

Noise and silence should coexist in society today

Umberto Eco clearly states his opinion in the paper “Censorship and Silence” that two forms of censorship, through silence and noise, he considers not words but silence. Though I agree with most of his arguments in the paper, I still presume noise and silence are two essential components that are of need in society today. Doubtlessly, Umberto Eco gave a compelling example to illustrate why silent censorship matters. The veline avoided saying, “Don’t write about suicide” because such a simple sentence could trigger people struggling for survival to give up their lives. “To avoid talking about deviant behavior, talk a great deal about other things.” This quote from old-style velina also strengthens Umberto’s stance. In the closing paragraph, Umberto Eco proposed we should see the function of silence in various aspects: the long pause, silence as creation of suspense, silence as threat, silence as agreement, silence as denial, and silence in music. However, should we return to absolute silence? I don’t think so.

Silence, in other words, means hiding. Do we want the government not to disclose any information to the public? Would people care about it if the government didn’t reveal the number of people who died of COVID-19 so as not to create noise? How do we start protecting ourselves if we are unaware of the crime rate or the shootings happening? Sole silence is anything but a solution to address the real

issues that exist and greatly influence any of us. We should face the real problem instead of pretending they don't exist. Silent censorship is necessary, as Umberto says, but it should not be considered mainstream or the only way we live in this society.

Concerning Umberto's dissatisfaction with noise, I understand his opinion that "Noise becomes a cover." Indeed, politicians use overwhelming "noise," which means those unimportant events, to cover more prominent scandals or conspiracies. This has been widely used, leveraging the media. Covering is different than hiding which may also happen because of the misuse of silence, as aforementioned. True, noise keeps us from focusing on the actual matter. However, compared to hiding, people who care about the truth will eventually see the essence through the cover, and finally, the fact will spread out like what Umberto says, "Word of mouth."

After all, though, I'm with Umberto that noise shouldn't be utilized as a cover. I don't think the noise is something we should discard from this society. Does everybody care about what the truth is? In other words, why is noise even more intriguing to the public? Perhaps many people care more about something trivial, less complicated, but enough to make them happy. Advertising doesn't persuade people to purchase products anymore, but those creative and funny commercials

make them laugh. Excess information is transformed into noise, but also the subjects people can talk about in their lives.

To most people, noise is less scary. However, absolute silence will never make the world a better place, but “Silent Hill.”