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Echolalias: On the Forgetting of Language

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Abstract

Just as speech can be acquired, so can it be lost. Speakers can forget words, phrases, even entire languages they once knew; over the course of time peoples, too, let go of the tongues that were once theirs, as languages disappear and give way to the others that follow them. In *Echolalias*, Daniel Heller-Roazen reflects on the many forms of linguistic forgetfulness, offering a far-reaching philosophical investigation into the persistence and disappearance of speech. In twenty-one brief chapters, he moves among classical, medieval, and modern culture, exploring the interrelations of speech, writing, memory, and oblivion. Drawing his examples from literature, philosophy, linguistics, theology, and psychoanalysis, Heller-Roazen examines the points at which the transience of speech has become a question in the arts, disciplines, and sciences in which language plays a prominent role. Whether the subject is Ovid, Dante, or modern fiction, classical Arabic literature or the birth of the French language, structuralist linguistics or Freud's writings on aphasia, Heller-Roazen considers with clarity, precision, and insight the forms, the effects, and the ultimate consequences of the forgetting of language. In speech, he argues, destruction and construction often prove inseparable. Among peoples, the disappearance of one language can mark the emergence of another; among individuals, the experience of the passing of speech can lie at the origin of literary, philosophical, and artistic creation. From the infant's prattle to the legacy of Babel, from the holy tongues of Judaism and Islam to the concept of the dead language and the political significance of

exiled and endangered languages today, Echolalias traces an elegant, erudite, and original philosophical itinerary, inviting us to reflect in a new way on the nature of the speaking animal who forgets

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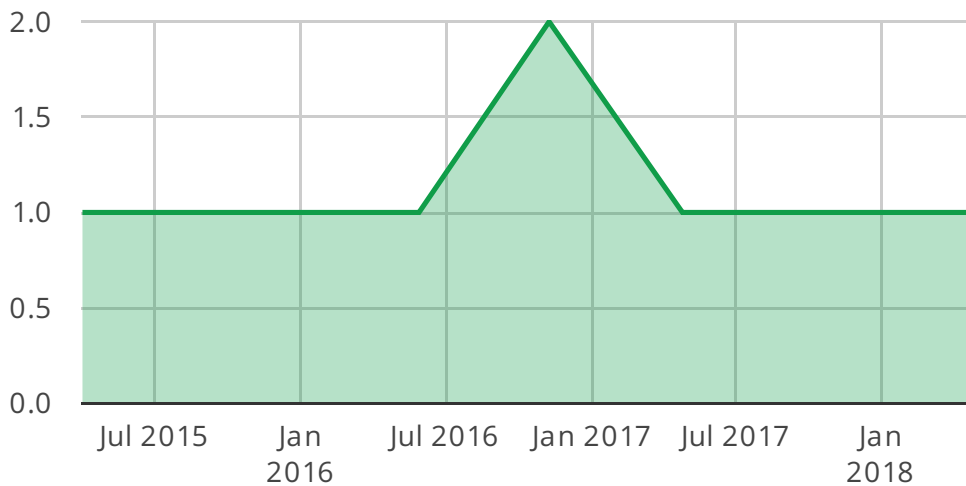
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Language delays, particularly echolalia, can be associated with different disorders, including autism (some say echolalia is the autism language), Tourette's, dementia, etc. which we will mention later in this article. Types of Echolalia. Immediate echolalia: This refers to repeating the words someone has just said; it can be a word, a phrase or an entire sentence. This type is difficult to recognize since it happens sometime after, and the listener might have forgotten or not have been there when the original word or sentence was uttered. Unless the echolalic speaker's syntax, vocabulary, and message is different the listener may not even notice the delayed echolalia. Any Language English Russian German Spanish Dutch French Italian Ukrainian Polish Portuguese Bulgarian Chinese Greek Romanian Turkish Persian Arabic Japanese Swedish Hungarian Serbian Latin Croatian Czech Kazakh Belarusian Indonesian Lithuanian Catalan Finnish Azerbaijani Korean Bengali Esperanto Hindi Urdu Danish Uzbek Slovak Norwegian Vietnamese Indigenous Bashkir Marathi Kirghiz Tajik Tatar Albanian Somali Icelandic Mongolian Latvian Georgian Sanskrit Hebrew Slovenian. Echolalias: On the Forgetting of Language.