

Language and Thought Control in Selected Literary Works

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Soubory tohoto záznamu



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Abstrakt:

This master thesis focuses on the idea of linguistic relativity. Specifically, it examines the extent to which language influences thought. With the aid of relevant sources, the main concepts concerning the linguistic relativity are described in the first part of the thesis. On the basis of this theoretical framework, the analysis of five literary works (Orwell's 1984, Rand's The Anthem, Delany's Babel-17, Heinlein's Gulf, and Vance's Languages of Pao) is conducted. The use of language in those works is observed and potential means of thought manipulation through language are described.

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A fundamental requirement for reading text is their passivity and accessibility to students. Investigating Language and Thought. How can such bold claims be substantiated beyond examination of individual languages themselves? If one takes the hypothesis seriously, it should be possible to show that Turks are more sensitive to evidence than are Americans, but that Americans are more aware of death than Turks. Clearly, the hypothesis cannot be supported on so grand a level. Rather, experimental psychologists and cognitive anthropologists have sought to find small differences, on controlled tasks, between speakers of various languages. Maybe Navajos are somewhat more sensitive to shapes Literature is generally subject to the 'law of evolutionary development. And though a man may do more than others by way of contributing to this development we should be chary of inferring upon him the medal of fatherhood. Not only was Chaucer's selection of one dialect out of the four a happy one, but so was his selection of one of the three languages which were reigning supreme in England at that time-Latin, French, and English. In fact. Latin and French were more fashionable than the poor "vernacular" English.