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Opening Remarks

The theme of this conference holds great interest for all those in search of the emerging conditions of the human factor in social relations where the problem of the function of language and the nature of training is particularly acute.

The recent evolution of thought on how to address socio-pedagogically the question of language can be characterized by a stratification of different perspectives. In the 60s and 70s, emphasis was placed on freedom of speech as it is tied to general personal development and on the role played within social interaction. The technical function of language is developed with textual analysis, and the grammar of texts in the late 70s and early 80s. Finally, the present point of view of cultural object appropriation marks the re-inscription of language into the ensemble of cultural knowledge and know-how, located within individual and social identity. These different ways of theorizing the relationships between language and training interfere with one another, and the central question of the conference is one of concept construction for training which integrates the various dimensions of language.

Furthermore, the international dimension of the colloquium allows the Institut National de Recherche Pédagogique to function as a melting pot for the different disciplines and countries.