

# EDITORIAL

M. Fatih Taşar, Associate Editor  
Gazi Üniversitesi, Ankara, TURKEY

## In Memoriam

### David Ausubel (1918 ~ 2008)

Professor Ausubel passed away in the morning of July 9, 2008 at the age of 90. Among his most notable scholarly work were *The Subsumption Theory* and *Advance Organizers*.

Ausubel was an assistant surgeon and psychiatric resident with the U.S. Public Health Service and worked in Germany in the medical treatment of displaced persons after W.W. II. He worked at the University of Illinois between 1950-1966. He served as a professor of educational psychology and medical education at the University of Toronto between 1966-68. Then he moved to the City University of New York, where he chaired the doctoral program in educational psychology. He retired in 1975. During his entire carrier he has been a very influential figure in the field of educational psychology.

He was most cited with the following quotes:

"If I had to reduce all of educational psychology to just one principle, I would say this: The most important single factor influencing learning is what the learner already knows. Ascertain this and teach ... accordingly." (1978, p.v)

"These organizers are introduced in advance of learning itself, and are also presented at a higher level of abstraction, generality, and inclusiveness; and since the substantive content of a given organizer or series of organizers is selected on the basis of its suitability for explaining, integrating, and interrelating the material they precede, this strategy simultaneously satisfies the substantive as well as the programming criteria for enhancing the organization strength of cognitive structure."(1963, p. 81).

## REFERENCES

- Ausubel , D. (1963). *The Psychology of Meaningful Verbal Learning*. New York : Grune & Stratton.
- Ausubel , D., Novak, J., & Hanesian , H. (1978). *Educational Psychology: A Cognitive View* (2nd Ed.). New York : Holt, Rinehart & Winston.

