

Sticks & Stones: A Concept of Ideology

presented by:

Zozo

*Undergraduate Student, Senior
University of Louisiana at Lafayette*

reviewed by:

Dr. Kathe Managan

*Professor, Linguistic/Cultural Anthropology
University of Louisiana at Lafayette*

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Abstract:

Zozo briefly introduces themselves with an explanation of their early university experience and how they came to study anthropology. This presentation focuses on the introduction of the four fields of anthropology and how they all are connected to culture. Zozo explains more in depth on the field of linguistic anthropology, with examples of how language is used as social action. The main take away from this presentation is the base understanding of ideologies and why they are so vital to cultures, societies, and languages. Zozo references Dr. Kroskrity's work on ideologies and explains his work in a way for students to understand. Students are asked a series of questions to help internalize the meaning of language and language ideology.

Key Vocabulary Words

Agency

Ambiguity

Bias

Continuity

Cultural transgression

Cultural transmission

Culture

Diaspora

Discursive (discourse)

Explicit

Homogenize

Implicit

Intrinsic

Modernity

Public sphere

Tacit

Ubiquitous

Vernacular

Vocabulary Words Defined

Agency -

the capacity of individuals to act independently and to make their own free choices

Ambiguity -

the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; inexactness

Bias -

prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair.

Continuity -

the unbroken and consistent existence or operation of something over a period of time

Cultural transgression -

Involving a violation of moral or social boundaries

Culture -

characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people, encompassing language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and arts.

Diaspora -

any group that has been dispersed outside its traditional homeland, especially involuntarily

Discursive (discourse) -

verbal interchange of ideas; especially : conversation

Explicit -

stated clearly and in detail, leaving no room for confusion or doubt

Homogenize -

make uniform or similar

Implicit -

something that is suggested or implied but not ever clearly said

Intrinsic -

being an extremely important and basic characteristic of a person or thing

Modernity -

a modern way of thinking, working, etc.; contemporariness

Public sphere -

the social space in which different opinions are expressed, problems of general concern are discussed, and collective solutions are developed communicatively

Ubiquitous -

present, appearing, or found everywhere

Vernacular -

the language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people in a particular country or region

Presentation Questions

- Do you have any perceptions of language that you are aware of? How do you think about language in general?
- Can you explain the style differences between talking to your parents and talking to your professor? Give an example of each style, if you can!
- Has anyone asked you to switch your language before? If so, in what ways did you switch your language use?
- Can you recall any times where you switched up your language style on the same day? What type of languages did you use?
- Do you think your language use is somehow connected to your identity? Why or why not?
- Can you explain your language ideology and how those ideologies might affect the community around you?

Source Material

[1] Louisiana., Wolff, S. *Constitution of the state of Louisiana: adopted in convention June 18, 1921.* (1921). Bobbs-Merrill Publishers. Indianapolis. Accessed 10/30/2020. (Page 251).
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[2] Kroskrity, Paul V. *Language Ideologies. A Companion to Linguistic Anthropology.* (2004). Blackwell Publishing. Malden. Accessed 10/30/2020. (Pages 496-517). Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data.