

Tok essay – examine
the role of language
in facilitating or
hindrancing
communica...



Examine the role of language in facilitating or hindrancing communication. Discuss with appropriate examples based on daily experience and areas of knowledge (natural and human science, visual arts, literature, maths, history etc.). Communication is a vital tool for the survival of gregarious animal genres. Animals of the same race communicate with each other to transfer simple meanings to express danger, to inform about a source of food, to call a member of the pod, to attract sexually the female members et cetera.

This was initially the reason why language was created by the aboriginals: for the accommodation of communication, which was vital tool for the survival of the genre. After chiliads of evolution, languages have been enriched with umpteen new words and give us the opportunity to express much more complicated and abstract concepts. However, although language helps us in many fields, there are some occasions in which language is not the appropriate solution. Cases from both sides are going to be examined trying to reach some conclusions about the language and how suitable it is in our communication.

Let's begin with some examples in which language facilitates communication. In our daily life we need a way to communicate with others for a hundred of reasons; to collaborate with our colleagues or classmates, to give and receive orders about tasks that have to be done, to express our feelings to a beloved person, ... In these and many other cases language accommodates us passing the exact message that we want as well as saving time from explaining with other methods what we mean. However there are languages that are most convenient for quick everyday life communication such as English for its simple structure and mostly its small words.

<https://assignbuster.com/tok-essay-examine-the-role-of-language-in-facilitating-or-hindrancing-communication/>

This is the reason why English words are being used all around the world. Literature is the strongest example of language accommodating communication. The fact that a whole branch of art is dedicated to the delicate use of language to express the inner feelings of the human brain proves us the power of language. Writers and poets take lifeless words and compose them like a puzzle to create texts full of meaning which would be difficult for somebody else to express with words. Psychology on the other hand is also a science which tries to express the psychological world of the person, but with scientific terms.

As you may realize, both in artistic and scientific level language helps us express even the most difficult terms. The value of expressing a complicated or abstract concept with words is really great. To give a personal example, before my mother explained to me the meaning of *deja vu*, the feeling that you know an unknown scene, I believed that it was something that happened only to me but I had never asked about it because I thought that nobody would take it seriously but mostly I didn't know how to express that strange feeling.

Now that I know that there is a word that describes this feeling I know that it is something totally natural that happens to anybody. However there are some occasions that language does not help us communicate drastically but rather confuses us. A typical example of this category is abstracted in the phrase "one picture equals a thousand words". It might be easy to describe a grassland with a cliff because they are simple images that we all have seen again so we can easily imagine what the image described should look like.

However when you have to describe the smell and the flavor of a dish, a song or even just an image which is hard to explain such as the image of a colorful star exploding to somebody that hasn't ever seen any satellite image you will surely face a difficulty in explaining it correctly in the same degree as eating the dish or watching the photograph of the star. There are also many times that it is most preferable to use body language to pass a message than just speak.

For instance, when driving you may let a pedestrian cross the road in front of your car. If you have your windows closed the chances are that he will see your hand indicating the road rather than read your lips. Another case where words don't be the best way to communicate although it is a cliché is love. They say that in some cases what the words can't tell can be said only by a simple eye glance. To sum up, there are some tasks that require the language so that people communicate quicker and understand at once what their interlocutor wants to say.

On the other hand however there are many circumstances where body language or the five senses seem to be the most appropriate way to communicate with accuracy. As we realize, the language is not the only way to contact somebody. In my point of view, language is a really powerful tool and it could strengthen its position with the creation of specialized words to explain terms that were being mentioned roundabout until now so that our communication would make another step for its perfection. Alex Paradissis