

ACCELERATED LANGUAGE LEARNING

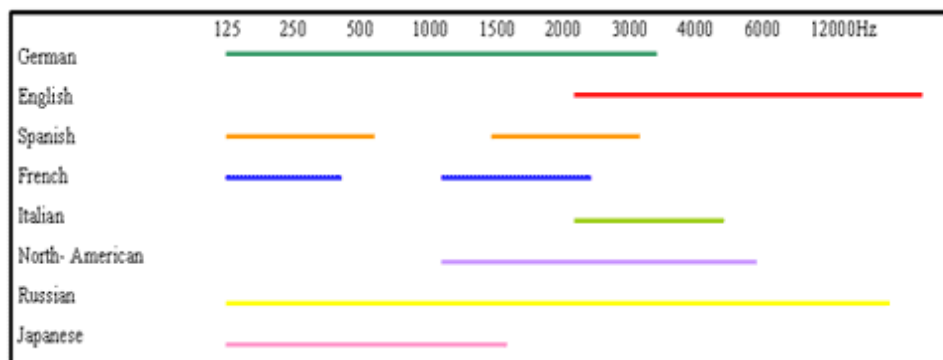


On March 25, 1957, the French Academy of Sciences heard about the discoveries of a young ear specialist by the name of Alfred Tomatis. He had discovered laws that correlate hearing and speaking. His findings have had a lasting impact in many areas, among them language learning. Dr. Tomatis discovered why it is so difficult for some people to learn and speak a foreign language. And more importantly, he developed a method and the equipment to overcome this difficulty.

The goal of the Tomatis method is to train your ears before you start learning a language. As a result, you will be able to learn a language much faster. Or, if you already speak the foreign language, it will improve your accent significantly.

The “First Law”, formulated by Dr. Tomatis states: “you cannot reproduce a sound you cannot hear”. The connection between this law and learning a foreign language relates to the fundamental differences between languages. Like musical instruments, all languages use the same base tones. These range in frequency from 125 to 250 Hertz. The overtones, however, differ from language to language.

For example: English uses a lot of high pitch sounds, ranging from 2,000 to 12,000 Hertz. If you listen carefully, you will be able to distinguish these high pitch tones. Listen to all the S's (as in *SeSSionS*) and to the "TH" sounds (as in *THanks*). French, on the other hand, rarely uses such high pitched sounds. For example, the S at the end of a French word is hardly ever pronounced. Most languages have different sets of overtones.



Different Languages use Different Frequency Ranges

Our ears, by constantly listening to ourselves and to those around us, are most attuned to the frequencies of our native tongue. For the foreign frequencies, we are, so to speak, deaf. Because we cannot hear foreign tones, we cannot pronounce them correctly (first law of Tomatis) and we cannot memorize them easily. Professor Tomatis found a way to train our ears to hear different tones.

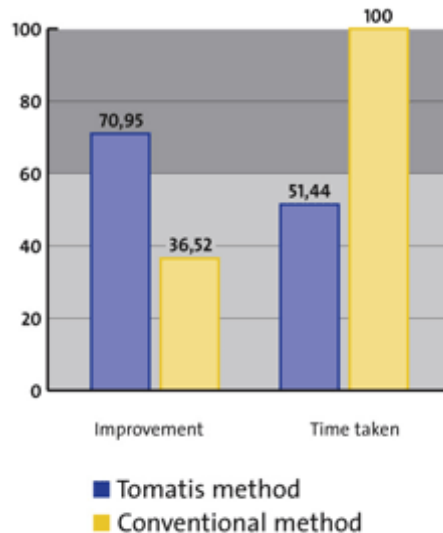
By having our ears trained first, we can reduce significantly the time required to learn a new language. Once our ears have been trained, we will be able to hear the new language correctly. Therefore, we will be able to memorize the words quickly and pronounce them well.

University Research: The Audio Language Project

The **European Community** financed an independent academic study (“Audio Language Project”), conducted over a period of 3 years (1993 -1995).

- Five Universities participated: Forli, Antwerp, Saragossa, Milan and Brescia
- German, Italian, Dutch and Spanish were the languages used.
- Researchers: Ulrike A. Kaunzer (University of Bologna) Frederic Gianni (Diapason, Milan)

Result: participants using the “electronic ear”, designed by Dr. Tomatis, attained the required level of fluency in half the time compared to those following conventional teaching methods alone. By enhancing a student’s auditory perception and then combining this with one-to-one tuition, students can assimilate a language much faster.



Conclusions from the “Audio Language Project” Study:

1. The Tomatis method, which addresses the perceptive aspects of language learning (the ability to understand and express oneself orally) saves 50% of the time needed to assimilate a language
2. The method can be integrated, with equal success, with other educational methods. It can be incorporated into any educational program in any educational establishment
3. The capacity for auditory perception continues to improve even after the end of the training period
4. The method achieves long term improvement in comprehension and expression

A Business Case: The Eurocopter Group



The Eurocopter Group was created by the merger between the helicopter divisions of Aerospatiale-matra (France) and DaimlerChrysler Aerospace (Germany). The group is now a subsidiary owned 100% by EADS (European Aeronautic, Defense and Space Company), one of the three largest aerospace groups in the world.

Since 1989, Eurocopter uses the **Tomatis Method** to train its employee to learn languages. The nature of its international business requires that people that are sent abroad speak fluently the language of the foreign counterparts. Because the company knows that fluency in the language of the business partners not only facilitates communication but also creates ties that may lead to further contracts, it has devoted a significant budget to language training.

The European Council estimates that it takes about 700 hours to become fluent in a foreign language. Eurocopter set a more aggressive objective to achieve fluency in 620 hours.

Between 1989 and 1995, a control group of 580 people at Eurocopter took the Tomatis Language Training, and their progress was carefully monitored. They reached their goal in only 520 hours – achieving a cost saving of 180 hours.

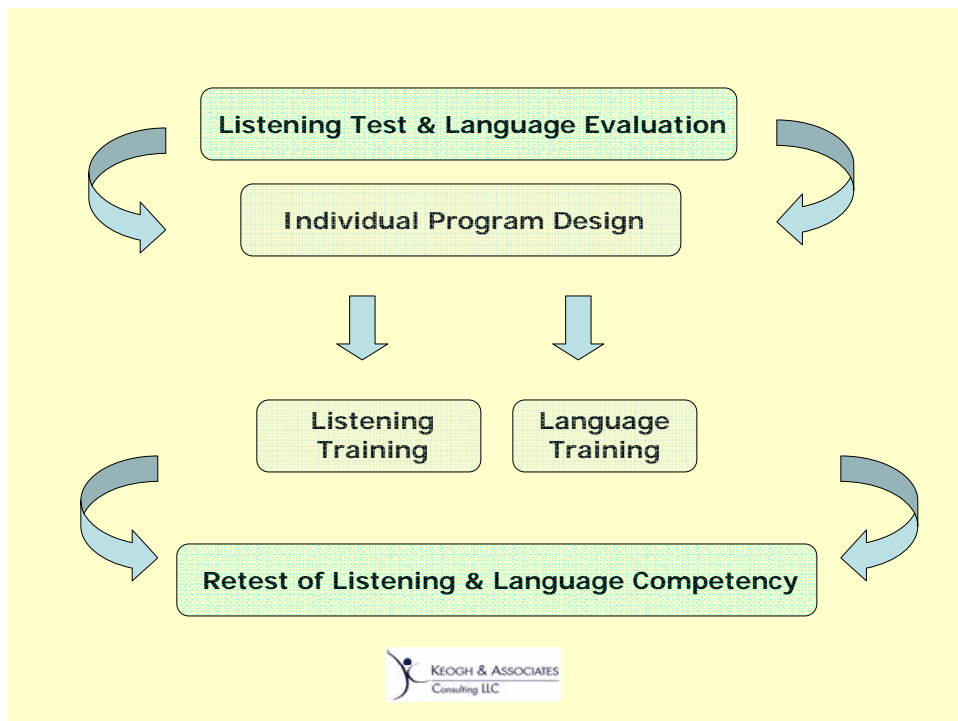
- 25% of the employees surveyed found the approach very effective
- 63% effective
- 14% moderately effective
- None of the employees found it ineffective.

An unexpected benefit was that 83% of the people felt that they now communicated better with others and that they were motivated to take responsibilities. This is a predictable outcome because, as Dr. Tomatis discovered, “the way we listen” has a profound impact on almost all aspects of our being.

After the Eurocopter control group had completed the training with the Tomatis Method:

- 92% felt that they had a better perception of the language
- 88% had a better understanding of the language
- 85% had a more expressive intonation
- 86% perceived the sounds of the foreign language better
- 77% had a better sense of the rhythm of the language

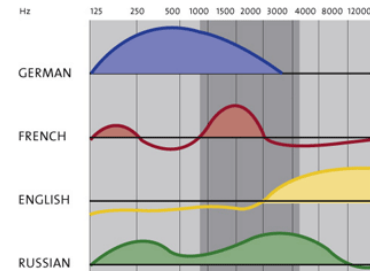
The Tomatis Language Method:



1. - Listening Test and Language Evaluation:

The Tomatis Listening Test: is used to determine the audio frequencies one can hear or not hear well. Measuring the ability of the ear to differentiate individual auditory frequencies is the basis on which each person's comprehensive language coaching program will be designed.

Frequency Ranges of Some Languages



A competency test is used to determine the skill level of each individual.

2. – Program Design:

The results of the both are analyzed with the client. A custom program is designed based on the client's profile.

3. – Foreign Language Training: each consists of two sequential components.

1. - Listening Training (1-2 hours)

Based on the results of the Tomatis Listening Test, a specially devised listening training program will be given at the beginning of each session to educate the ear to hear the auditory frequencies of the foreign language being studied. Reproducing and retaining in memory the rhythm, melody and intonation of the language will be significantly simplified and greatly improved. The ear will regain its natural ability to hear a wider range of frequencies.

2. – “Active” Language Training (1-2 hours)

The second half of the Language Coaching consists of an intensive session of language training with the trainer using the "Electronic Ear". Keeping the individual's goals and needs in mind, syntax, semantics and the grammatical structure of the foreign language will be practiced through active communication. Pronunciation and intonation will be improved with exercises under the guidance of the language coach.

A Listening and Active Language Training unit amounts to 2-4 hours.

3. - Retest of Listening and Language Skills:

The Tomatis Language Coaching program ends with an evaluation. The Tomatis listening test as well as the language competence test are re-taken to ascertain that the goals set earlier have been achieved and to enable measurement of the training ROI.