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#### ABSTRACT

This study investigated developmental changes in memory performance for two contrasting populations in Urban and Rural Yucatan, Mexico. Subjects were divided into five groups defined by age, including children and adults. All urban S's were in school, while only the two younger rural groups were in school, and older rural S's had little or no schooling. The S's were tested on a short-term and incidental memory task. Developmental trends in memory performance for the Urban educated S's were very similar to those reported for analogous tasks with American middle class subjects. The performance of rural S's did not show these consistent developmental changes. This fact, along with the results of several features of the data, support the hypothesis that formal schooling is an important factor in the development of mnemonic skills in short-term memory. Data from the incidental memory task implied that the development of selective attention is independent of short-term memory development and is probably influenced by both school and certain cultural factors. (DP)

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# THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHORT-TERM AND INCIDENTAL MEMORY:

A CROSS-CULTURAL STUDY

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#### Abstract

Five age groups (CA 7-9, 10-12, 13-16, 20-21, ~27) of <u>S</u>s were selected from two contrasting populations in Urban and Rural Yucatan, Mexico. All Urban <u>S</u>s were in school, while only the two younger Rural age groups were in school--older Rural <u>S</u>s had little or no schooling. The <u>S</u>s were tested on a short-term and incidental memory task.

The developmental changes in memory performance of the Urban educated  $\underline{S}s$  were very similar to those reported for analogous tasks with American middle-class  $\underline{S}s$ . The performance of Rural  $\underline{S}s$ did not show these consistent developmental changes. This fact, along with the results of several features of the data, support the hypothesis that formal schooling is an important factor in the development of mnemonic skills in short-term memory. Data from the incidental memory task implied that the development of selective attention is independent of short-term memory development and is probably influenced by both school and certain cultural factors.

# The Development of Short-term and Incidental Memory: A Cross-cultural Study

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Recent American research has indicated that short-term and incidental memory follow differing, and distinct, developmental functions. Improvements in performance with age in short-term memory have been attributed to increased use of strategies involving, among other things, verbal mediation (Flavell, 1970; Belmont and Butterfield, 1969), and verbal rehearsal (Hagen, 1971). On the other hand, it has been proposed that incidental memory is a function of the development of selective attention. Generally, incidental memory has been found to increase well into middle childhood (ages 12-15), and then decrease. It has been assumed that this increase in performance is the result of increases in information processing up to a certain age, whereupon the child is able to focus his attention more selectively to the important (or central) task demanded of him (Hagen & Hale, 1972; Maccoby & Hagen, 1965; Siegel & Stevensel, 1966).

These previous studies were carried out using American middleclass children. Consequently, any attempt to specify some attribute of age as the causal factor for these cognitive changes is impossible--in the United States, age and formal education are almost perfectly correlated from age 4 to 18 years.

Cultural and educational influences on cognitive development have been the subject of continued research by Cole and his associates in Liberia (e.g. Cole, Gay, Glick & Sharp, 1971). These studies have shown that both culture and education influence /--memory development, primarily with respect to the use of semantic categories that may increase memory in a free recall paradigm. Although some developmental trends were found to be dependent upon age other trends were more readily attributed to years of formal schooling.

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The present study was undertaken in Yucatan, Mexico to assess the relative contributions of age, cultural setting, and formal education to the development of short-term and incidental memory.

# METHOD

# Subjects and setting

Subjects were obtained from two populations in the Yucatan peninsula of Southern Mexico. A contrast was made with respect to culture and education by selecting an Urban and Rural setting. The Urban setting was Merida, the largest city (150,000) and capital of the State of Yucatan. Aspects of Merida's modernity include: growing industrialization, radio and television, cinema, large numbers of public and private schools, a university, and practically universal education through secondary school.

The Rural setting was the town (<u>pueblito</u>) of Mayapan. Mayapan pueblito was accessible in 1972 by foot, horseback, or an occasional 4-wheel drive vehicle from the nearest town, about 9 miles away, which in turn, was about four hours from Merida by bus. Mayapan was typical of many towns off the road system of Yucatan in that it had no electricity, running water, or regular communication with other towns. There was a government-run school for the first through fourth grade, with three teachers and three

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small rooms in the government building. Most children attended grades 1 and 2, while somewhat fewer attended grades 3 and 4; only a very few of these children ever left Mayapan for further education in the larger towns. Most men either worked in their relatively poor cornfields, or on the government paid road construction, destined to connect Mayapan with its neighbor village. Many women and children worked on laborious, but profitable, production of handloomed hammocks and elaborate Yucatecan dresses. There were a few radios in Mayapan, but the expense of batteries kept radio usage to a minimum.

All in-school <u>S</u>s were obtained nonsystematically from their classroom. University students and older Rural <u>S</u>s were selected from volunteers so as to balance the groups as much as possible for sex. The characteristics of both Urban and Rural <u>S</u>s presented in Table I.

## Insert Table 1

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All teaching in both school systems was done in Spanish. The Merida population was predominantly <u>mestizo</u>, mixed Spanish and Mayan Indian, and, in general, spoke Spanish in the home and in the street. However, the Mayapan population was of almost pure Mayan extraction, and in general, the local Mayan dialect was spoken in the home and in the fields. The author knew of only one Mayapan family that sometimes used Spanish within the family for communication. Many women and children spoke no Spanish, or only a few words. Some men, who had dealt with government officials or visitors had some small command of Spanish. Only the three teachers, and the family that owned the main supply store spoke fluent Spanish. It seemed apparent to the author and the head teacher (who was Mestizo and spoke little Maya) that many students in the local Mayapan-school did not understand the school material, where both books and instruction were in Spanish. It can be assumed that the general quality of education for the Mayapan school children was inferior to that of the Merida school children.

# Stimuli and test materials

Test materials were adapted from Hagen (1967). The stimuli consisted of a set of seven white stimulus cards, with each card (1 1/2 X 3 in.) containing two colored pictures pasted on one side. Each of the seven cards had a particular object and a particular animal (one above the other; three with the animals above, and four below), taken from a well-known Mexican game called <u>lotteria</u>, similar to American bingo. The pictures were about 1 X 1 1/4 in. and there was about 1/16 in. space between the two pictures on the card. Each animal was paired with one object: Fish-boot, frog-picture, bird-ladder, spider-bell, shrimp-bottle, deer-bowl, scorpion-flower pot. Pretests determined that these pictures were generally recognizable to both Urban and Rural <u>S</u>s at all ages.

Fourteen sets of these seven stimulus cards were constructed and arranged in a fixed randomized order; each set had its own separate test packet. In each packet, following the seventh stimulus card, was a special probe card (consisting of a single animal or object) to test for one of the seven serial positions--this



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was the "central" (short-term memory) task. Two large 4 X 6 in. index cards, one containing all seven animals in a circular design, the other containing the objects, were used for pretest stimulus recognition prior to the central task, and as a part of the incidental memory task. Two additional packets of single animals and single objects were used as probe stimuli in the incidental memory task. For the practice session, an equivalent but smaller set of different stimuli were used--consisting of three animals and three objects. A white cloth was used as the testing surface, and was placed on a table or desk top.

## Procedure

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The <u>S</u>s were taken one at a time from the classroom to the testing room, which was usually an unused classroom, but in Mayapan was the Mayor's office. All <u>S</u>s were tested for central and inci-'ntal memory with the same task stimuli. The materials were balanced such that animals were central and objects were incidental for half the <u>S</u>s, and the reverse for the rest of the <u>S</u>s. The central task consisted of locating a particular central stimulus among a series of seven that were briefly presented to <u>S</u>, and then placed face down in front of <u>S</u>. Following 14 trials on the central task, <u>S</u> was tested for incidental memory by being asked to recognize which animals went with which objects, on the basis of information from the previously shown animal-object pairing in the central task. The experimenter and <u>S</u> sat on opposite sides of the table or desk, facing each other. <u>E</u> began the practice trials by saying, in Spanish to the Urban <u>S</u>s, or in Maya to the Rural <u>S</u>s:

> We are now going to play a game with some animals and objects which you know very well. Before we

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play the <u>real</u> game, we are going to play a practice game, so that I know that you understand the game. Do you know these three objects and three animals? Now, the idea of this game is to remember where each of these animals (or objects) is, as I place them down in front of you. Then I am going to show you an animal (object) and you must point out, but not turn up, the card where that animal is in the row. I will then tell you whether you were correct or not, and I will prove it by showing you where the animal (object) is located. Remember it is necessary to remember only where the animals (objects) are. The objects (animals) are not important.

<u>E</u> then went through six trials with the practice game. <u>E</u> explained if necessary, what was meant by "animal" or "object." If <u>S</u> got three or more correct responses, <u>E</u> proceeded to the central task. If <u>S</u> made fewer than three correct responses, he was dropped from the experiment. Fewer than two percent of all Ss failed to meet this criterion. <u>E</u> then continued:

> Good, now I know you understand the idea of the game. The real game has the same idea, but the animals and objects will be different. Also, there will be seven cards, not just three. Now I want you to tell me the name of all these animals and objects. Now you know all the animals and objects to be used in the real game. As in the practice game, <u>only</u> remember where the animals (objects) are. Also, to make the game more interesting



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for you, I am going to give you one piece of gum (or 20 centavos or one peso, with older <u>Ss</u> receiving higher rewards) for each correct answer--that is, for each animal (object) you find. Do you understand everything?

At the appropriate time, if S did not know the name of a stimulus, E supplied it. E accepted a reasonable facsimile of the name: e.g. pesca for pescado. During naming, the animals and objects were presented in separate groups, where the central stimuli (e.g. animals) were always named first. Presentation proceeded in a row from the S's left to his right. E held each card in view for approximately two seconds, and then placed it The stimulus cards were arranged so that the series of face down. seven cards and the 14 test trials formed two 7 X 7 perfectly randomized matrices, where no picture appeared next to the same pictures either horizontally or vertically in the array. Thus, each serial position was tested twice; and each stimulus tested twice, but in a different serial position each time. The score for performance on the central task was defined as the total number of animals (objects) correctly located on the 14 trials.

After completion of the 14 central task trials, <u>E</u> began the incidental memory task as follows:

> Good! Now the game is going to change. Do you remember that each card had an animal and an ob-\_ ject on it? I want you to tell me which of these objects (animals) was accompanied by this animal (object). Do as well as you can. I will tell you the correct answers and how many you got



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correct after we have finished the game. Again I will give you one piece of gum (or 20 centavos

or 1 peso) for each correct answer. Understand? <u>E</u> explained more when necessary. He then tested <u>S</u> on all seven objects (animals). Performance on the incidental memory task was defined as the number of correct pairings out of the seven possible pairs.

Finally, several comments seem relevant to the issues of task comprehension, design, and subject motivation. The author spent a month of training <u>E</u> and pretesting in another small town in order to be assured that <u>S</u>s understood the task. The author's assistant, who acted as <u>E</u> for all testing, was of Mayan origin, and lived in a town about half-way between Merida and Mayapan. He had six years of formal education and spoke the local Maya dialect and Spanish. During the preliminary testing, the author, the Maya experimenter, and two other Maya assistants developed a proper translation of the task into Spanish and into Maya.

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In addition, each serial position was probed equally by four different stimuli (two animals and two objects) in the central task. The use of four probes tended to reduce any special effect created by any one probe that was either more or less familiar to a group of <u>Ss</u>. Also, prior to beginning the study, all <u>Ss</u> had to recognize and label all the objects and animals in the task. The above procedure insured that <u>S</u> knew what all the task stimuli were.

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The incentives given at all age levels seemed to generate enthusiasm for participation. In fact, potential <u>S</u>s would wait up to an hour after class to try to get into the "game." Earlier pretesting showed that incentives had some effect on this enthusiasm. It should be noted, however, that the addition of these incentives may have increased <u>S</u>'s tendency to attend to central stimuli, thereby decreasing incidental task scores.

# RESULTS

# Central Task

Performance on the central task was assessed for two scores: total number of correct responses, and number of correct responses for each serial position. A separate analysis indicated no significant differences attributable to sex, so this factor will not be discussed further.

A three-way analysis of variance, Group (2) X Age (5) X Serial Position (7), with repeated measures on one factor (Serial Position), and unequal cells (Winer, 1962, p. 242), showed all main effects to be significant: Group F(1,238) = 46.29, p. <.01; Age F(4,238) = 7.91, p<.01; and Serial Position F(6,1428) = 26.04, p<.01. The interaction of Group X Age X Serial Position was not significant, F(24,1428) = 1.13, but each of the possible two-way interactions was significant, and will be presented individually.

The Group X Age interaction, F(4,238) = 5.38, p < .01, may be seen in Figure 1, where "proportion correct" is the total

Insert Figure 1 about here



number of correct responses divided by the total possible correct responses. The source of the interaction is obvious from Figure 1 and is supported by an analysis of the simple effects of Age; only the score of the Urban group increased with age, F(4,238) =11.93, p<.01. Further analyses of these data indicated no significant differences between Rural and Urban 7-9 and 10-12 age groups. A significant difference was found at age 13-16, t(50) =2.64, p<.025, which subsequently increased (p<.01).

The Age X Serial Position interaction, F(24,1428) = 1.89, p<.01, is shown in Figure 2. Clearly, primacy increased with

Insert Figure 2 about here

Age more than recency or performance in the middle positions. The Group X Serial Position interaction, F(6,1428) = 2.20, p<.05, in Figure 3, qualifies the above result; on the average, only the

Insert Figure 3 about here

Urban groups showed primacy, while the Rural groups did not.

As a result of the analysis of two-way interactions among Age, Group, and Serial Position, the Rural-Urban differences in total recall (c.f. Figure 1) may now be seen as largely attributable to differential primacy effects.

Figure 4 presents these data in a different fashion which

Insert Figure 4 about here

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clarifies the locus of inter-group differences within a trial. The top panel of Figure 4 shows the primacy effect (Position 1), the second panel shows the recency effect (Position 7), and the bottom panel shows the "middle-positions" measure (mean of Positions 3, 4, 5).<sup>2</sup>

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Analysis of the primacy effect showed that the main effects for Group F(1,238) = 18.47, p<.01, and Age F(4,238) = 4.08, ( p<.01 were significant, as well as the Group X Age interaction F(4,238) = 1.41, p<.05. This interaction indicated that while primacy remained generally constant over age in Rural groups, it increased with age in the Urban groups. There were no significant differences in primacy recall between Urban and Rural groups at either age 7-9 or 10-12.

Analysis of the recency effect showed that the Urban group, scored significantly higher than the Rural group, F(1,238) = 5.91, p < .05; and that the overall effect of Age was not significant. The Group X Age interaction was significant, F(4,238) = 3.16, p < .05, showing that while the Urban group had a somewhat increased recency performance with age, the Rural group did not.

Analysis of the middle-positions measure showed that the Urban group scored slightly but reliably higher than the Rural group,  $\underline{F}(1,238) = 5.56$ ,  $\underline{p}<.05$ ; and that, the main effect for Age was also significant,  $\underline{F}(4,238) = 2.87$ ,  $\underline{p}<.05$ . Although the Group X Age interaction did not quite reach significance,  $\underline{F}(4,238) = 2.04$ ,  $\underline{p}<.10$ , it appears, from Figure 4, that the middle-positions measure remained relatively constant over age for the Rural group, while an increase with age occurred in the Urban group.

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The breakdown of data in Figure 4 supports the previous analyses of data depicted in Figures 1-3. It seems apparent that the locus of Age-related increases in recall for Urban <u>Ss</u> is largely attributable to the early portion of the within trial recall process--i.e. the primacy effect. Furthermore, although Urban <u>Ss</u>, on the average, score reliably higher than Rural <u>Ss</u> on all parts of the serial position curve, it is clear that Group-related differences in recall are also primarily attributable to the primacy portion of the serial position curve.

# Incidental Task

The incidental memory task score was the number of correct pairings of animals and objects recalled following completion of the central task. These data are presented in Figure 5. An-

Insert Figure 5 about here

alysis ind)cated overall higher Urban performance,  $\underline{F}(1,238) =$ 15.65, p<.01. While the main effect for Age was also significant,  $\underline{F}(4,238) = 3.28$ , p<.05, the decline in Urban performance from age 13-16 to age ~27 was significant,  $\underline{t}(50) = 2.25$ , p<.025. A similar decline may be seen in the Rural performance from age 20-21 to age ~27, t(38) = 2.75, p<.01.

# Additional Data

In an effort to separate the factors of schooling and cultural setting, a group of 32 relatively unschooled Urban adults (mean age = 29.1 yrs.; mean education = 2.9 yrs.) was tested. Re-



sults from this group showed that, on most measures, these <u>S</u>s performed more like unschooled Rural adults than schooled Urban adults (central task score = .33; primacy = .42; recency = .58; middle-positions = .23). The unschooled Urban adults performed more like schooled Urban adults only on the incidental task (.32).

Individual correlations of central and incidental task scores were calculated for all age groups. The correlations ranged from  $\underline{r} = -.30$  to  $\underline{r} = +.49$ , while only one correlation was significant (Rural, age 13-16,  $\underline{r} = +.49$ ). There were no significant trends in these correlations with increasing age.

### DISCUSSION

Such factors as age, cultural setting, and formal education were initially mentioned as possible independent variables in the development of memory. With respect to short-term memory, the data show that age alone cannot account for such development --Rural <u>S</u>s do not show the same developmental changes with age as do Urban Ss.

One would like to determine whether these differences are attributable to formal education or the varied influences of cultural setting (e.g. urbanization, media, acculturation, etc.). Some evidence bearing on this question comes from two sources. First, there were no differences in either primacy or central task performance in the two youngest age groups (7-9 and 10-12 yrs.)--precisely the groups that were all in school regardless of cultural setting. Differences were significant only between



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Urban Ss who continued school, and the Rural Ss who did not.

However, with older <u>Ss</u>, schooling and cultural setting are confounded; that is, schooled and unschooled <u>Ss</u> belong to different cultural settings. Therefore, an "extra" group of relatively unschooled Urban adults was tested. Results showed that education was more important than cultural setting on short-term memory performance; these <u>Ss</u> performed like unschooled Rural adults. These data add further evidence to the hypothesis that formal education is a major factor in memory development.

In general, the results of Urban Ss replicate American studies of short-term and incidental memory. The over-all increase in central (short-term memory) task performance with age and education replicates the studies mentioned earlier. The increase in primacy with age for these Ss is consistent with the theory that verbally mediated rehearsal strategies develop with age and thus improve primacy recall (Flavell, 1970; Hagen, 1971). The increase in primacy is also consistent with the complementary theory that such strategies improve total recall in memory, particularly at primacy positions (Postman, 1964). The increase in recency recall with age has not been found consistently, although Hagen et al. (1970) did find a similar augmentation in recency for college students over younger subjects. Recency may be considered to be a function of sensory or "echoic" memory store (Broadbent, 1958). The middle-positions measure indicated a small, but significant, increase with age, which is consistent with the notion of increasing capacity for information processing with age.

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Rural Ss present a somewhat different pisture. Their data showed both similarities and differences with previous American studies. On the one hand, the rather stable middle-positions measure and the elevated and relatively stable recency effect were both consistent with what we know about developmental shortterm memory in Urban Yucatan and in the United States. On the other hand, the lack of a developmental increase in performance with age in primacy and overall central task recall is certainly inconsistent with what has been found previously. A comparison made between primacy and middle-positions in Rural groups showed no statistical differences. Thus, Rural Ss showed no primacy effect (i.e. primacy over middle-positions) even up to adulthood. American studies have assumed that normal older children and adults use verbal rehearsal as a strategy in memory, which produces the primacy effect. In the model of memory proposed by Atkinson and Shiffrin (1968), rehearsal is a "control process" whereby itemsto-be-recalled may be transferred into long-term or secondary memory, producing the primacy effect. The implication from the present findings is that Rural Ss are not using verbal rehearsal strategies; and that this "deficiency" is the cause of lack of primacy, and the lack of developmental increases in central task performance.

A comparison of Urban and Rural central task data leads one to conclude that there are both quantitative and qualitative differences between these groups. Quantitatively, Urban <u>Ss</u> had higher scores than Rural <u>Ss</u> on all measures in the central task. These quantitative differences may be interpreted as of relatively small

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importance--probably due to the novelty of the experiment, the experimenter, and many other uncontrolled variables. However, qualitatively, only the primacy effect, and its corollary, overall central task recall, were functionally different between Urban and Rural <u>Ss</u>. The implications of this finding are two-fold. First, higher-level mnemonic skills or strategies for remembering (such as verbal rehearsal) may develop only in the context of formal education, not by maturation alone. Second, factors other than schooling must account for the better-than-chance recall in the middle-positions and recency portions of the serial position curve. It seems plausible that recency or "echoic" memory may be a universal sort of memory process that can be "tapped" by all types of Ss, young and old, schooled and unschooled.

Studies of incidental learning and memory have been considered to be a measure of selective attention -- the lower the incidental score, the higher the central task score, and thus the better the selective attention of the subject. Curvilinear functions of incidental memory are considered to be supportive of the hypothesis that the development of selective attention begins to inhibit or filter-out information processing of irrelevant or incidental stimuli with increasing age. The decline in incidental task performance following age group 13-16 with Urban <u>S</u>s is a clear replication of the studies mentioned previously. It may be remembered that the oldest Rural group showed a similar decline in incidental recall. There are indications, however, that this latter data point was spurious, and may be discounted as evidence for increasing selective attention. First, increases in selective attention are gen-

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erally accompanied by concomitant increases in central task performance, which is not the case for Rural <u>S</u>s. Second, whereas all previous trends contained at least two data points, only one data point is available for the present inference. This data point would have to be replicated using several age groups with smaller age ranges. The implication from the data and theory presented here is that in a replication Rural <u>S</u>s would show an increase with age and then reach an asymptote, with no subsequent decline.

As before, education and culture are confounded for older  $\underline{Ss}$  in the incidental memory task. Interestingly enough, data from the "extra" group of unschooled Urban adults shows that these  $\underline{Ss}$ performed more like schooled Urban  $\underline{Ss}$  than unschooled Rural  $\underline{Ss}$ . This implies that culture plays a more important role in the development of selective attention than in the development of shortterm memory. For example, the effect of media (e.g. radio, television, newspapers, etc.) in a cultural setting may have something to do with the development of selective information processing. Further research is necessary before more can be said on this hypothesis.

Finally, the correlations performed on central and incidental scores showed no significant developmental age trends. The data, therefore, do not support the hypothesis that central and incidental information processing are related. Although some studies (e.g. Druker & Hagen, 1969; Hagen <u>et al</u>., 1970) have claimed that there exists an increasing "trade-off" with age between central and incidental processing, no such negative correlational trends were found in the present study.

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This paper began with the idea of looking at the effect of such factors as age, cultural setting, and education on memory development. The results have shown that age alone cannot account for the development of either short-term or incidental memory. Urban educated Yucatecans perform much like American <u>S</u>s, while Rural uneducated <u>S</u>s do not. A group of unschooled Urban adults has provided some evidence that Urban environment alone cannot account for the above differences. The evidence presented here supports the hypothesis that formal schooling is critical for the<sup>\*\*\*</sup> development of the <u>spontaneous</u> use of certain memory strategies. Unfortunately, little is known at present as to what aspects of formal schooling affect memory development.

It may not be inferred, however, that the Rural and uneducated <u>S</u>s are not capable of using verbal rehearsal strategies or of showing better selective attention. The present study measures only selected aspects of what may be generally called short-term memory and selective attention. As some studies have shown, American-style memory performance may be elicited under appropriate training or constraining in the experimental task (Cole <u>et al</u>., 1971). Furthermore, recent studies with children have shown that young children (Corsini, Pick & Flavell, 1968; Kingsley & Hagen, 1969) and lower-class older children (Shultz, Charness & Berman, 1973) can be induced to use mediational strategies to their benefit through proper techniques.

In a recent cross-cultural study of recognition memory, Kagan, Klein, Haith & Morrison (1973) suggest that although American child-



ren perform better than isolated unschooled Guatemalan children at early ages (5 and 8 yrs.), such differences disappear by age ll--thus implying merely a "lag" in development. This finding led Kagan <u>et al</u>. to affirm the statement by a well-known anthropologist that the "functions of the human mind are common to the whole of humanity (p. 223)." As we have seen, however; memory can be analyzed on at least two qualitative levels; and the development of memory depends on more than simple maturation. It is conceivable that recognition memory, as with "echoic" memory, ' develops maturationally and without formal schooling, but this is apparently not true for all that is considered to be memory. Higher level mnemonic strategies in memory may do more than "lag" by several years--without formal schooling, such skills may never develop at all. Table 1

Urban and Rural Subject Groups

Cultural Setting	Group Age Range	N	Mean Age	Education Mean Year
	7-8	32	7.6	2
	10-11	32	10.5	5
Urban	14-15	32	14.1	8
(Merida)	20-21	32	20.1	12
	25-27	20	25.4	15
	7–9	20	8.0	1.5
	10-12	20	11.1	3.5
Rural	13-16 <sup>a</sup>	20	14.5	2.2
(Mayapan)	20-21 <sup>ab</sup>	20	20.4	1.1
	22-35 <sup>a</sup>	20	27.5	1.0

These groups were not in school; all other groups were attending school. <sup>b</sup>Only in this group were <u>S</u>s not divided evenly by sex; this group contained 18 males and 2 females.

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#### Footnotes

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<sup>2</sup>The breakdown of serial position data by particular positions is necessarily an arbitrary decision. Such a decision should reflect the shape of the serial position curve, and is usually a function of the number of items in the serial list. In this case, the author chose to define primacy as the first card presented, and recency as the final or seventh card presented, as in Kingsley & Hagen (1969).

The "middle-positions" measure was calculated so as to provide a measure of "basic" memory ability, with <u>less</u> of the presumed effects of specific memory skills or processes which enhance performance at both the primacy and recency portions of the serial position curve.

# Figure Captions

Figure 1.	Central task recall over age in Rural and Urban
	groups (summed over serial positions).
Figure 2.	Central task recall by serial position at differ-
	ent ages (Rural and Urban groups combined),
Figure 3.	Central task recall by serial position in Rural
	and Urban groups (summed over ages).
Figure 4.	Primacy, vecency, and middle-positions recall
	by age and group.
Figure 5.	Incidental task recall over age in Rural and
	Urban groups.

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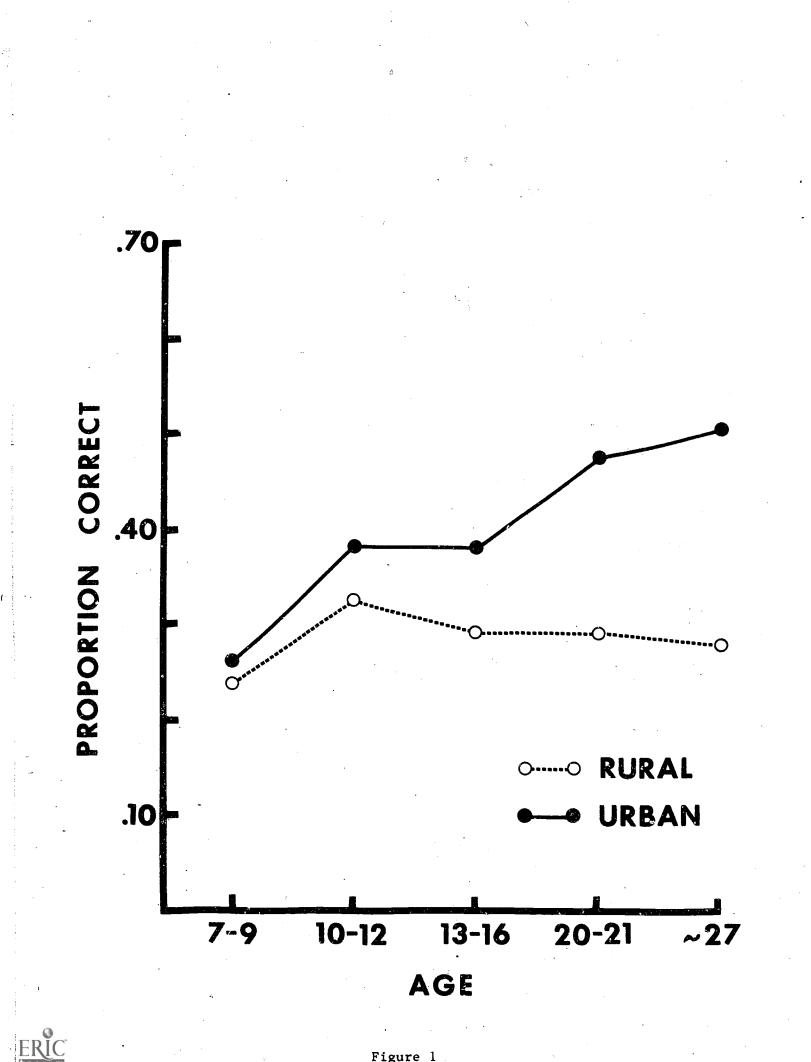


Figure 1

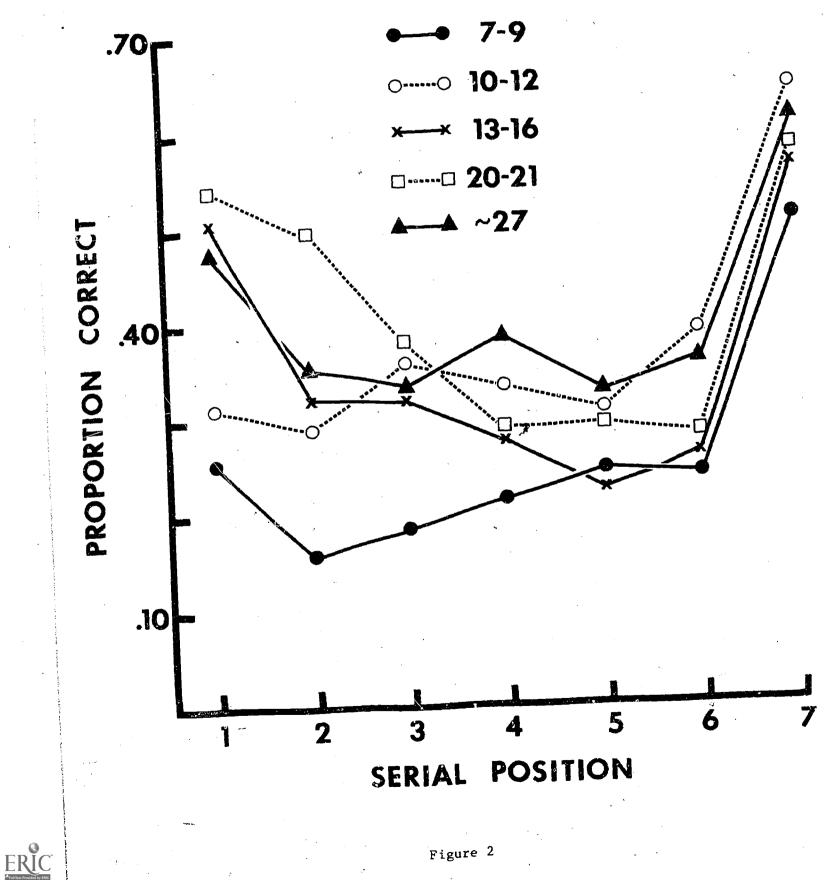


Figure 2

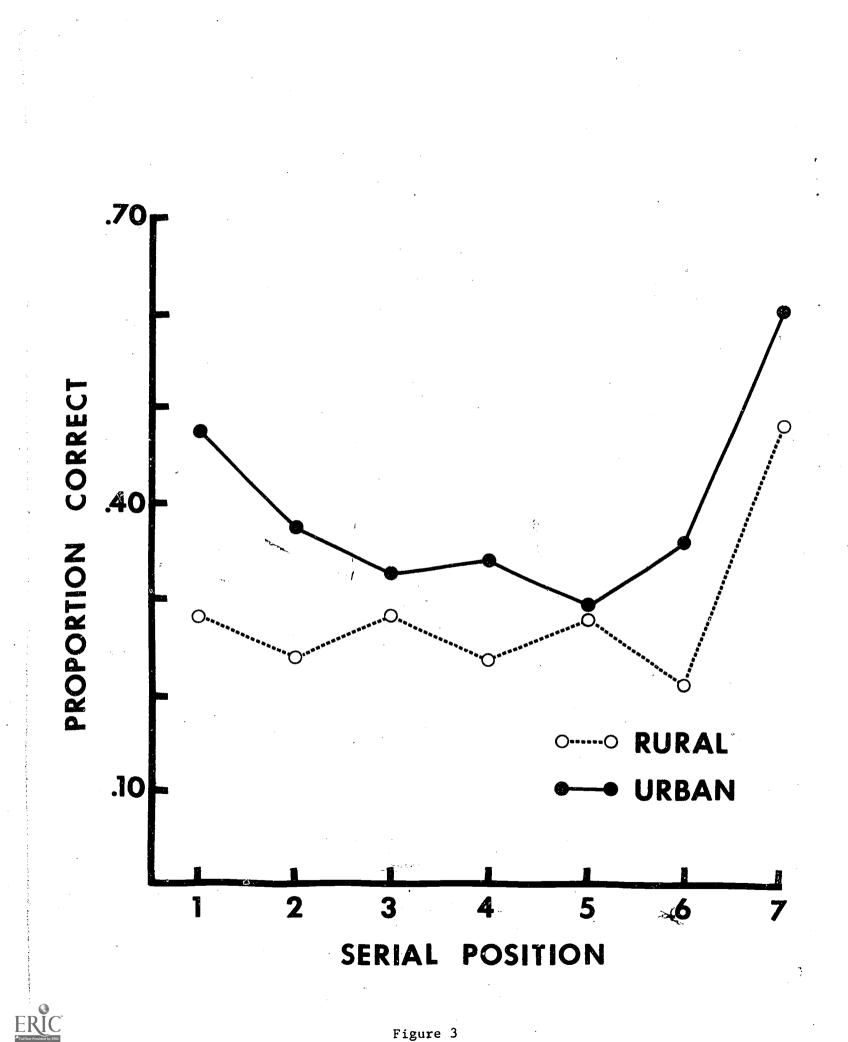
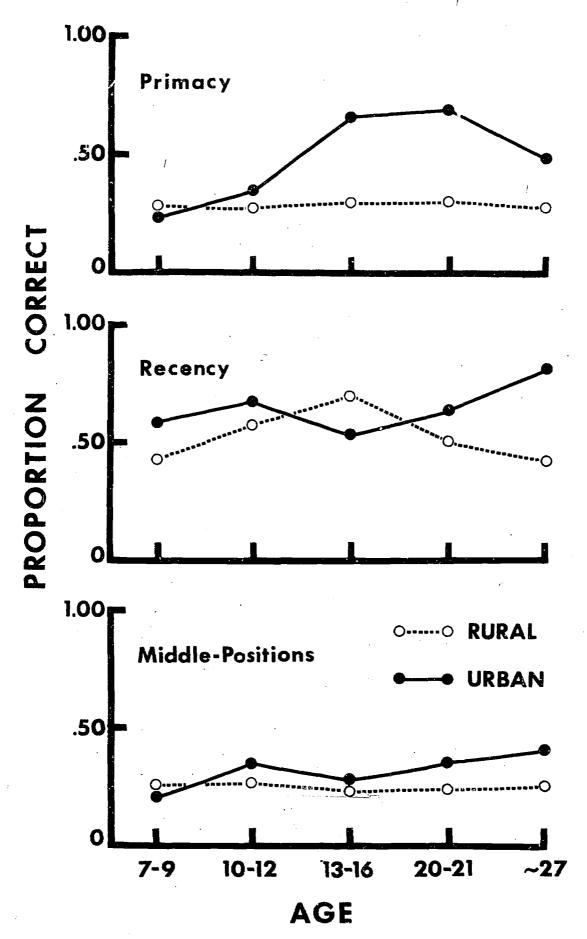
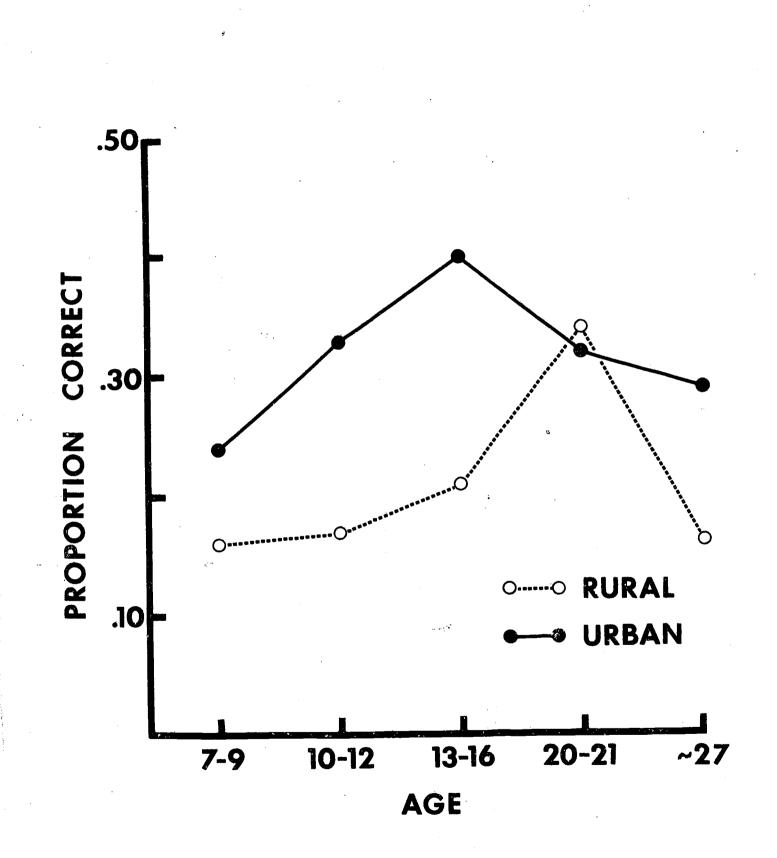


Figure 3



# Figure 4

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