



Rooted in Language

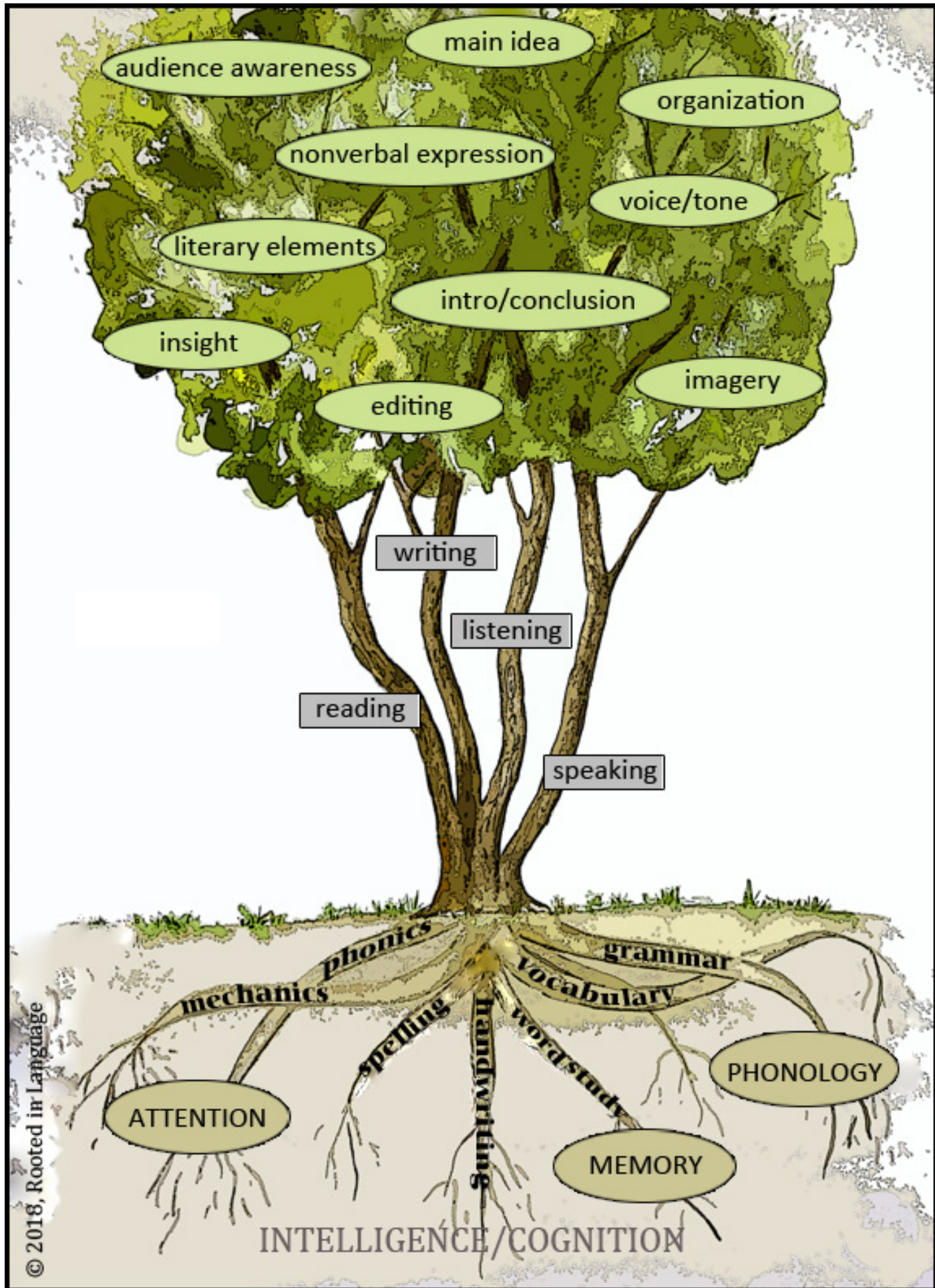
The Language Tree

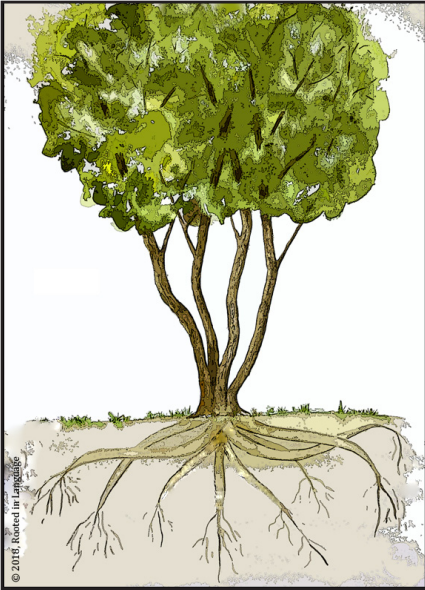
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We think of language as a tree. . .

Not a scope and sequence—or a path—but a living, breathing entity, fully formed, yet ever-growing.

The tree is multi-trunked, not like an oak or maple.

One tree, fully connected.

A whole, greater than the sum of its parts.

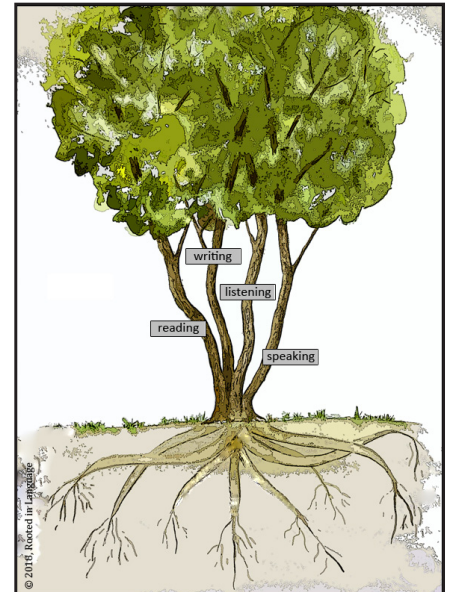
The trunks represent the four modes of language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

It is tempting to think that some of these trunks have more value than the others, but our tree grows as one.

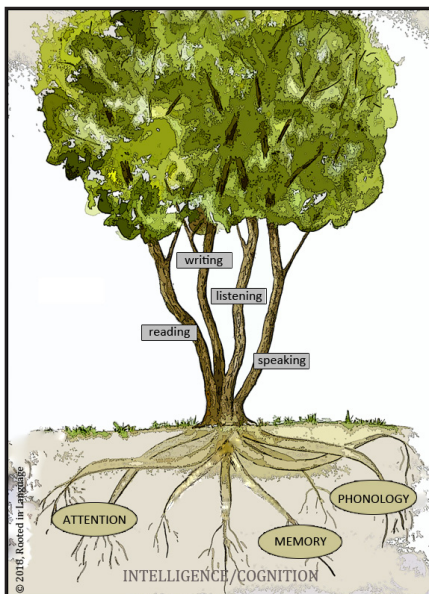
Listening improves comprehension. . .

Speaking enhances writing. . .

Reading refines conversation. . .

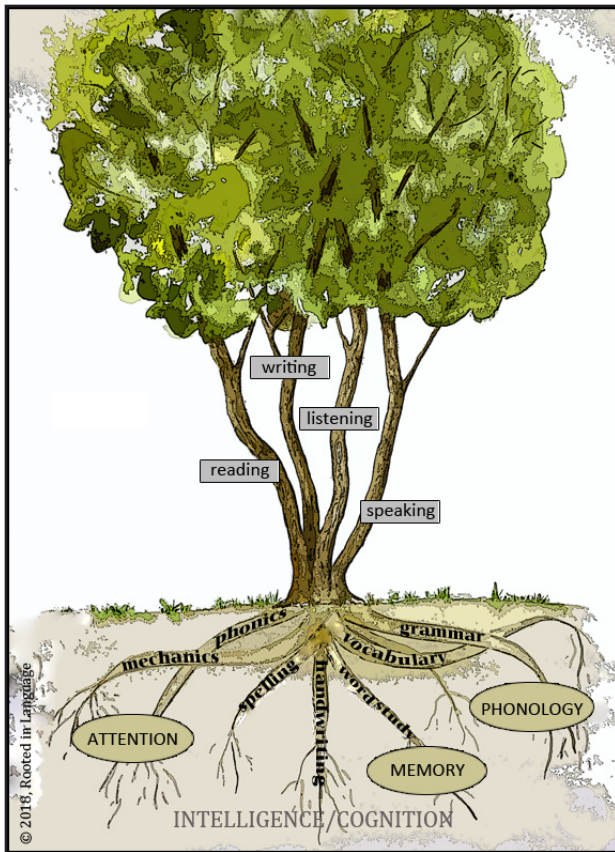


The growth of one trunk stimulates the growth of all.



Language is housed in rich soil—soil that surrounds and feeds all growth.

The soil is fed with cognition, nurtured in memory, supported by attention.



Within the soil are roots entwined:

Phonetic skills relying on sensory input
 Spelling skills nurtured by sound and memory

Vocabulary enriched by experience and steeped in cognitive development

Grammar and punctuation governed by the rules of language, conducted by sentence formulation.

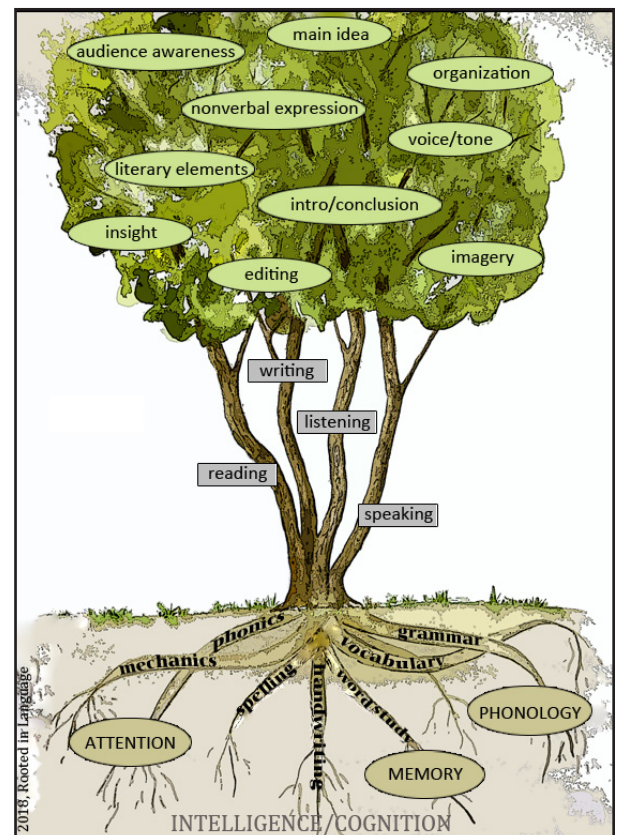
Deep among these roots lies handwriting—
 a skill embedded in the soil,
 twisting, entangling,
 interweaving beneath the surface.

The tree is living and growing.
 A colorful entity, bringing life to its environment,
 and breathing expression into the world.

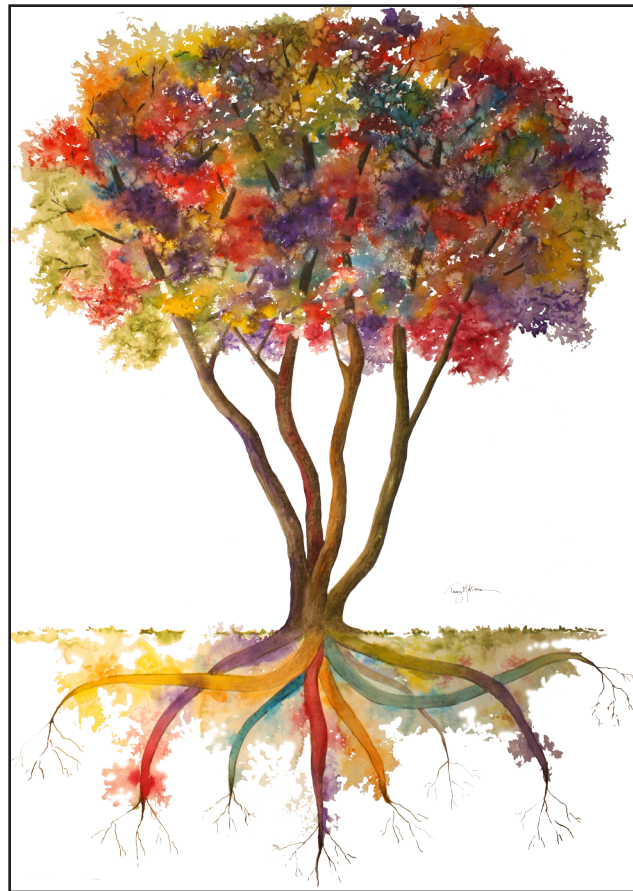
In the canopy, life—rich in the abstract—
 gives color, shades, and nuance to all forms of
 expression and the listener's (or the reader's)
 response.

Leaves are colored by tone of voice
 and writer's style—

imagery and associations,
 insights and inspirations,
 sensory experiences conveyed in words
 and evoked through speech . . . or text.



Finally, unseen throughout the tree, runs a life-force of emotional health and wellbeing,



Requiring love and safety—the sap that runs from deep beneath the soil to the topmost reaches of the canopy.

How does this Language Tree grow?

It is not just nourished from the bottom up, but also fed from the top down:

Inspiration or audience response may set the sap running down the tree.

Skill building sets the sap running up the tree.

We feed and aerate the roots through skill building, providing a broader and deeper foundation for our tree.

We nurture and celebrate the canopy, through products and projects, appreciating its depth for ourselves and sharing its glory with others.

The entire tree must stay whole: sap running both ways and all throughout growing in all directions simultaneously.