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Materia: LENGUA EXTRANJERA “INGLÉS”

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Trabajo Práctico N° 2

Jueves 12 de marzo

Tema: Taller Inicial Multidisciplinar - “How language shapes how we see the world and nature”

Actividades: Lectura del texto sobre la manera en que los idiomas moldean el modo de ver el mundo y la naturaleza. Puesta en común y debate. Responder preguntas de comprensión lectora.

a) Read the text:

HOW LANGUAGE SHAPES HOW WE SEE THE WORLD AND NATURE

1. Language and Colours: Seeing the World Differently

Let's start with colours. Imagine arguing with a friend about whether a shirt is blue or green. Different languages can make us see colours in different ways. For example, in Russian, there are two different words for light blue and dark blue. Because of this, Russian speakers notice these shades more easily than English speakers, who just call everything “blue”. And then there's how we talk about directions. Some people use “left” and “right” to describe where things are, but in some Indigenous Australian languages, people use “north,” “south,” “east,” and “west” instead. This means they always know where they are, like having a compass in their brain!

2. Gender in Language: Words that Change How We Think

Did you know that some languages give gender to objects? In German, the word for “bridge” is feminine, so people often describe bridges as “beautiful” or “elegant.” In Spanish, “bridge” is masculine, so they describe it as “strong” or “sturdy.” The gender of words can change how we think about the things they represent, even if we don't realise it.

3. Language and Nature: Seeing the World as Alive

Now, let's talk about how we see nature. In some Indigenous languages, like those spoken by Native American tribes in the Pacific Northwest, natural things like rivers and trees are seen as alive. These languages treat nature as if it had its own life. So, people who speak these languages might respect and care for nature especially, because to them, it's like the trees and rivers are living beings. This shows that the way we talk about the environment can affect how we treat it.

4. Time and Language: How We Think About Time

What do you think about time? Do you imagine it as a straight line, with the past behind you and the future ahead? In English, that's pretty common. But in some other languages, people see time differently. For example, in Mandarin Chinese, people might imagine the past as being “up” and the future as “down.” And in the Hopi language, spoken by the Hopi people in the United States, time isn't really about the past, present, or future. It's more about whether something is happening right now. Language can totally change how we think about time!

Remember ...

So, next time you describe something, remember that your words do more than just name things. They shape how you see and think about the world. Whether it's the colours you see, how you think about time, or how you feel about nature, language is quietly guiding your thoughts. And with so many languages in the world, each one offers a new way to see things. Pretty cool, right?



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b) Answer these questions:

1. Why do Russian speakers notice light blue and dark blue more easily?
2. Which common word do people in Germany use to describe a bridge? Why?
3. How do some Indigenous languages of the Pacific Northwest see rivers and trees?
4. How do many English speakers imagine time?
5. How does language shape our thoughts?

c) Find words in the text that match the following definitions.

1. Small differences or varieties of a colour: _____
2. Strong and solid; unlikely to break: _____
3. To have a feeling of deep admiration for something/someone: _____
4. Completely or entirely: _____
5. Leading or showing the way: _____

d) Complete the sentences using the correct form of the word in brackets.

1. The _____ (DIFFER) between how Russians and English speakers see blue is linked to language.
2. Learning a new language can change your _____ (PERCEIVE) of time.
3. Some tribes have a more _____ (RESPECT) relationship with the environment.
4. Many people don't _____ (REALISATION) that their thoughts are shaped by grammar.
5. The _____ (BEAUTIFUL) of a bridge might be emphasized more in German than in Spanish.