

Ed107 Theory of Education, Educational Technology & Teaching Practice

Power point lessons prepared by

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For Professional Development of Myanmar Voluntary School Teachers

Let me suppose first of all, by way of abstraction, that in a class of 30 pupils each pupil faces a decision whether to cooperate or defect.

That is to say they can cooperate by sitting still, studying quietly and not arguing with the teacher, or they can defect by questioning the statements made by the teacher, demanding further amplification of the explanations or by engaging in even more disruptive behaviour.

Benefit

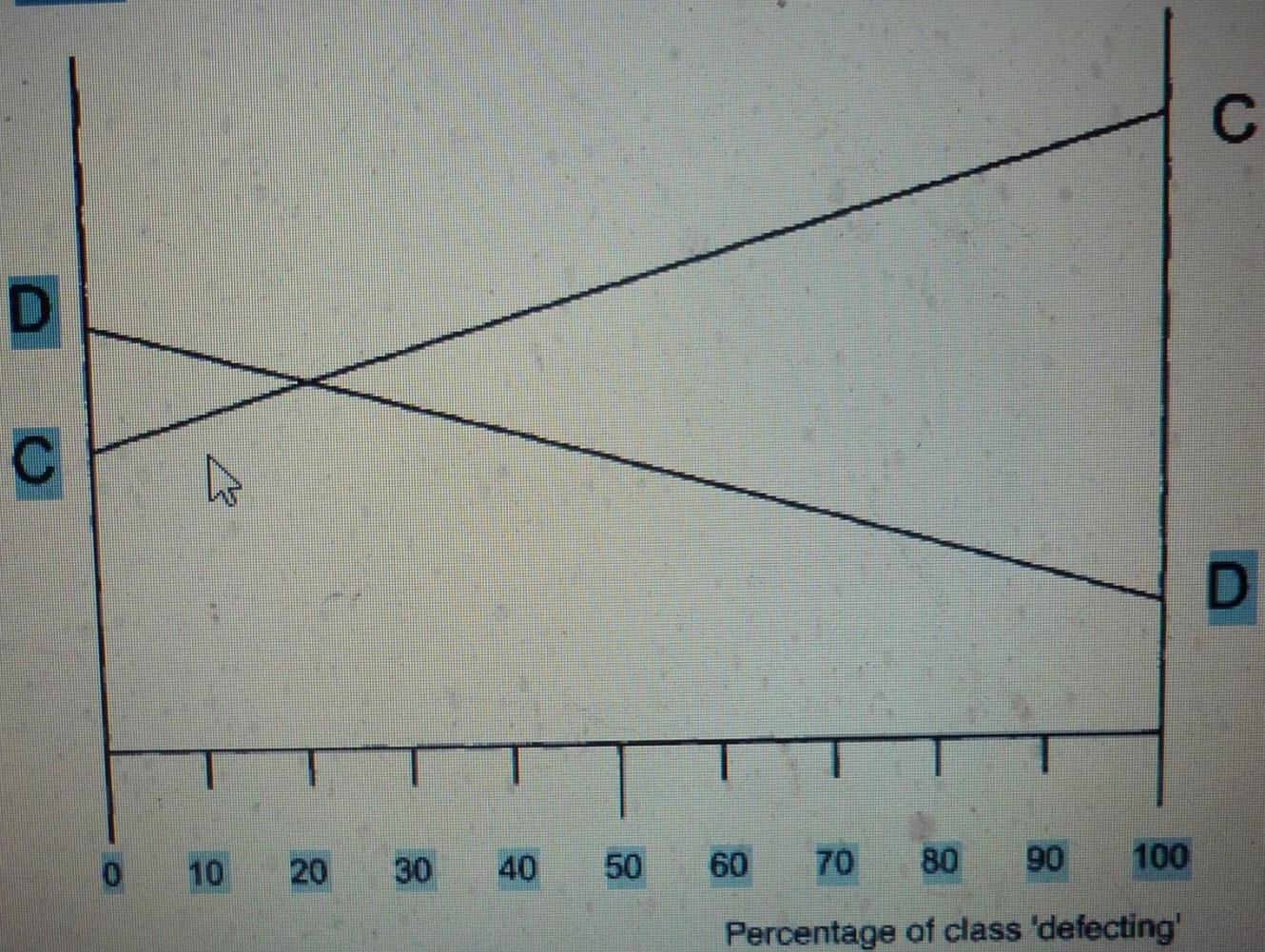


Figure 5.1 Unruly classroom



If we now move on to consider Figure 5.2 (Revolution in the classroom), it will be noted that the overall appearance of the figure is very similar to that of the unruly classroom. However, there is an important difference between the two figures, which is that the benefits for cooperating and defecting have been completely interchanged.

The resulting difference in classroom management is dramatic.

In this case if I come into the classroom when all the children are seated at their desks there is a substantial benefit for each child to be gained by cooperating. The classroom will therefore remain stable with all children continuing in their obedient and cooperative behaviour.

On the other hand, if I come into the classroom when it is in a state of riot there is a substantial increased benefit to be gained by the children who defect and no incentive for them to start cooperating.

The classroom therefore remains with 100 per cent of the participants rioting.

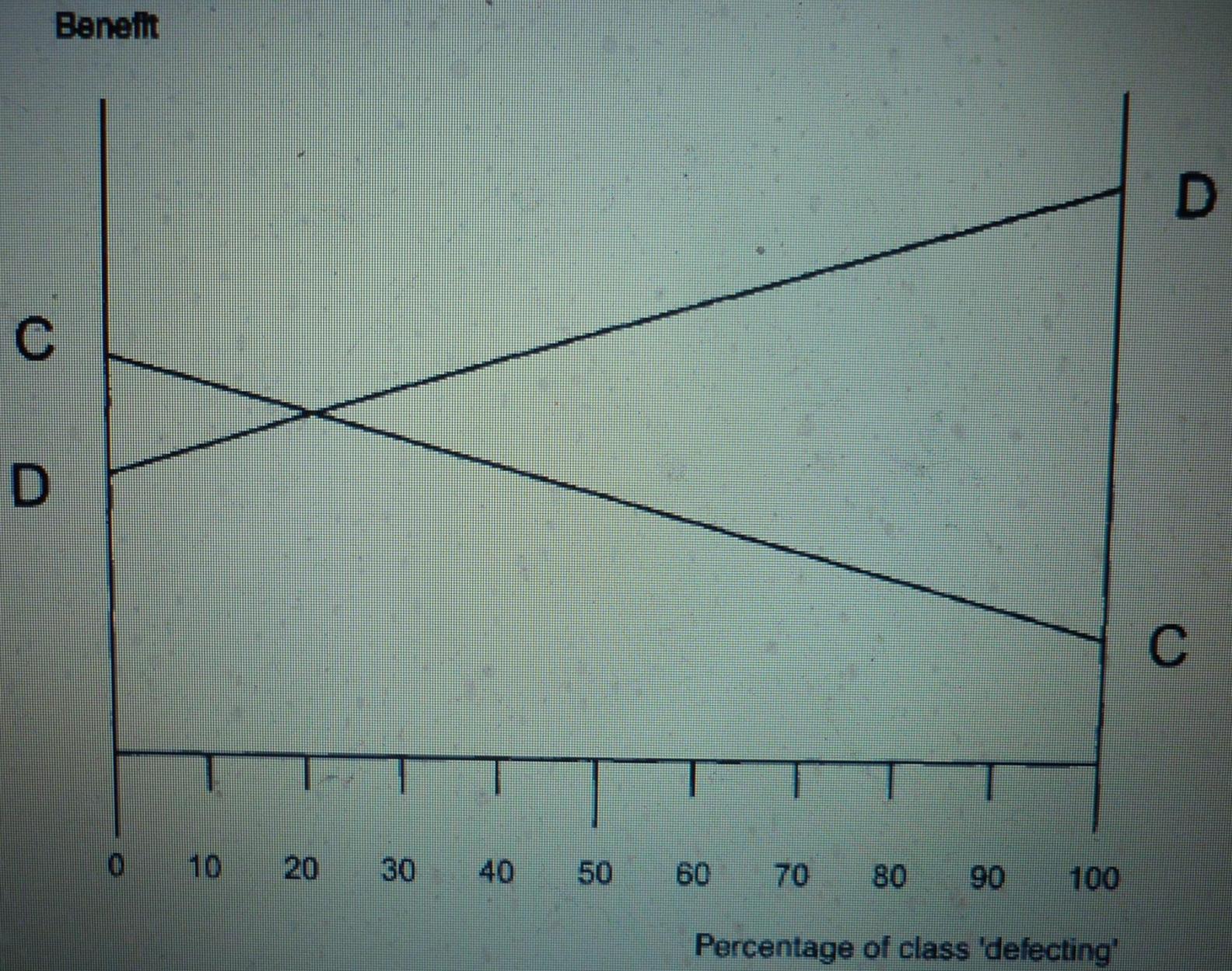


Figure 5.2 Revolution in the classroom

In Figure 5.3 ('Perfect' classroom), I have put the reward structure which is normally considered to be that of a classroom that is being well managed by a professional teacher in perfect conditions.

When I was being trained as a teacher it was suggested that this was the kind of reward structure that I should set up in the classroom, where each individual child can expect the same premium of benefit for cooperating over defecting and where the decision of each child is completely independent of all the others.

No matter how many children choose to defect, it will always be to the advantage of each individual to cooperate.

The result is that this classroom moves progressively to the left and is stable, with none of the children defecting and no child having any incentive to defect.

Benefit

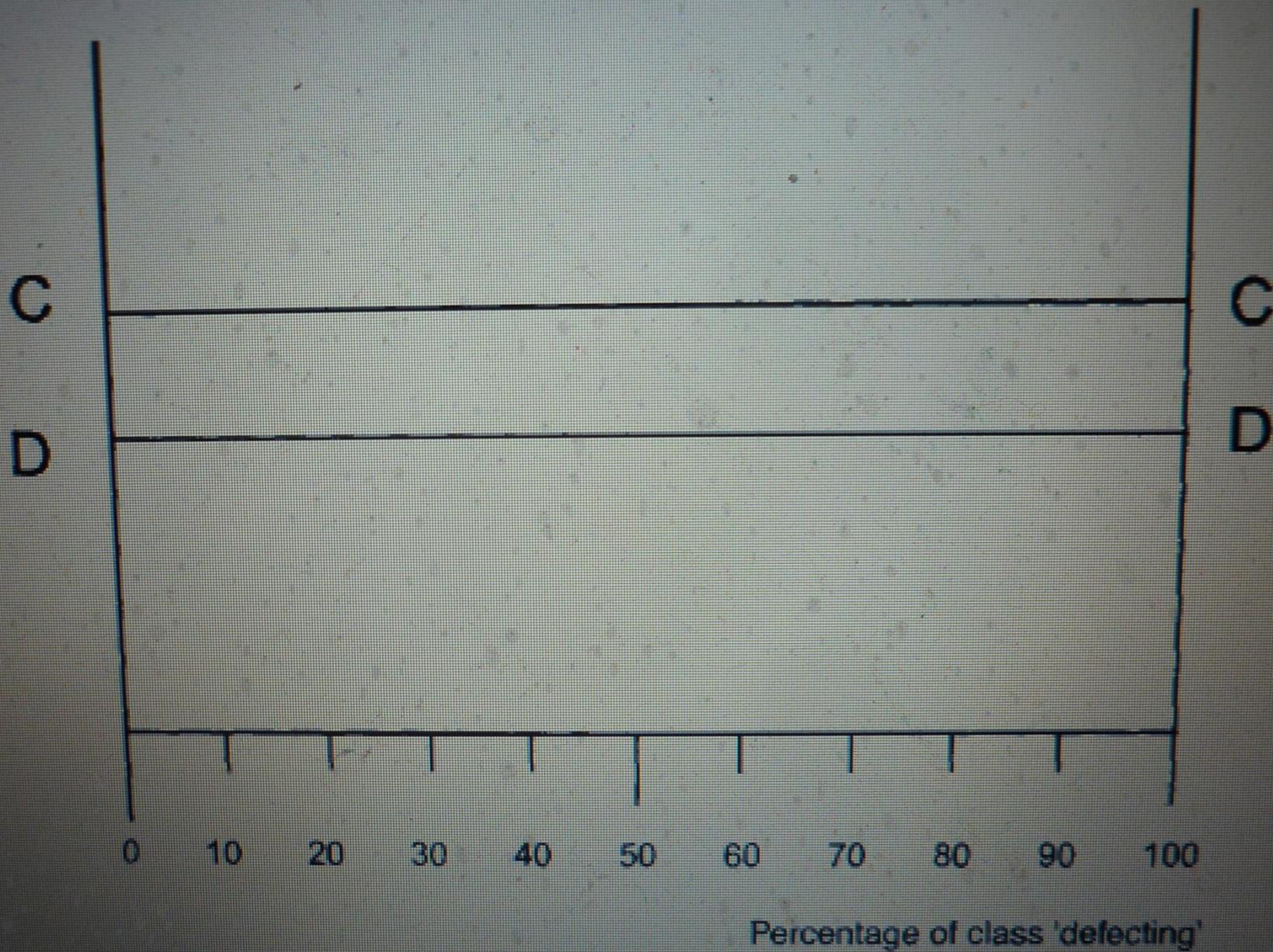


Figure 5.3 'Perfect' classroom

4. ၅-၇ သင်္ဘော ဖွဲ့စည်းပေး ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။ (PERFECT CLASS ROOM)
ကို ဖော်ပြပါ။

4. ပေါင်းပါဝင်မှု C - CO-OPERATION သို့မဟုတ် ဆက်လက်

၁ - DEFECTING ဝင်ရောက်ပါ။ သို့မဟုတ် ဆက်လက်ဖြင့် ဖြင့် မည်

သို့ ဆက်လက်ဖြင့် ဆက်လက်ပါ။

Classroom management and behaviour management are conceived in terms of a series of one-off interactions between the teacher and a pupil.

The teacher is to provide a system of rewards and punishments (or stimuli) for the pupil, as a result of which the pupil's behaviour (response) can be steered in the direction the teacher wishes.

It is of great importance in this scheme of things (a scheme of things which is markedly behaviouristic) that the teacher's behaviour should be completely consistent, which is to say not influenced by the immediate circumstances, the interventions of other people, her mood, or anything else.

Classroom management, therefore, as it appears in the literature, is either about the logistics of managing the materials necessary for teaching in the classroom, or it is about dyadic relationships between a teacher and a pupil, all interactions being assumed to take place in a social vacuum.

It specifically is not about managing the social interactions of a dynamic group of people.

အတန်းစီစီစဉ် ခွဲ ဖွဲ့ နှင် ဂျောင်း သား များ ပြုမူမှုကို စီစဉ် ခွဲ ဖွဲ့ ထုတ် ဘောင် အကန့် ဂျောင်း သား
အခြား လက်စွဲ ပျက် လက်စွဲ ဖြစ် ပျက် ရေ ရော လှုပ် ပြန် ဖွဲ့ အစွဲ စဉ် များ ဖြစ် သော မှတ်ပုံ လေး နှစ်
သား ။

အား သာ ဂျောင်း သား များ ဝါ လုပ် လုပ် အလေး မှု တွင် ဖြစ် နေ ပေး မှု နှင့် အပေး မှု ထုတ် လိုက်
ပြု လုပ် သား ။ ထို သို့ အား ဖြစ် ဂျောင်း သား များ ဝါ လှုပ် ပြန် ဖွဲ့ အစွဲ အလေး မှု ထုတ် လိုက်
လား ရော ဦး တွင် ပျက် သို့ စွဲ ဆောင် လာ နိုင် သား ။

အကွဲ သဘော သဘာဝ သာ လုံးဝ ထုတ် ဖွဲ့ ဖြစ် နှင် လိုက် သား ။ မသား သား ပျက် ဖြစ်
လေ လာ ရော အခြား အကွဲ များ နှင် လိုက် သား များ ဝါ စွဲ လာ မှတ် ပျက် ထုတ် လိုက် လုပ် လုပ် လုပ် လုပ်
ခြင်း သား များ သာ အကွဲ သဘော သဘာဝ လိုက် နှစ် များ ပျက် ပျက် ပြု စာ သဘာဝ မှု
မဖြစ် နှင် လိုက် သား ။

အတန်း စီစဉ် ခွဲ မှု သာ သင် ဖြား နှင် အလေး လိုက် သား များ လိုက် စီစဉ် ခွဲ ဖြား ဖြစ်
သလို အကွဲ ဂျောင်း သား များ အခြား အကွဲ နှင် အကွဲ ဖြား လုပ် ဖြစ် သား ။

အလေး ရေ ရော လှုပ် လှုပ် များ ဝါ လှုပ် လှုပ် သို့ စွဲ စီစဉ် ခွဲ မှု မှု ။

At the core of previous approaches to equality of opportunity in education has been the assumption that differences in achievement must have definite causes in personal histories, and that those causes can be clearly identified through a process of research.

In short, the idea of equality of opportunity has been underpinned by single-centredness, and the notion that there is one best route through the educational system

There is a possible solution here which would resolve the question, which is to say that each person has their own order of preferences, and that each individual must achieve the result that they wish, since if they were dissatisfied with the present result, they would invest more effort in achieving a different result.

However, this is also too simplistic to provide an appropriate basis for policy.

A typical illustration of the difficulties over equality of opportunity arises when an individual case is highlighted in the media.

This or that pupil of outstanding ability, as represented by excellent examination results, fails to gain entry to the university and course of their choice. The person in question comes from a group that has traditionally found entry to elite higher education difficult — they are female, from an ethnic minority or workingclass family, or have attended a state school in a deprived area - and this is taken to be an indication of persisting lack of fairness in the system, and used to demonstrate lack of equality of opportunity.

The skill and art of teaching as a profession lies in the creation of an educational environment that is filled with social relationships that will support the higher mental functions that we wish individual learners to develop.

A great many conclusions may follow from this, not least among which is the certainty that critical reflection and questioning cannot be imposed by teacher on pupil via the application of authoritarian control or the mechanical specification of a classroom regime

Vygotsky conducted experiments with young children to study the development of mnemonic and mnemotechnical memory.

In experiments designed to test the memory of subjects using mnemonic or mnemotechnical means, he measured the number of items remembered correctly. A coefficient was then calculated, indicating the percentage of items that were accurately remembered in a group set.

In the preschool period, both coefficients have similar values; a preschool child is not assisted by the use of cultural artefacts, such as prompt-cards, that can be linked to the objects to be remembered, and if the use of such cards is suggested to the child, their presence is as likely to confuse as to aid memory.

As the child grows, mnemonic memory increases slowly, or possibly not at all, while mnemotechnical memory increases rapidly.

The curves representing the coefficients therefore diverge rapidly, with the coefficient of mnemotechnical memory rising more rapidly.

Subsequently, the improvement in mnemotechnical memory slows down, and the coefficient may even remain static, while there is a rapid improvement in direct, or mnemonic, memory. Vygotsky describes the shape traced by the two coefficients over time as 'the parallelogram of the development of memory'.

Vygotsky offers an explanation of this shape in terms of what is known about the development of memory.

The initial rise in the development of mnemotechnical memory is relatively easy to account for, as the child learns to use cultural symbols (prompt-cards) to supplement her direct memory. Subsequently, the child is able to internalize the processes that were once cultural, and to gain control over her own memory. As a result, the mnemonic function improves rapidly.

Vygotsky states:

We are inclined to think that there is a kind of revolution of mnemotechnical devices for remembering, that the child turned from external to an internal use of a sign and that in this way, direct remembering actually became mnemotechnical remembering, but based only on internal signs.

(Rieber 1997: 186)

To a significant degree, this explains the fact that the curve of mnemotechnical memory exhibits continuous deceleration in rate of increase.

However, if we were to present more material for memorising consisting of several dozen or even hundreds of words, we would easily see, as our subsequent experiments will show, that the curve would exhibit a sharp upward trend. (Rieber 1997: 186)

