

Topic: Reflect on what you have learned from the lecture

Essay: There is a huge volume of knowledges presented in this course talking about language, such as language is the infrastructure of thought and society, and the act of destroying language. Among all those statements, it is the most interesting part for me to connect the language with truth.

First of all, I would like to review the guideline of this course. We started with some interesting question, such as thinking of thinking and some sentences in the warning boards, to inspire the discussion about what will human react for some certain language representations. As the extension, the relationship between language and thought or the language and society is presented next. With some conceptions like symbols and objects or the form of language being brought into our discussion, my recognition about language is rebuilt. For example, my original acknowledge of language should be clustered into the part of language representation which is different from language, and as the reason why language can represent an abstract conception, language is physical and blending. Finally, as the part of the act of destroying language, the relation between truth and language had been mentioned. Before that, the harmfulness of the language misuse and the descriptive function and binding power of the language was presented as the basement knowledge of further discussion about the truth and language.

Before the discussion about the relationship between truth and language, it is utmost necessary to define what truth is. In this course, the truth is something shared by people who think that is truth. Under my understanding, it means that there is no absolute truth and whether it is truth or not depends on whether you believe or not, which sounds idealistic. So back to the initial point, what is the relationship between truth and language? As some materials said, as the thing which meaningfully makes claims about what the world is like, language is one of the bearers of truth. It can be easily understood that if someone assert something, he/she must believe what he/she says is the truth, which can regards it as a kind of representations. And for me, the most interesting part is that the progressive relationship of what others say it is truth, what I think it is truth and what I confirm it is truth, which comes to the field of critical thinking of the language around.

Being in the age of information explosion it seems that we spend less and less time to think about if the information represented by the language is truth or not, not even to confirm it. As I already know the critical thinking is important, I learned its theoretically in this course.