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The Manipulative Language and the Need and Ways to Overcome It

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ABSTRACT

The article named “The Manipulative Language and the Need and Ways to Overcome it” is intended to shed light on the usage of language we often use. It is to remind us that the language we speak is manipulative and is harmful to various degrees. A healthy society requires healthy and unaffected usage of language. Language use in itself should be of healing rather than causing harm. This article suggests ways to overcome this habitual tendency and informs it's after affects subtly but convincingly.

The language that we use on an ultra regular basis is subjected to power. There is power in every word we speak. However, the power varies from one word to another, one phrase to other and so on, and it is this difference in the choice of language that gives power to people. Having the ability to talk appealingly does not require higher education and knowledge, but it requires some sort of higher intellectual ability.

Language is manipulative. There are different ways of using the power of language, i.e. with different intentions. Some people talk with good heart pounding in them, and many can be identified with affectations in the usage of language, i.e. without that heart in them. It is this heartless language that ascertains power that procures numerous problems in the world than mere actions would.

Let language be generated out of love, not the love for the self or narcissism but love for others because it is and should be that love that should determine the fate of the forward movement of the world actions and motives. Language can be used to express things that one may do not feel, as against its usage to convey one wants or feels. Language manipulation is largely connected to a fall in faithfulness, the deception to gain something, however small or big the reason is.

The power politics of language play wherein there is deception from the level of self is seen everywhere. It is seen in ourselves. It is a habit that can become a mentally degrading process. Because it involves a certain degree of self-deception, destroying the self is the

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hardest thing a person could do. It is only the self that carries us forward else life itself would plunge into darkness. But the most interesting process that can be found out is that when self-deception becomes a habit, adaptability occurs, and the individual no longer faces difficulty or mental difficulty to sustain faulty usage of language.

Language manipulation has thus become part and parcel of many lives. It is indeed difficult to get rid of the habitual instinct. But once there is an enormous change, not directed directly upon language or linguistic behaviours but upon the character. A character that is rooted in love has less psychological manipulations. If it is love that overrules a person's daily actions and choices, then it is easy for the person to be free from language manipulations. The person understands that it is against ethics and the morality that he/she maintains, even unknowingly, and will be true to the self as well as others.

Why is it necessary to get rid of manipulative language? The one and the only most faithful answer would be to lead a guiltless and therefore harmonious life, a life devoid of tensions and many problems. Yes, many problems do occur because of the language we use, and there is a disparity between what we know and what we present, what we feel and what we express, what is in our mind and what comes out through speech mechanism.

Then the question comes whether it is possible to overcome this tendency which has so much become a part of our lives. The answer that would be successfully employed and that can be put into action is that if a society can change its mindset, it would be easier to bring in the effect onto an individual but, it is ultimately the individuals that make up a society. Language is used in society to communicate with society. The language wouldn't have existed if there weren't a society or generally others. Had self-sufficiency of communicating to ourselves and self-centeredness with regard to language were in action, the need for a language wouldn't have occurred. So it is basically the others that determine our language use too. If an empathetic attitude towards others would creep in the minds, then naturally, the language too will become faithful. Sometimes language manipulation happens due to the thought of self-protecting, defending ourselves to not to become the target or victim of the listener. This, too, happens because of the lack of the element of empathy towards others. The thoughts that lead to claim this security would also be wrong because the understanding of the other wouldn't have taken place. So it is basically a venture to acknowledge others of having the same dignity as ourselves that we would be disheartened if the person whom we trust so much, or believe firmly without a doubt of crossing the truths, uses that manipulative language.

What is the solution to all these? It is only through practising the art of using true language

that we gain currency or flow of “free language use”. Children from the day they are conceived in the womb of their mothers should be exposed to faithful dealings. Let not the parents think one thing in their mind and speak out something else. Speaking truths and honesty have to be cultured from the beginning that they bring in an enormous change. But adults should transform themselves before they can perform the tasks for their children.

How can the transformation begin, proceed, and end? Yes, there are three stages for the process of transformation to complete. As anything to follow, there should be a beginning, a spark that acts as the fuel for the revolution in the usage of language, and that spark should begin at heart. My heart should pound with gratitude at first. A grateful heart is the seat of all goodness to come. There are many reasons for one to be grateful: life, nature, family, some privileges (there are privileges for every community) etc. Being happy and grateful (only those who are happy are grateful) thus can bring in the spark for transformation. The following up of that spark should happen through the constant revival of that feeling of gratitude along with trying to understand other people genuinely. Observing them is one of the helpful ways of being in tune to understand their thought processes and deeds. Empathizing with others constantly not only helps in sustaining the spark but to grow in it, to reach the level of the climax of the transformation. And the ending of the transformation will result in the change of usage of language. We attain some kind of self-actualization feel, but with humbleness to accept anybody and treat them with respect and love. The change in attitude results in a change of language, and one can easily identify you with that.

In the beginning, when language was spoken, it was so true and powerful that it is through the word of God that the entire universe has been created. The power of language has not disappeared, but it exists today in another form. That earlier usage of language had the power to give comfort to the people, but now the purpose of language use is to inflict harm to others in an attempt to defend our identity and selfhood. As we understand, it has only led to self-destruction, causing so many health and sociological issues. It thus becomes important to go back to the stage where there was harmony in the usage of language and where language can become medicinal, a curing panacea for all the affected.

Reference

The Author has borrowed the ideas narrowly from:

1. Jean Francois Lyotard, The Postmodern Condition (1979).
2. Ferdinand de Saussure, Course in General Linguistics (1916).
