

Seminar 4. Language and culture

Перейдіть за посиланням із відео-лекцією
«How Language Shapes the Way We Think» (Lera Boroditsky, TED Talks):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKK7wGAYP6k&t=493s>
Виконайте завдання.

1.1 What do you know about TED Talks? What is their task and what is special about the speeches represented there?

1.2 Find information about the speaker. What is Lera Boroditsky famous for? What is the sphere of her scientific interest?

1.3 Watch the video.

1.4 Translate the following active vocabulary from the video into Ukrainian:

to transmit thoughts to one another	
to make tones, hisses and puffs	
to hit eardrums	
to craft reality	
bizarre new idea	
scientific data	
to stay oriented	
to get an agreement	
cognitive ability	
to be locked in a landscape	
to keep track of exact quantities	
to divide up the colour spectrum	
to put boundaries between colours	
to perceptually discriminate colours	
to shift slowly	
categorical distinction	
gender (feminine, masculine, neuter)	
consequences	
might be less/more likely to remember	
profoundly shape	
lay out space and time	
perceptual decision	
blame and punishment	
ingenious and flexible	
narrow and biased	

1.5 Answer the questions to the video:

- 1) What is the main function of language?
- 2) What did Charlemagne and Shakespeare's Juliet say about language? Why does the speaker use these quotations?
- 3) What do you find out about Kuuk Thaayorre people? What is special about the way they describe space? How do they say "Hello"?
- 3) What does the experiment with the audience prove? Why do Kuuk Thaayorre children stay oriented in space better than most people present at the talk?
- 4) How do speakers of different languages organize their time? Give examples.
- 5) Why can't some peoples count objects?
- 6) How do different languages divide up the colour spectrum?
- 7) How does gender differ across languages?
- 8) How do different languages describe different events?
- 9) Does linguistic diversity increase or decline nowadays? Why?
- 10) What are the main effects of language?
- 11) In what ways does the language influence the way we think?

2. Prepare information and answer the questions about the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis:

- 1) What does the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis say about the connection between language, psychology and culture?
- 2) What are the strong and weak points of this hypothesis?
- 3) What is the difference between linguistic relativity and linguistic determinism? Which approach does L. Boroditsky follow?
- 4) How is the hypothesis connected with culture and ethnic issues?