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Both of my parents have diverging worldviews, mainly because *of the different cultures and co-cultures they were* surrounded by growing up. *These unique circumstances led to a different understanding of language rules (like* ***syntactic rules******or semantic rules****) which further influenced understanding*. My father grew up in the UK and fell in love with *linguistics and ended up* learning 4 *languages which include* Spanish, Latin, German and French. *He always said that with each new language helped him learn more about himself and express it (very much an example of (****linguistic relativity****), because of this he went into* global politics and languages. *Through his experience with a variety of* **high** and **low** **context** **cultures,** *he came to understand the differing means of communication very easily which means that he gets along with most people as he often practiced* ***convergence****.* My mother *had a very different background, she did not enjoy learning languages and ended up only speaking English*. *Perhaps because of the* ***pragmatic rules*** *of* English she ended up using *much more* **“I” language** and **powerful language** *to solidify her points by a process of* ***divergence****.*

*I bring this up because the combination of my parent’s communication patterns and language shape the kind of communicator I am today and the way I act in relationships. When meeting someone new I try to adept the opposite of my mothers communication method, I use* ***powerless language*** *in order to enforce* ***politeness*** *above else and even with my friends if I find something offensive I often try to use* ***euphemisms*** *where possible as to be polite. Specifically I will say “its such a pleasure to meet you, I hope we will be good friends” or if someone is being selfish I would say “that’s a very independent idea, but maybe we need to think more about what would be best for the group”.* Because Canada is a **low-context culture,** *I found myself developing these language expressions as adding extra words to be polite meant much more then it would in a* ***high-context culture.*** *I also try to act in a way that goes against conventional language* ***gender roles*** *as to be more* ***polite****. For example, I try not to speak assertively and make sure that everyone is contributing equally to the conversation by asking if “anyone agrees” or “what do you think of this”. I also make sure to use inclusive and* ***ambiguous language*** *so that anyone can identify with what I’m saying, for example “what do we think”. I think the reason the language we speak influences how we think is because we can only think in terms of what we are able to express, if you only use* ***“I” language*** *you will end up becoming more* ***assertive****. I grew up thinking mostly in terms of* ***“we” language*** *which meant that I was mostly thinking about how to act in a group setting and be polite. By understanding more and more languages (both verbal and non-verbal), we can come up with more complex ways of expressing how we think and in turn have more complex thoughts which allow use to* ***code-switch*** *in order to communicate with ourselves and others better.*