

To what extent does language shape thought and behaviour?

By: Alex, Mariya, Szymon and Alix

Real Life Situation

New government program where Arabic language studies become compulsory starting from the fifth grade.



170 public and religious public schools in northern israel.

until now israel students were given the option of learning arabic

marked increase in demand from student for matriculation studies led education officials to change the curriculum

“we live in a country that has two official languages”

“studying arabic will promote tolerance and convey a message of acceptance”



knowledge question

“To what extent does language shape people's thoughts and behaviour?”

- Language affects how we come to think
- Thoughts come to play a big role in formation peoples actions
- Every action begins with a thought


Language - What really is it?



AOK (Areas



To what extent does language shape thought and behavior?



Definition: moral principles that govern a person's behaviour or the conducting of an activity

Ethics

To what extent does language shape thought and behavior?

Claim

- Moral principles
- attempts to change its language to reflect its own cultural values and ethics
- influenced by emotions in making moral/ ethical decisions



Counterclaim

↳ Reason is not influenced by emotion in making moral/ethical decisions

Example: Case of Ajmal Kasab



↳ conclusion: moral decisions can be a result of reason accompanied by emotion, but reason may be more predominant

Definition: a branch of study which deals with people or their actions, including the social sciences and the humanities as contrasted with the natural sciences or physical sciences

Human Sciences



To what extent does language shape thought and behavior?

Claim

↳ we think differently based on our language

↳ sapir whorf hypothesis (Linguistic Relativity Hypothesis)


“the proposal that the particular language one speaks influences the way one thinks about reality”



Counterclaim

- ↳ language reflects thought, not the other way around
- ↳ the spectrum of thought exceeds the one of language
- ↳ thoughts are more so affected by one's culture, not language





Definition: the study of past events,
particularly in human affairs

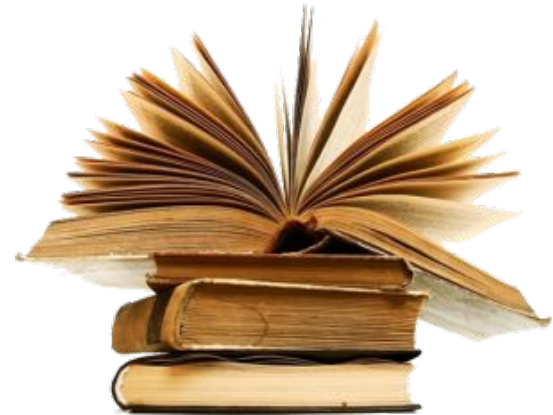
History

To what extent does language shape thought and behavior?

Claim

throughout history, language was often used to influence people's thoughts and behaviour

- propaganda
- censorship



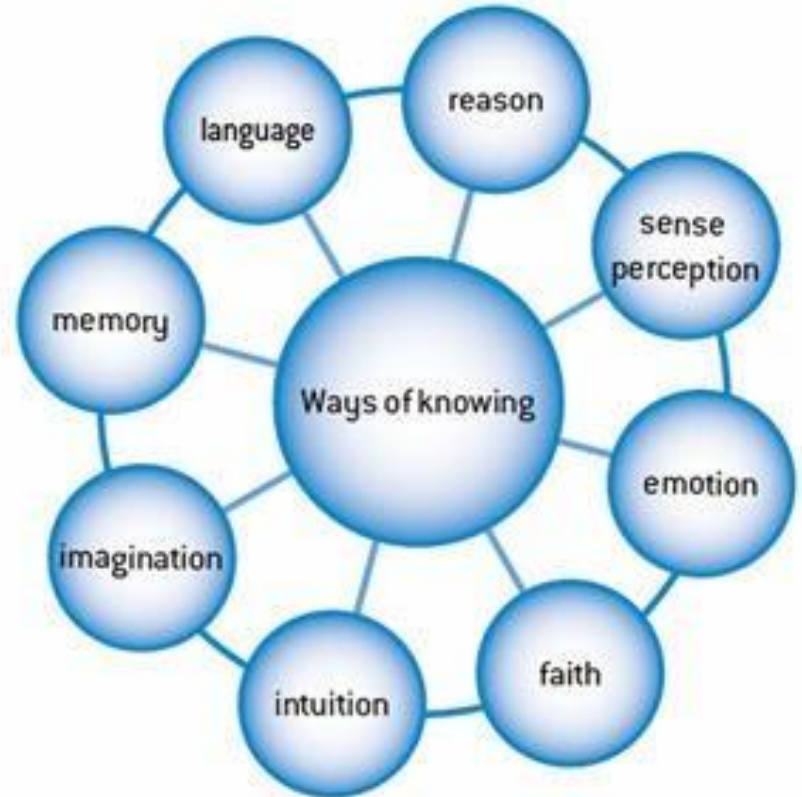


Counterclaim

people always had the possibility to not let themselves be affected by politicians and propaganda

- reason and logic

WOK (Ways of Knowing)



To what extent does language shape thought and behavior?



Definition: the method of human communication, either spoken or written, consisting of the use of words in a structured and conventional way

Language

To what extent does language shape thought and behavior?

Claim

- Language is the way a person expresses themselves and communicate with others.
 - aim of communication
 - most important way to share and obtain knowledge





Counterclaim

- expressing oneself can be done in many ways
- a. sense perception (other way of gaining information)



Definition: a strong feeling derived from one's circumstances, mood, or relationships with others

Emotion

To what extent does language shape thought and behavior?



Claim

Emotion and language directly affect each other

- different formulation lead to more positive/negative perception
 - language is the expression of emotions

The powerful external forces uses emotion as a weapon to influence others behaviour





Counterclaim

language does impact emotions but the effect can be limited

- language can be analyzed critically
- overthinking the intent rather than talking immediately
 - biased views and opinions



Definition: a cause, explanation, or justification for an action or event

Reason

To what extent does language shape thought and behavior?



Claim

- Used to justify that language shapes our thoughts
- Usually stated without giving evidence.





Counterclaim

- Biased, people often claim things for their own benefits.



Personal Knowledge

- Reason can often be absurd, or without meaning.
- reason can be misleading and can drive a person to the wrong decision.

To what extent does language shape thought and behavior?



Shared Knowledge

scientists have found some evidence that language shapes thought processes

lera boroditsky did an experiment

- asked people to close their eyes and point southeast
- a room of distinguished professors in the U.S pointed in almost every possible direction whereas 5 year old australian aboriginal girls always got it right
- difference lies in the language that you speak
- if you want to learn another language you have to change the way you behave in small but sometimes significant ways
- specifically how you sort things into categories and what you notice

To what extent does language shape thought and behavior?

English vs Russian

Grammatical gender

Different ways russians describe a key

To what extent does language shape thought and behavior?





Conclusion

Language shapes thoughts and behaviour to a great extent because it shapes thoughts and thoughts play a major role in forming peoples actions, this new government program in israel schools will work as a grid between arabs and jews it will promote tolerance and convey a message of acceptance learning arabic language will help people understand another culture better and help people become more tolerant of the other peoples cultures and ways

different languages favour different ways of thinking about certain concepts, but do not entirely restrict thoughts .

the effects emotion and language have each other can be reduced but are hard to take away completely

To what extent does language shape thought and behavior?



Conclusion

language does affect thought and behavior through emotions.

certain language can help to better understand other culture and their belongings.

however not knowing the language doesn't prohibits someone to understand concepts of anothers country.

To what extent does language shape thought and behavior?

THE END