A dynamic educational technique is being brought to Lafayette by a group of French theater actors under the sponsorship of the Council For The Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL).

The technique, called "Animation" in French, is, as the name implies, designed to breathe new life into teaching. It is roughly comparable to "living education" methods found in progressive circles.

Two Frenchmen closely involved in theater in their own country will present a demonstration of the "Animation" at the USL Student Union Theater tonight at 7:30.

Pierre Vielhescaze, director of le Theatre de L'ouest Parisienne, will be here for the demonstration, but will leave completely in French and were "amazed at themselves." It is important to note, however, that the "animation" is not just intended as a French language tool, though it is admirably suited for that purpose.

Mademoiselle Sheila Weston, a theater actress, will stay in Lafayette for four weeks to work with students in local schools in the methods of the "animation".

Both Vielhescaze and Mlle. Weston have already spent a few days in New Orleans working with groups of students and adults ranging in size from 50 to 200 people.

**Teaching Method**

The "animation" is not designed strictly to teach the French language, nor is it meant in this case as a workshop in the theater. It is a teaching method designed to stimulate learning in general, by engendering in the student a new awareness of his own sensibility.

The technique has been used in many different fields in other countries, according to the Frenchmen. It has been applied to music, literature, painting, and other creative fields throughout Europe and England.

Like the counselor who advises students to study philosophy because it will "teach them to think," the advocates of the "animation" believe it develops a type of knowledge that is not based on acquisition of facts and regurgitation of them on tests, but is a stimulation to an openmindedness in the student that will allow him to learn anything easier.

**Particular Application**

The method has a particular application in the teaching of the French language here.

Father Jean Marie Jammes, an official who works with the French government in cultural exchange programs, said that one of the greatest problems in teaching any foreign language is teaching students to "think" in the language, rather than to just attempt to translate it on a word-for-word basis.

Many French teachers in local high schools echo his sentiments, saying they would like to find some way to make the language appear alive to students.

**Ideal Vehicle**

Vielhescaze and Mlle. Weston believe the theater is an ideal vehicle for accomplishing this goal. They say they've found in their early experiences with the method here that many students who previously said they could not understand French, were able to follow the story line within a play delivered.