

I think what surprised me most about the What is Language reading is that we only really started to study language in the 1930's. That seems so recent in the grand scheme of other discoveries. Language, for me at least, is such a basic and instinctive part of a human being. It surprises me that we made discoveries in outer space, philosophy, education, and other sciences, not to mention conquered entire continents but had not really delved into the origins and science of language. As this reading proved, there is so much to the study of language, so many dimensions and angles from which to approach it. I am particularly fascinated by the debate over which comes first, language or thought. It's something that, seemingly like many academics, I could go back and forth on for a long time without arriving at an answer (or at least a 100% conclusive one).

Coming from a more corporate approach I am also interested in the idea of a *lingua franca* or a common language. Chomsky seems to suggest that there are some common, even inherent, rules or elements to all languages that make it possible to understand more than one. As business becomes more global, and even as education stretches across borders, it's important to be able to communicate in a language, or a common set of languages that most people understand. Some say English is the more dominant language, and others say Chinese is becoming *the* language to know in the business world. However, I don't think we will ever have a single global language. I think part of what gives each culture its own individuality and appeal is language. Very few cultures have exactly the same language, and the answer is not to strip them of their uniqueness by creating one main language, but rather to find ways to make language education more accessible and easy so that it is common for people to know many languages.