling in the vocal organs in the same way as the muscular feeling in hands and feet is developed when baby plays with his toes. This gives the child more control over its movements, and at the same time it begins to coordinate things so that it's possible to establish the first slender contrast with it: it can be taught to clap its hands and show how big it is on request, which proves beyond cynical doubt that we have a future Napoleon or Shakespeare before us.

And now the child begins to imitate the sounds of its mother. It says 'mummy' and 'daddy' and then 'nanny' and all the