INTERPRETATION: deconstruction, not transposition.
Training the actor through American Sign Language
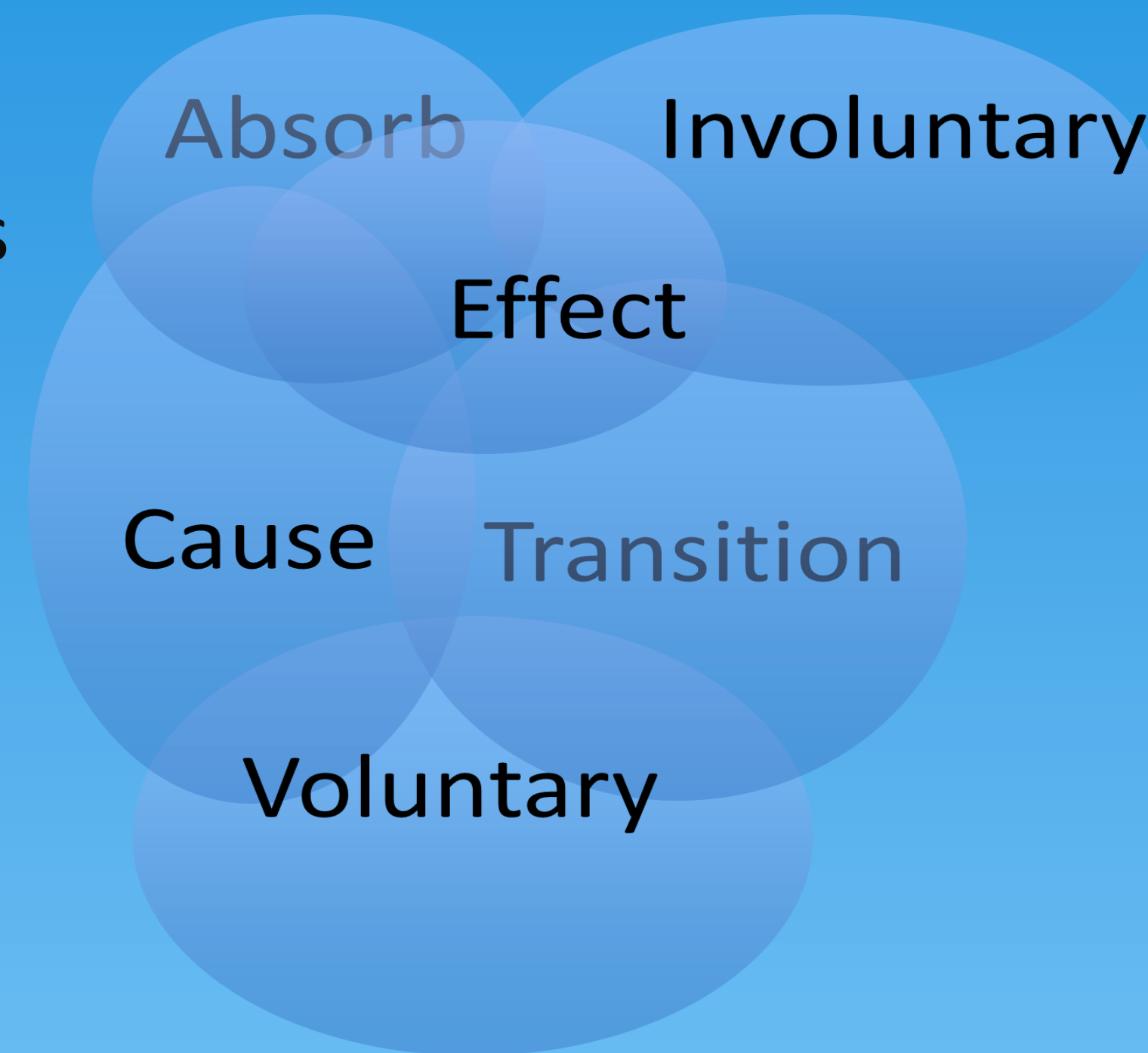
Key concepts

Language:
Subjective Experiences ➔ Words

Sign Language Interpretation:
Spoken Word ➔ specific sign

Margolis Method:
Actor-training methodology that combines a spoken word vocabulary with an understanding of physical experience.

Margolis Method vocabulary (Examples):

Absorb
Involuntary
Effect
Cause
Transition
Voluntary

Margolis Method:
Specific words are used as 'structural staples' that allow the actor to experience (feel) and sense possibilities (create).

The 'word':

Used as *tools* for the actor.

The word does not reference one thing but a whole range of possibilities that one might feel.

What must happen

In order for the Margolis method to be interpreted into ASL, it must come FROM ASL and not transposed from the English words.

A new Language must be created: one that composites the principals of the method with structural signs.

Brecht's Idea

Bertolt Brecht: "Ignorant heads interpret the contradiction between playing (demonstration) and experiencing (identification) as if only one or the other appeared in the actor's work […]. In reality it, of course, a matter of two competing processes that unite in the work of the actor…Out of the struggle and the tension between the two antipodes…the actor draws his real impact."
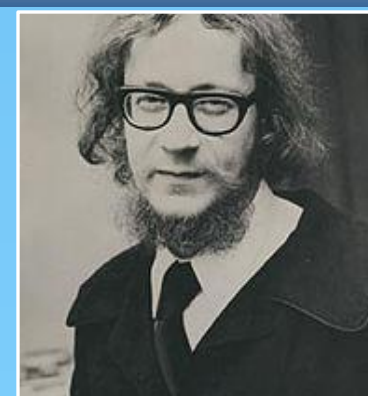
PROBLEMS!

- Margolis method is its own language.
- Cannot abstract the spoken vocab from the physicality itself.
- Student wouldn't understand everything that the method entails because the vocab 'words' are signed without the experience.
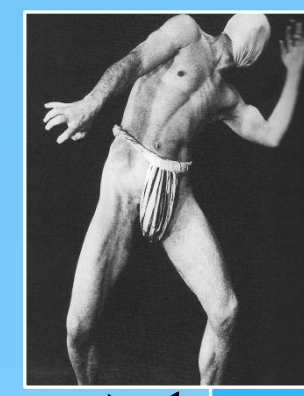
Influences
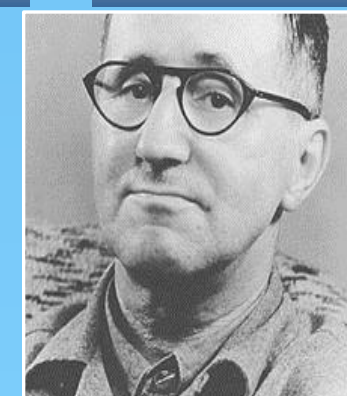
BERTOLT BRECHT
- Moment by moment
- There are always choices to be made
- Always FOR the audience

JERZY GROTOWSKI
- Actor as living organism
- Co-creating theatre with spectator
- Theatre is NOT film.

ETIENNE DECROUX
- Corporeal Mime
- Human body as primary means of expression

Take Margolis Principals out of spoken word

Use ASL to describe the principals, find vocab signs.

Develop a composite language: synthesizing the Margolis method with ASL