**Language and Thought**

Thinking skill of human doesn’t result from the language. But there is a close relation between language and thought. There are notions in language and these notions are referred by words. Notion is a general and abstract design of an object, a feeling or a thought in our mind. We refer to the notions with the words in our memory and we refer to the notions with these words. So, we apply the words when the thinking action which can be qualified as notions stream is formed. Also, we can apply the words when we try to understand the other’s thoughts and so we create our intellectual world through language. It is not possible to understand the thoughts of people through their facial expressions and behaviours. Concreteness of thouhts is possible with lingual plan of thoughts.

**Language and Culture**

There are various definitions for culture. Culture refers to the cumulative deposit of knowledge, experience, beliefs, material and spiritual values, attitudes, meanings, hierarchies, religion, notions of time, roles, spatial relations, concepts of the universe, and material objects and possessions acquired by a group of people in the course of generations through individual and group striving. A culture is a way of life of a group of people--the behaviors, beliefs, values, and symbols that they accept, generally without thinking about them, and that are passed along by communication and imitation from one generation to the next. Culture is communication, communication is culture. Culture is symbolic communication. Some of its symbols include a group's skills, knowledge, attitudes, values, and motives. The meanings of the symbols are learned and deliberately perpetuated in a society through its institutions.

Material culture constitutes from elements like architecture, clothes, tool and wares, and eating and drinking style. Elements like belief, traditions and art constitute the spiritual culture. These elements differ from in cultures.

Language helps us to understand the life-style and cultural structure of societies. Language is both the mirror of culture and the carrier of it. Language has an important function for transferring the cultural elements to the posterity.

The reflection of culture to the language can be seen in vocabulary related cultural items. For example, there are too many words related with agriculture in Turkish. These words show that agriculture has a big place in Turkish culture.

Proverbs and idioms reflect the language-culture relation clearly. Worldview of a society, perspective on life and feeling World can be understood from the proverbs and idioms. In other words, proverbs and idioms give an information about the cultural structure of a society. Proverbs and idioms in a language can’t be translated from one language to another directly. This situation shows the cultural difference and the relation between language and culture. For example, there are too many idioms for “bread” in Turkish like “earn one’s bread”, “earn one’s own keep”, “make a living the hard way”. These idioms show the importance of bread for Turkish people.

Changes in cultural life based on historical and social developments reflect to the language. For example, people used wood and coal to warm in old times but now they use natural gas. This change can be seen in language also.

**Development in Language**

Any language don’t remain unchanged as it earliest form. Language renews itself depending on social changes and developments. Language renews itself because it is a living entity. Innovation and process of the language occur with specific ways. These ways are shown below:

**Semantic change in word:** Some words change in time due to various reasons. For example, the Word “yavuz” ,“stern” in English, means “bad, thief” in the past but after a while the same Word means “strong, brave”. This change happens with semantic extension or semantic restriction. For example, the Word “yurt”, “native country” in English, means “big tent” in the past but after a while this Word has undergone the semantic extension change and it means “motherland”. This is the example for semantic extension change. It can be seen the semantic restriction in some words. For example, the Word “erik”, “plum” in English, was used for “peach, apricot and wild apricot” but now it is used for a fruit type.

**Reuse of archaisms:** Archaisms can be used again for the purpose of meeting a new notion or a foreign Word. The words like “Erdem”, “virtue” in English”; “yanıt”, “response” in English are started to use again.

Word Derivation: Changes in life style, technological innovations and new inventions reveal new notions. New words should be derived to meet these new notions. Thousands of words are derived in Turkish. For example, the word “bilgisayar” is derived for “computer”. The word “araç”, “vehicle” in English, is derived for Arabic word “vasıta”. There are lots of derived words in Turkish.

**Importance of Native Language**

Native language is the first language learned from family or society. Sensitiveness and cast of mind of person is related with his/her native language. Thinking and producing out of native language force the person to indirectness.

Person takes over the cultural heritage of society with his/her linguistic competence. Native language has a big importance for interiorising and maintaining the cultural heritage.

**Birth of Languages**

There isn’t certain information respecting when, where and how the languages was born. The reason of this uncertainty is the inefficacy of documents. The oldest docements belong to 5500 years ago. But the history of humanity dates to 1 million year ago. Although these challenges, researches are proceeded with the help of anthropology and psychology. And various theories were theorised. The most popular theories are like below:

**Bow-wow Theory**

According to this theory, some sounds in the nature consists of echoey. For example, click (crackle), pat (row) etc. Animal sounds are like these: fuzz (bark), miaou (miaow). Words based on sound imitation/echo are found in all languages. This circumstance shows that sound imitation/echo ground a common tendency.

**Pooh Pooh Theory**

According to some linguists, first lingual items are exclamations of people. For example, ah, alack, ugh etc. These exclamations are turned into words later and they meet some notions.

**Work Theory**

According to this theory, birth of languages based on collaborative work. Working is seen as the basic element to think and speak according to this theory.