

Re: I need help explaining basic linguistic concepts to a lay person

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Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2006-01/msg02357.html>

- *From:* "Heidi Graw" <heidigraw@xxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 23 Jan 2006 22:37:45 GMT
-

>"Jayne Kulikauskas" <jayne.kulikauskas@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
>news:1138029695.891988.243370@xx
>
> (snip)

>Jayne wrote:

> I'm pretty sure she isn't stupid. I've seen her converse intelligently
> on many subjects. I see the problem as Heidi having no understanding
> of the value (or limitations) of expertise. She appears to believe
> that all opinions are equally valid. I think it's a post-modernism
> thing.

Jayne, it's not so much that I believe all opinions are valid, but rather just as you say I'm considering "the value (or limitations) of expertise." Quite often we do see professionals disagree with one another. I'm also keenly aware that experts don't know everything even if it involves their own specialized field of interest. And when I see that happening, I tend to remain "non-committal" until such a time as one of those professionals comes up with something that just makes an enormous amount of sense to me.

There have been occasions when I've sided with someone, only to switch my opinion once additional or new information came to light. As for limitations of expertise, we see that over and over again. One thing I try not to do is to allow someone's initials behind their names to colour my perception. Just because someone may have that PhD doesn't mean they are an authority on anything at all. I look at what they are writing. What is it they are trying to say? If what they write makes sense, fine. If not, I dismiss it.

Sometimes I take the time to read assorted philosophical works. Well...LOL...now there's a field that greatly amuses me. Some of the nuttiest ideas are celebrated as enlightened and intelligent thinking. When I come across things like that, I just have to laugh and think to myself, "Just how much more retarded can such a philosopher be?" If one has the wealth and the connections, one can have the most dumbest things promoted as intelligent. Oh well...sometimes I can't help but think we're all passengers on that Narrenschiff. ;-)

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Heidi

• ***Follow-Ups:***

- ◆ ***Re: I need help explaining basic linguistic concepts to a lay person***
◇ *From:* jayne.kulikauskas@xxxxxxxxxx

• ***References:***

- ◆ ***Re: I need help explaining basic linguistic concepts to a lay person***
◇ *From:* Jayne Kulikauskas
- Prev by Date: ***Re: Erica Reiner – Obituary***
- Next by Date: ***Re: Pseudo-cleft `who'***
- Previous by thread: ***Re: I need help explaining basic linguistic concepts to a lay person***
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