

Advantages of Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis Advantages* of Linguistics Determinism: – Language does exert great influence on patterns of thinking and therefore on culture – Language may reinforce certain ideas and push them into attention

Advantages of Linguistic Relativity: – There can be differences in the semantic associations of concepts

– Encoding of life experience in language is not exclusively accessible to everyone but only to members of that certain social group

– Linguistic structure doesn't constrain what people think but only influence what they routinely think

– Language reflects cultural preoccupations «Advantage» means in this context generally accepted or proved part of SWH. Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis by Ahmet Mesut Ateş

9. Disadvantages of Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis Whorf claimed (1940):

if, between two different languages, one has many words for closely related objects while other has relatively limited vocabulary users of L1 should have noted perceptually characteristics of the objects. Eskimo lang. English snow Countless words describing Relatively limited shape, location and form vocabulary BUT this doesn't prove English speaking people do not have the ability to distinguish characteristics. Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis by Ahmet Mesut Ateş

10. Disadvantages of Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis Sapir-Whorf hypothesis asserts that each language has a unique system and thus cross-cultural understanding is impossible. BUT we have:

– Perceptual universals (different languages may express the same thought)

– Cultural universal (each language has taboos, implements, slang) – Features to distinguish family and relatives (by seniority, biological bond or sex) – Languages may exhibit a shared attitude towards one thing (respect for elderly, objects of fear, concept of blasphemy) Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis by Ahmet Mesut Ateş

11. Disadvantages of Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis Sapir-Whorf hypothesis is self-conflicting. It claims that «language determines thought» but also «there is no limits to diversity of languages». If there is no limit to diversity language cannot determine thought to a great extent to be called «determination» rather than «influence». AND many scholars indicate that human thought is universal. Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis by Ahmet Mesut Ateş

12. Disadvantages of Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis • From a historical stand point it SHOULD be society and culture that determine language because social environment exert great influence upon perceptual ability. BUT decisive factor is NOT the language. • If language determines the world view there would be NO class consciousness because every member of the society would view the world same and think by the same thinking patterns. Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis by Ahmet Mesut Ateş

CONCLUSION:

Whorf may not have been right on all counts, but he was not wrong either. The fact that language plays a role in shaping our thoughts, in modifying our perception and in creating reality is irrefutable. Gipper phrased the question properly when he asked; to what extent does language influence us? In view of the positive (favorable to the hypothesis), or neutral results which the different tests have yielded, it would seem that the question of linguistic relativity is still a subject of controversy today. Although the search for linguistic universals has been intensified, it will be impossible to determine what is universal, if we don't know what is particular. Linguistic forms and grammatical categories need not appear so different, if their functions are similar.

