

WRT 205

Developing a focused explainer topic

As I've been reading through others' suggested additions to our canon, here are some issues that especially interest me:

- linguistic distance, as highlighted in Mike's article on football, explored with a wider lens
- intersection between linguistic diversity and sign language (inspo from Michaela's blog)
- receptive diversity and how it applies to countries with larger populations such as India (Issac's article)

Here are some ways in which these issues connect to other things we've read and/or to prior interests I have:

- The topics above expand my research interests in linguistic diversity which Mike especially touches on describing how more culturally and thus language diverse teams perform better
- Michaela's media element on Elise Roy raised awareness for whom I consider when discussing language i.e. thinking about deaf people who do not process the same communication style language-typical groups have
- Lera Boroditsky (TEDTalk I chose) described how bias/ narrow our research is (i.e. usually based on American English-speaking undergraduates) which prompts my interest in exploring studies from other perspectives/ contexts such as in India
 - o similarly, my research article noted this limitation and direction for future research including investigating if their current study could be generalizable to other cultural contexts/ a more homogenous country (e.g. Japan)

Looking at this list of connections, highlight key foundational concepts/ideas/ terminology—list those here.

- linguistic diversity
- shift/ global spread of languages
- social attitudes/ perceptions of speakers
- limitations, bias, and untapped areas for future research

Review your list to the left—which of these issues do you think a person would need to understand in order to understand why this broader topic interests you? Circle them and prioritize—what's really important? What really intrigues you? Why?

- **why language is so crucial / pervades any form of communication**
- understanding position of privilege (i.e. being a native speaker and American English speaker)
- social context
 - o bilingual upbringing
 - o multilingual, culturally rich societies we grow up in (take NYC for example)
 - o **education system of how language is taught and/or perceived**
- current rate of languages across the world is declining (estimated loss of language per week – I'd like to find out more on this and why?)
- **effect embracing/ endorsing language diversity has in organizational settings (work, sports, school, home...)**
 - o really interesting to see how the mind works differently from culture to culture
 - o analyzing perceptual decisions

Frame your project statement here: I think [X] is a really important topic in organizational culture, so I'm going to explain this foundational idea [Y] to you all. [In other words, you're going to focus on some very specific component that is essential to our understanding of the larger whole; you're going to articulate both the small bit and the Big Picture here.]

I think understanding the educational system of how language is taught and perceived is a really important topic in organizational culture, so I'm going to explain how it affects all of us at transdisciplinary scales.