

Re: Settling an Argument – Assembly *IS* a Language, Right?

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"Raymond S. Wise" <implsray@xxxxxxxxxxx> writes:

By what reasoning should "[t]he main point of an Esperanto convention...be cultural exchange (which mainly involves language exchange), with Esperanto as a handy backup language"? The point of Esperanto conventions is to encourage the use of Esperanto.

But preserving the diversity of national languages is paramount, and Esperanto should take a back seat to that. The only way that Esperanto can coexist with language preservation is by reserving this artificial language as a last resort.

Think about it: If you had Esperanto conventions where most people spoke in national languages most of the time, then you would find critics criticizing Esperantists on **that** score!

Again, you are showing that worshipping Esperanto is your biggest priority. Think more about how you can practise national languages with the foreigners you meet before you think determining the public's view of Esperanto's capabilities.

I could say "Linguistics is a cult, simple as that," and make as much sense as that statement of yours.

Linguists don't condemn and ostacize people curious about other fields, botany and mathematics for example. Many Esperantists, however, claim that wanting to practise other languages is a betrayal of their values. Linguistics doesn't have hymn–like communal songs about how great their pursuit is and how it's the salvation of mankind, the Esperanto movement does.

Christopher Culver

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