

Relationship of *Theory Theory* to Piaget's Assimilation/Accommodation

Piaget would say a schema is formed as the child adapts and fits into his or her environment. Gopnik what propose that the person creates a theory based on the evidence at hand.

Piaget	Gopnick <i>Theory Theory</i>	Example
Schema	Theory	"I'm not smart because I am a girl."
Contradictory Evidence is Assimilated to fit existing schema	Inconsistent evidence is ignored or explained as a fluke	Getting a good grade is passed off as "dumb luck"
" "	Auxiliary theory is formed to explain that which cannot be ignored or discounted	"I get A's in spelling and writing because girls have better language skills than boys. That doesn't mean girls are smart"
" "	More auxiliary theories are formed to deal with more evidence counter predicted by the primary theory	"I get A's because my teachers like me not because I'm smart."
		"I got accepted at the college I wanted to attend because they have a quota they have to fill."
Seeing other women (both female students and instructors) who are very intelligent and smart and being able to do as well they as the top students in her classes, causes the primary theory to collapse		
Accommodation of schema	The primary theory is modified or replaced	"There are intelligent women and I'm one of them."