

# DANCE AND SOCIETY

A Symbiotic Relationship



# *History Dances: Chronicling the History of Traditional Mandinka Dance* – Ofosuwa M. Abiola

---

- The following slides are designed to complement readings in the book:

Abiola, Ofosuwa M. *History Dances: Chronicling the History of Traditional Mandinka Dance*. London: Routledge, 2019.

# Cultural Unity

---

- What is meant by the term “Cultural Unity” as it is used in chapter 3 of your text, *History Dances*?
- Cultural Unity is enforced in Mandinka dance systems.
- What is the perception of dance in the West?
- In Africa there’s a symbiotic relationship between dance and society.



# Deciphering Dance

---



As you read chapter 3 in your text consider:

- What is the significance of African dance, circles and society?
- Dance and gender
- Women's steps in Dundunba and societal correlations

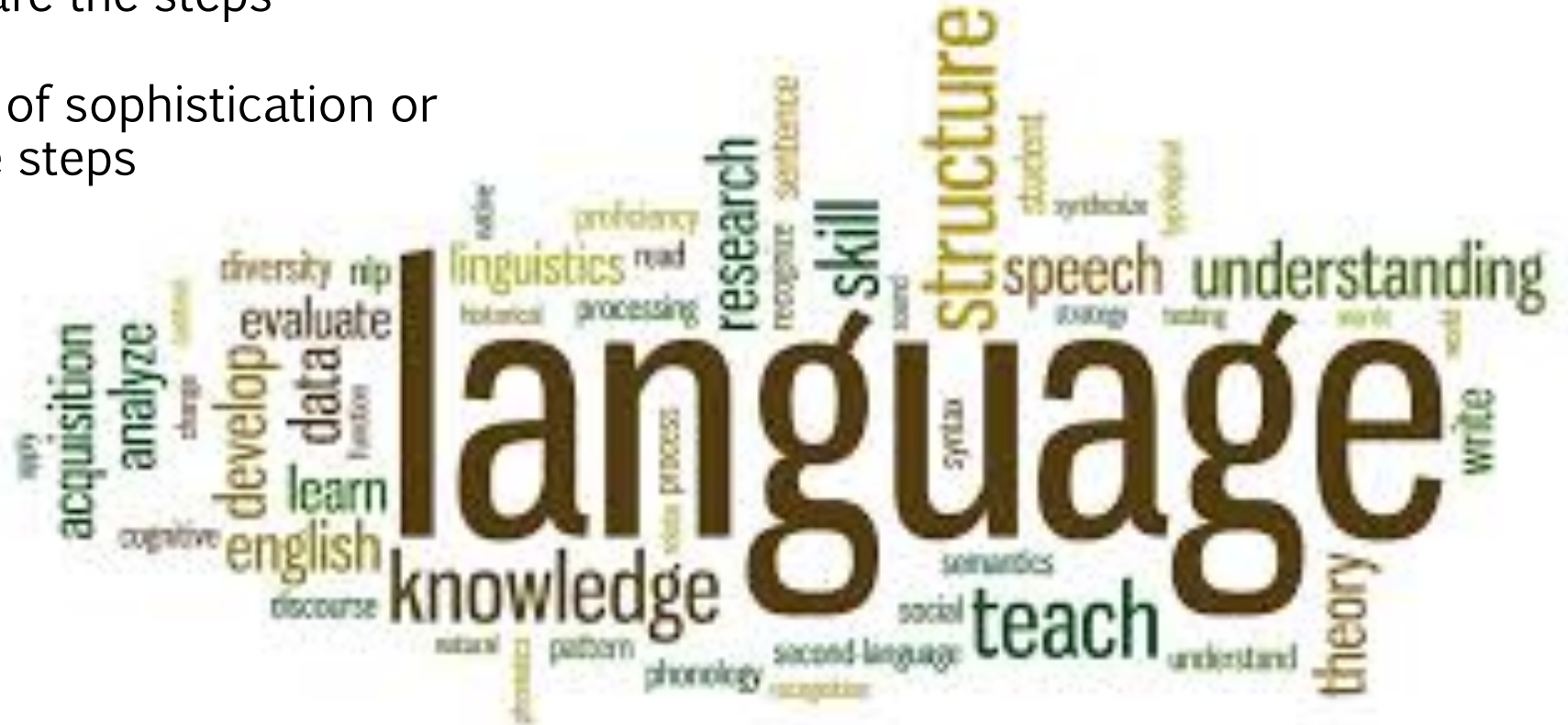




# Dance and Language Similarities

---

- Learning Mandinka dance systems/learning a foreign language
- Vocabulary “words” are the steps
- Grammar is the level of sophistication or the complexity of the steps



# The Steps - Basic

---



- Basic steps
- Clarity of basic body movements
- Requires a small number of body movements to execute the step
- Torso level is immaterial



# The Steps - Complex

---

Complex steps

One step requires an arsenal of body movements

Subtle body movements

Semi-contractions/partial contractions

Nuances of the head (i.e. Dundunba)

Pauses

Gendered steps

False steps

Appearance of falling/tripping

Complexity denotes age



# Lamban

---



- Lamban jali don
- For jalis by jalis
- Court dance
- Complex steps
  - Pauses
  - Subtle contractions
  - Multiple head and body movements executed simultaneously
- Age
- Gender



# Dance Practitioner and the Dance Knowledge Source

---

- Skill level vs source of dancer's knowledge
- Generational dance practitioner vs newly acquired dancer
- Master dancer vs dance artist

