



LANGUAGES AND INFORMATION: ENGLISH AS A CASE STUDY

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All languages are inherited sets of information. From this perspective, English language is a set of inherited information. This explains why languages, including English, play important roles in shaping our minds and cultures. There are many plausible arguments which support this thesis, leading the way for its acceptance.

The Universe and the Mind

The English word "universe" is constructed from "uni-" and "verse". Thus, from the viewpoint of English, the universe is one verse, given that "uni-" means one. But verses are linguistic constructions and messages. Therefore, according to English, the universe is a single linguistic message. Here, English language possesses the inherited information that the universe is a linguistic message. This is a clear example of how English is an inherited set of information. We could also determine the rationality behind this specific inherited information in the following way: if the universe were not a linguistic message, then we would not be able to successfully read it and hence understand it. Therefore, the inherited information that the universe is a linguistic message explains why humans are successful in understanding and knowing the universe. In this sense, English language has its own unique mind, which consists of highly reliable and rational set of inherited information.

There are many other examples which successfully show that English is an inherited set of information. The word "conceive" in English means "to think of" and "to become pregnant". This indicates that, according to English, thinking is conceptually related to having a new life. And thus, our thoughts and ways of thinking are the causes behind the emergence of new ways of living. And, at a deepest level of analysis, English is implicitly holding the inherited information that thought depends on life and vice versa, given that the same word "conceive" means both "to think of" and "to become pregnant". The word "conceive" in itself consists of a set of inherited information due to the fact that it means two things instead of just one thing. This same method for obtaining the inherited information in English could be applied to other words in English. And it is also applicable to other languages, such that whenever a certain language has a word which means at least two different things, we could obtain the inherited information of that language through forming the connection between the two meanings of the same word. And this is why all languages are ultimately sets of inherited information.

From the same perspective, the word "mind" in English language is a set of inherited information because it has many meanings in English. "Mind" means in English the faculty of thought through which one thinks. And it also means "to be distressed or worried by", such as "I don't mind his presence", and it means at the same time "to regard as important or to feel concern about", such as "Never mind his opinion". This shows that, according to English, the faculty of thought is the cause of our worries and concerns, exactly as it is the

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source of our thoughts. And it is a fact that, in many instances, our thoughts are the causes behind our worries. English is implying here that the fact that we think and form ideas and thoughts is the real cause behind human anxiety and distress. English is implicitly holding this inherited information.

Information, Reality and Existence

In English, "formation" is linguistically derivable from "information" and vice versa. Thus, according to English language, the formation of the world is based on information, and information is obtained in light of the formation of the world. This shows that English language contains the previous inherited information about the relationship between the formation of the world and information. And thus, English is an inherited set of information. Another example of the fact that English is an inherited set of information is the following: in English, the words "real", "reality" and "realize" are linguistically derivable from each other. This implies that, according to English, reality is that which could be realized and vice versa. Therefore, English language contains the inherited information that reality is that which could be realized and vice versa. This also indicates that English is an inherited set of information.

The word "maintain" in English means different things, such as "to cause to exist", "to preserve", and "to assert". This shows that in English "to cause to exist" is conceptually related to the act of asserting, i.e. to language itself, such that the former entails the latter and vice versa. Thus, English language is implying the following inherited information: existence and the formation of existence are strongly shaped by language, exactly as languages are formed in light of the existing entities and structures. English is here maintaining that language has a causal role, i.e. it causes what exists instead of just being caused by what is in existence. This is another example of how English is an inherited set of information, and how this inherited information is usually very interesting.

Communication and Languages

The words "communication" and "community" in English are derived from the same Latin root "communis", which means common, public and general. Therefore, "communication" and "community" in English are linguistically derivable from each other. Thus, English entails the inherited information that one's communication is formed by one's community, and any community is shaped by its communication patterns. This additional example reveals that English is an interesting set of inherited information. In fact, all languages are interesting sets of inherited information. For instance, in Arabic, "tawasol", i.e. communication, is linguistically derivable from "wasala", i.e. "he connected". Therefore, according to Arabic language, communication is that which connects people. Here, Arabic contains the inherited information that communication is the mechanism which connects people. And thus, Arabic language is an inherited set of information, as all languages are.

Another example from Arabic language is the following: in Arabic, "marifa", i.e. knowledge, is linguistically derivable from "orf", i.e. tradition. Thus, according to Arabic, knowledge is based on tradition. This shows that Arabic language entails the inherited information that knowledge resides in tradition. And thus, Arabic language is an inherited set of information. All of this shows that both English and Arabic provide definitions and analyses of different concepts. And thus, both are inherited sets of information, leading to the general conclusion that language is an inherited set of information.

The fact that language is an inherited set of information is closely related to the fact that language is the best communication mechanism. We are successfully able to communicate through language because language is information. If language were not a set of information, it would be impossible for us to understand each other when we use it. And hence, it would be impossible for us to communicate. Languages are communication tools. But communication is an exchange of information. Therefore, languages are sets of information.

Cultures, Genes and Grammar

This theory of language has a strong explanatory power, i.e. it explains very interesting phenomena. Hence it is highly plausible. For example, since language is an inherited set of information, and given that people think and behave in light of their information, it follows that language strongly participates in forming

people's minds and behaviors. This is how this theory of language explains why and how languages shape our minds and our cultures.

The linguist and anthropologist Daniel Everett holds that the Piraha People in the Amazon jungle have a unique language which reveals that there is neither universal grammar nor language instinct shared by all human beings. This is so because their language lacks certain essential properties common among our known languages, such as English, French, Spanish and Arabic, and it has certain unique aspects which other languages don't share. For example, the Piraha language has no perfect tense, and the Piraha sentences can't possess subordinate clauses and embedded phrases. The Piraha people also communicate through singing, humming, yelling and whistling. And they confine their language to what they know about their environment. All of this shows, according to Everett, that the Piraha language is just a cultural tool which was developed only to fit the unique circumstances of its users. Everett concludes that language is the sum of cognition, culture and communication.

The thesis that language is a set of inherited information can successfully explain why language is a cultural tool formed by people's cognition, culture and communication. Since language is an inherited set of information, and given that cognition, culture and communication consist of certain mechanisms for preserving, processing and transmitting information, it is natural that language is the sum of cognition, culture and communication. Further, the thesis that languages are inherited sets of information also explains why language is probably a biological faculty and resides in our biological genes. And thus, this thesis reconciles between the theory that language is cultural and acquired, and the theory that language is biological and innate. It does so because it successfully explains the cultural and biological aspect of language, i.e. the biological dimension of language, as we will see, logically follows from the thesis that language is an inherited set of information, exactly as the cultural dimension does. Certain essential aspects of language are acquired, while other essential aspects of language are biologically innate. This is why we could successfully explain language as being cultural and biologically innate at the same time. In fact, language is both cultural and biological because language is an inherited set of information, as cultures and genes are.

Now, according to the linguist Noam Chomsky, language is universal and innate. It is universal in the sense that language is shared by all humans. And it is innate in the sense that language is born in our biological genes. Chomsky also maintains that language is a biological faculty, similar to seeing and hearing. This is why language is something which happens to us as humans. He also holds that all languages, such as English, French, Spanish, Hindi and Arabic, are just one language. And this is why, from the perspective of his theory, if an alien from outer space visits our Earth, he or she will hear only one language used by all humans instead of recognizing several different languages. In this paradigm, the diverse languages are nothing but different dialects of one single universal language common among all humans. According to Chomsky, there is a universal grammar controlling and forming each and every language on Earth. And the universal grammar is a set of parameters which need to be fixed. Chomsky adds that we speak in apparently diverse languages because the parameters of our universal grammar are fixed differently in accordance with the differences of our empirical experiences. Chomsky's basic argument for his theory of language is the following: any normal child is successfully able to form meaningful and grammatically accurate sentences, although he or she never heard these sentences before and didn't learn how to construct them. And, for Chomsky, the only explanation of this phenomenon is that language is universal and innate such that it is built into our genes.

The thesis that languages are inherited sets of information explains how it is possible that languages are built into our biological genes. Since languages are inherited sets of information, and given that biological genes are sets of information, it is natural that languages exist in our genes, as Chomsky's paradigm of language maintains. All of this reveals that the thesis that languages are inherited information successfully accounts for the biological dimension of language, as it successfully accounts for the cultural dimension of language. And thus, this thesis is successful in reconciling between Chomsky's theory and Everett's theory of language.

This thesis has many other virtues in addition to being successful in explaining the relationship between languages on one hand, and cultures and biological genes on the other hand. For example, it explains why many of our linguistic constructions are meaningful. Since language is an inherited information, and given that any information is meaningful (whether it is true or false, otherwise it is not informative), it is natural that many of our linguistic constructions are meaningful. This is how this theory of language accounts for the fact that many of our linguistic forms are meaningful. Moreover, any language has certain rules of grammar. But the rules of grammar are sets of inherited information in light of which we can successfully form linguistically accurate and meaningful sentences. Therefore, any language contains a set of inherited information. In other words, languages are constructed and used in accordance with their grammars. Yet grammars are sets of inherited information. Hence, languages are formed and used in light of their inherited information.

In conclusion, English language, as any other language, is an inherited set of information. This is so due to many different mechanisms, such as the derivative process within all languages, including English, and the fact that a single word in any language might have diverse meanings. Language has been playing an important role in our survival as a species because language is an inherited set of mostly reliable and rational information, as English language has demonstrated.

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