

The Connection Between Language and Culture

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After reading the two articles about the connection between language and culture, I learned that these concepts are not only intertwined, they depend on each other. Your language depends on your culture, and your culture has to do with the language you speak.

The first article was very interesting to me. I had not previously considered the idea that your personality could literally shift based only on the fact that you are speaking a different language. This supports the theory that culture and language depend on each other because when your personality changes due to language, your culture is also subject to change. The reason for this is that culture can be defined as “the attitudes and behavior characteristic of a particular social group.” Therefore, if your behavior or personality is changed, your culture is changed as well. An astounding survey conducted by linguists Jean-Marc Dewaele and Aneta Pavlenko revealed that out of a population of one thousand bilingual people, $\frac{2}{3}$ of them said that they feel like a different person depending upon what language they were speaking at that time. This article was very helpful in teaching me things that I didn’t previously know about the connection between language and culture.

The second article was a bit of a change from the first one, but I still found it just as interesting. The article states that “New research shows that they (bilinguals) can also view the world in different ways depending on the specific language they are operating in.” I found this to be supportive in my claim because culture is all about viewing the world in different ways. Expanding your knowledge of other cultures takes your world view beyond just your own personal culture.

In conclusion, the two articles showed me new perspectives on language and culture. I learned that a change in language is directly linked to a change in personality, and that your culture is also subject to change. I also learned that bilinguals view the world in different ways depending on which language they speak. I found this interesting because that can also be a factor in culture shift.