

My favorite quote from Whorf was:

"Every language is a vast pattern-system, different from others, in which are culturally ordained the forms and categories by which the personality not only communicates, but also analyzes nature, notices or neglects types of relationship and phenomena, channels his reasoning, and builds the house of his consciousness. (LTR 252) "

I particularly liked this quote because it shows the relationship between language and personality. I am a firm believer that language impacts various parts of our personality. Like Whorf says, it affects how we analyze nature, how we approach relationships, our reasoning, and even our consciousness. This is fascinating to me because it implies that a person's personality is not necessarily inherent, but rather it really pushes the effect of one's environment on their personality. Obviously other factors affect our personality, but language can certainly be one of those factors. What then, can be said for someone who knows multiple languages? Do they take on a combination of the personality traits to do with each language? Do different dialects affect personality development as well? I am really looking forward to this course and understanding more about language and how it impacts us in so many different ways.