
E-Prime Analysis and Observations

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E-Prime Definition

E-Prime is a subset of english that aims to add clarity to communication. This is done by removing "to be" verbs such as "be," "am," "are," "is," "was," "were," "been." These verbs make the meaning of communication unclear, and thus E-Prime removes them.

Research Analysis

1. E-Prime or E-Choice

The author of this article explains the basis of E-Prime. The article continues by explaining specific uses of how “to be” verbs are bad.

2. A Lawyer’s Experiment with Writing in E-Prime

The author of this article begins by explaining their own background as a lawyer that writes. The author briefly explains E-Prime before explaining their transition to writing E-Prime. The author finally explains the benefits and challenges of E-Prime.

3. The Spirit and the Letter

The author of this article introduces a discussion regarding E-Prime. This covers how to properly use E-Prime as it was truly intended. The bulk of the article contains specific examples of points addressing this topic.

4. E-Prime and Un-Sanity

This article is a very technical document. The author delves deep into the use of E-Prime, analyzing E-Prime extensively. The author also discusses the works of other authors regarding E-Prime.

5. As a Revision Strategy

This article explains the process of learning E-Prime. This is done through the anecdote of teaching children E-Prime through revision. There exist great examples of E-Prime writing in this article.

6. To Be or Not To Be

The author of this article details the ways in which the use of “to be” verbs leads to unclear writing. This is done primarily through example sentences and their E-Prime equivalents. The author continues to discuss various problems that arise from standard English communication.

7. Using E-Prime and EMA to Provide Self-Empathy

The author of this article begins with explaining how their students speak negatively of themselves. On the third page, E-Prime is explained and offered as a way to help in this case. E-Prime is wonderfully explained as a way to help people say things factually instead of as an evaluation of themselves.

8. Metaphor and E-Prime

This article discusses possible negatives associated with the use of E-Prime. One of these is the elimination of metaphors such as “Dwayne Johnson is a beast” or “it’s raining cats and dogs.”

9. Clearer Thinking Through Practicing E-Prime

The author of this article takes a scientific approach to E-Prime. This is a technical article that delves into the technical use of E-Prime to assist in audience comprehension of the subject.

Observations

E-Prime appears to be beneficial overall. Writing that is more clear and less confusing can only be a positive. The drawbacks of E-Prime is the removal of certain words from language, which naturally has negatives. However, one could argue E-Prime should either be used primarily or for certain communication. For example, laws can be written in E-Prime while metaphors can be written in standard english.

E-Prime has various advantages over standard english. Though these individually may be small, together these advantages present a significant improvement over standard english. At Southwest Baptist University, E-Prime can and should be taught as a way to improve the world around us. In the workplace, E-Prime should be used to help the clarity of communication between supervisors, colleagues, and customers.

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