

Application of Human Language and the Theoretical Differences: A Comparative analysis on Ferdinand de Saussure and Karl Popper

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Abstract

The concept of language is too broad to be defined in a single expression. In general languages are forms of symbolic representation. Certain meanings are represented through the use of other certain symbols. The definition may be used for formal languages as well as for natural languages. This paper attempted to explore philosophical account of human language based on two eminent thinkers. They are Ferdinand de Saussure and Karl Popper. Saussure points out a triple classification viz; Langage, Langue and Parole. Langage is the ability to use a system for communicating ideas and feelings using sounds, gestures, signs, or marks. This skill is peculiar to humans. Langue refers to the ideal Abstract system composed of socially conventional symbols viz English, Turkish and etc. Parole expresses the actual use of language in real environment conditions. Karl Popper classified four functions of language viz; Manifestation of oneself, sign interchange, description and argumentation. He proposed that animals are similar to humans in the first two and basic functions. But animals are different from humans in that they cannot set forth descriptions and argumentations. Since there are chaos in explaining the use of language, it leads to think the actual use of language. The research problem is that what are the factors determined the differences. On that basis, the objective of the study is to analyze the conceptual explanation of the said thinkers and bring a conclusion about the usage of language. Qualitative research method was employed to carry out the study. Saussure's Course in General Linguistics and Karl Popper's Objective knowledge were taken as primary sources for the study. Based on the derived data, critical analysis was carried out. Mind is core to create language and make differences. The upper level and lower-level functions of language make augmentation and debate on language usage.

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