

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/msg02360.html>

- *From:* "jayne.kulikauskas@xxxxxxxx" <jayne.kulikauskas@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 23 Jan 2006 15:30:39 -0800
-

Heidi Graw wrote:

>>"Jayne Kulikauskas" <jayne.kulikauskas@xxxxxxxx> 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.

But, in this case, you clearly don't have enough background knowledge to assess the relative merits of what people are saying. Using what makes sense to you as your criterion is not working. You are making a fool of yourself.

> 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.

In order to get a PhD one must be an authority on something. I gather that you do not have much formal post-secondary education. You really

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don't seem to understand how and what people learn at university.

- > 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. ;-)

Linguistics is a science; philosophy is not. You ought not to be judging them the same way.

Jayne

• ***Follow-Ups:***

- ◆ ***Re: I need help explaining basic linguistic concepts to a lay person***
◇ *From: Heidi Graw*

• ***References:***

- ◆ ***Re: I need help explaining basic linguistic concepts to a lay person***
◇ *From: Jayne Kulikauskas*
- ◆ ***Re: I need help explaining basic linguistic concepts to a lay person***
◇ *From: Heidi Graw*

- Prev by Date: ***Re: Pseudo-cleft ``who''***
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