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English 1A

1 April 2017

Language by Association

Everybody talks differently, be it in their language or in word choice, dependant on who they are talking to. The way we speak is a representation of ourselves, it helps us to identify with the people around us along with sharing our identity. We use big words and correct grammar to show integrity and an understanding in the topic at hand. Whereas we use swearing to show an enhancement on our emotions about a topic or feeling that we are trying to express, and that regular speech can't fully convey. We combine languages because they are too beautiful to put one to rest, and because it helps to categorise the people that we know and want to know. We create slang to show comfortability with the people currently surrounding us, and to expand the English language beyond our previously known terms. We all also have personal experiences with these instances, which I will be stating within. The language that we choose to use is based on the factors of who our audience is, and what we intend to express to them.

Grammar and the knowledge of terms that are uncommon can show many things about a person. The person may be well taught and knowledgeable on the topic at hand. A personal friend Skyler Skelton mentioned that he puts his best speech into action when talking to people of integrity or of a more advanced age, so that he would seem wiser and therefore assert his place amongst them. At the same time it has been shown that this method doesn't always hold true. Daniel Oppenheimer wrote a piece filed to psychology on the effects of the overuse of big

words. He held many tests on the effects made by this change of speech and found that it made people think that the use of big words was actually less knowledgeable of the subject at hand. He stated “Although students using complex vocabularies are objectively very knowledgeable, they might nonetheless be perceived as being less so” (Oppenheimer, 140). Of course to each person they have their own interpretation on the material, but I have found that proper English whilst talking to superiors shows respect and that is the most important part of language. We use big words to express our knowledge and identify as a learned person, but that isn’t the only way we use language to express ourselves.

Swearing has many connotations, from enhanced emotion to hate speech it is used widely when regular emotions cannot be expressed through our typical vocabulary. John M. Grohol Psy. D back this up by imputing “The addition of the swear word emphasizes the emotional reaction we have toward it — and easily conveys that emotional reaction to others.” Of course it is necessary to add that it works for situations bad and good. It is not bound by social class or circumstance. We find that this form of conversation is meant for a group that is comfortable with this type of language, as it can be a setback if a serious point is being made, or if the person that is being spoken to is against profanity. Many, including myself, use cursing to amplify stories or express anger or pain that would take too long to describe using my everyday vocabulary. I have a censor though, and only use this type of speech with those who I have grown accustomed to and know that this use of profanity won’t come off as offensive or hurtful. Some do not and it shows them as careless. English is a very powerful language that needs to be held with respect, but many respect their mother tongue just as much as English, which is why they keep the two alive.

Spanglish is a form of speech which combines English and Spanish words and grammar to make a completely new and ever-changing language. Used widely by the bilingual Hispanic-American community, this form of speech is used in many different circumstances. When someone is trying to learn English, it is easier to speak what you know and then add onto it as you learn. I had asked a friend of mine, Bryan Rodriguez, why he used Spanglish and what he told me was very intriguing. It seems that he categorizes people with his language, when he uses Spanish it is to show familiarity to friends and family, and to show respect amongst the people whose native language is Spanish, or share his culture. He uses English to distinguish himself as an American. When he doesn't know which form to use, he combines them into Spanglish, and proceeds until stopped. Jens Manuel Krogstad and Ana Gonzalez-Barrera show insight into why most people use it Spanglish by stating “(Bilinguals) Valued both the ability to speak English *and* to speak Spanish”. Language forms are intensely unique, so it is understood that people wouldn't want to be limited to just one. This type of speech shows their heritage along with their respect for where they are now, it helps the bilinguals identify with their culture and ours. By using English and Spanish it helps when the people are at a loss for words, but many fluent English speakers also stumble sometimes and can't think of the word that they are looking for, which is why they come up with slang.

Slang is a very common tactic in speech and text that takes a word and compresses it down to its most familiar part. It changes the word to jargon yet we know what this new ‘word’ is implying. Many people, including myself have found it a funner and easier way to express ourselves amongst the people that we feel comfortable using it in front of. Because it isn't academic speech most use it amongst friends or online to save time. It shows comfortability in

the fact that we can be easily misunderstood but we trust the person enough to interpret us correctly. It has also been said that we make up words in order to name an object or feeling that we don't know or have a word for. It was stated in YourDictionary, an online educational resource, that we use slang because it "keeps the language from getting stale". There are other theories written on this site on why we use slang. A very accurate reason is the "Slang freshens and enhances the English language by adding words that describe what people of the era are doing and feeling". It certainly does show how we choose to manipulate the words around us because we want to use it to convey our ideas in a very certain way. It identifies us as freshly spoken and brings up a happy connotation to our language, and thus hopefully our outlook on life. Knowing that we are not limited to what we already know.

In drawing to a close we have found about the different ways that we express our language, and its many uses. It was seen that the type of language and word choice that we use can actually affect how people perceive the message being given to them. It is seen that swearing and the use of profanity is used to enhance the emotion of the speaker's initial comment and it's desired response. Spanglish is used to show respect and a personal categorization of peoples, along with helping show the individual's identity within their culture. Slang is not only used to show comfortability, but also to expand our language in itself, past what we already know and are comfortable with. Our speaking patterns vary from person to person, but it expresses who we are and the message that we want to relay, and that is a very significant factor to most people's everyday lives. Again everyone talks differently, depending on who they are talking to and what they wish to convey to them. The way we use language shows a lot about ourselves and makes English, in my opinion, one of the most brilliant languages on this planet.

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