

LANGUAGE

LANGUAGE IS "THE METHOD OF HUMAN COMMUNICATION, EITHER SPOKEN OR WRITTEN, CONSISTING OF THE USE OF WORDS IN A STRUCTURED AND CONVENTIONAL WAY." IT IS ONE OF THE MAIN WAYS WE ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE FROM THE WORLD, AND IT LETS US GO BEYOND THE BARRIER OF OUR OWN EXPERIENCE

THE NATURE OF LANGUAGE

1) LANGUAGE IS RULE GOVERNED.

- RULES ARE IN PLACE FOR WORDS AND SENTENCES TO MAKE SENSE
- THE NOISE OF A CERTAIN WORD IS ASSOCIATED WITH A THING OR IDEA

2) LANGUAGE IS INTENDED

- LANGUAGE MUST BE SENT WITH INTENTION AND UNDERSTOOD
- SOME TYPES OF COMMUNICATION ARE NOT ACTUALLY LANGUAGE!

3) LANGUAGE IS CREATIVE AND OPEN-MINDED

- LANGUAGE CHANGES OVER TIME AND INFLUENCE
- SHAKESPEARE INTRODUCED 1700+ WORDS, AND WE HAVE TODAY'S SLANG, WHICH ARE ALL INNOVATIONS

THEORIES OF MEANING

1) DEFINITION THEORY SUGGESTS THAT MEANING IS FOUND IN THE DICTIONARY

2) DENOTATION THEORY SUGGESTS THAT WORDS STAND FOR SOMETHING

3) IMAGE THEORY SUGGESTS THAT MEANING IS THE IMAGE A WORD PRESENTS TO YOU

PROBLEMATIC MEANING TENDS TO MAKE UNDERSTANDING ALL THE MORE COMPLICATED...

1) VAGUENESS CAN IMPLY ANYTHING DEPENDING ON THE CONTEXT

2) AMBIGUITY CREATES TWO MEANINGS, AND IS MISLEADING

3) SECONDARY MEANINGS (CONNOTATION) SETS THE TONE FOR A SENTENCE AND CAN CHANGE IT DRASTICALLY

4) A METAPHOR CAN NEVER BE TAKEN LITERALLY

5) IRONY SAYS A CERTAIN SENTENCE IN ORDER TO MEAN THE OPPOSITE, WHICH MAKES UNDERSTANDING CONFUSING