

### 34. 言葉はどれほど人を傷つけるか(2)：構造理解

In the 19th century, the expression taught children to ignore hurtful words.

However, this lesson is being changed in the 21st century. Now, it is important

to distinguish between what people say and how they say it. Different opinions said in hurting ways

can result in pain. Stephen Fry, the famous English writer, is one of many

who have changed the second part of the rhyme; “Sticks and stones may break my bones,

but words will always hurt me”. He explains that “bones mend and become actually stronger

in the very place that was broken”. However, he adds that words can hurt “for decades,

and the hurt can be re-opened by the quietest whisper”.

Words, rather than being ineffectual, are truly powerful in their ability to produce real damage.

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