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# ***DISCOVERY OF THE LAW OF ABILITY AND THE PRINCIPLE OF ABILITY DEVELOPMENT***

**—Proof that talent is not inborn—**

by

**Shinichi Suzuki**

For many years, many people have cherished the common belief that talent is inborn and each person has his own inherited quality or nature, that everyone has his individual character and talent which are superior or inferior from his birth, and that this inherited talent cannot be developed further afterwards, if it is inferior from the start.

This belief has been advocated as a theory by many scholars, but I realized about forty years ago that it is totally wrong. Since then I have endeavored to prove that talent is no accident of birth and every child can be highly educated if he is given the proper training. I have demonstrated good examples of highly developed children in music. I also have been appealing for people in the world to understand my idea. It is very difficult, however, to change what has been believed for such a long time, but I have never been defeated by the difficulty, never given up my belief. I have proven the fact that talent is not inborn

*The Law of Ability and the  
“Mother Tongue Method”  
of Education  
(1973)*

It was forty years ago when this astonishing fact occurred to me. Children everywhere in the world were speaking in their own language; moreover, they did this fluently, which required a very high level of proficiency. “What was this all about?” I asked myself. People generally have believed that a child who makes poor grades in school was just born that way. “Brainless and dull witted” was the common and unthinking reproof. And yet these same children, unless born with brain damage, found no difficulty in speaking such a complicated language as Japanese fluently. If they really had been brainless they would not have had the ability to speak as they did. What did it signify? Why did it appear the the ‘mother tongue’ ability could be taught with the greatest of ease to every child (that is, the ability to speak, to make the necessary sounds in the correct context, and not the ability to handle to intricacies of grammar), and yet why did they not do well in various subjects at school, acquiring this learning just as they did their language? What is this ability? Can it be acquired, or is it inborn? To inquire further, what does inborn mean? Is it really true that talent for such things as music, literature, painting or any of the other arts is