

Adventure Cabaret

Language Is not Reality

[2:02]

Professor Clinkscapes: Language is not reality. It may feel like reality, you may mistake it for reality, but language often represents the precise opposite of reality, and there are *social* reasons for this. All this time you thought everyone was playing the guitar right handed, but they were actually playing the guitar left handed. And in all these years...you never even noticed! Why?

Because not playing "right" would be...wrong. It would be "sinister."

He holds out his left arm.

Therefore left must be called right, even though it's...wrong!

The professor appears a bit angry at this point.

Screen: [images of instruments listed below]

Yet the aggressive misrepresentation of reality in language goes much deeper than the labeling of playing guitar, or mandolin, banjo, ukulele, violin, viola, cello, all of which are also being played left handed while being called right handed.

Screen: [the ocean, below the surface]

Actors 1 & 2 enter, miming fish swimming along.

Professor Clinkscapes: Two young fish are swimming along one day.

Actor 3 enters from the opposite side, also miming a fish swimming.

An older fish swims by them and asks...

Actor 3: How's the water today?

Professor Clinkscales: The two younger fish swim on past, then one turns to the other and says...

Actor 1: What's water?

Screen: sexism

So it is with human language, which is constructed to both refer to objects and concepts, but also to *suppress* awareness of specific aspects of reality, and often to suppress the most prevalent aspects of reality.

Professor Clinkscales begins to become a bit agitated.