

LANGUAGE, POWER & DEVELOPMENT

Lecturer

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Course Description

This course focuses on the relationship between LANGUAGE (the ability to think *clearly* and express your thoughts *precisely*), POWER (ability to *influence* others), and personal / national DEVELOPMENT.

Emphasis is placed on the identification and management of the perception process, stages in our cognitive development, the influence of our emotions and often unwarranted assumptions on our thinking, enculturation, and language in various forms of communication. We will discuss the concept of *critical thinking* and sharpen our skills by reviewing the basic principles of inductive and deductive logic, fallacious reasoning, and problem-solving techniques.

Finally, we will consider the role of Language and Language Policy in the national development of a multicultural society, such as Papua New Guinea.

Objective

To develop students' problem-solving skills through reasoning/ critical thinking

Outcomes

You will gain an in-depth understanding of the concepts of Language, Power and Development, and of the correlation between them.

Contact

60 hrs (2 lectures and 2 tutorials per week)

Prerequisites None

Assessment

Continuous assessment: 60 % [One Practical Assignment (10%), 4 tutorial assignments (10 % each), and attendance (10%)]

Final examination - 40 %

Recommended Texts

Handouts from the Internet and lecture notes will be provided

Gary R. Kirby and Jeffrey R. Goodpaster: *Thinking* (1999) – chapters from this book, as well as last year's lecture notes, are available on the UPNG intranet.

Lecture Schedule (subject to change, as we go along!)

Week 1	Organizational Matters Introduction to the Course: Concepts of Language, Power, and Development; Focus on the relationship between Language and Thought
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Week 2	<p>“Natural” Thinking vs. Critical Thinking Critical thinking in the context of general cognitive development (Piaget’s 4 stages of cognitive development).</p>
Week 3	<p>Perceptions & Critical Thinking Perceptual blocks to clear and critical thinking: personal barriers, sensing, and physiology</p>
Week 4	<p>Expectations / Schemata, Assumptions & Emotions in Critical Thinking Ego Defenses</p>
Week 5	<p>The Sensing – Thinking Connection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better sensing = better thinking? ▪ The Power of Our Senses: to Inform, and to Deceive <p>Language & Thought</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Linguistic Determinism ▪ Linguistic Relativism ▪ The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis ▪ Enculturation
Week 6	<p>Language – Our Thinking Medium Analysis of the Use of Language in Thinking and Argument Denotation vs. Connotation Ambiguity (Lexical & Structural)</p>
Week 7	<p>Mechanics of Thought: Parts of Speech: Functions of Words in the Sentence Two Principles of English Sentence Structure: Nexus & Modification Connecting Rod: the Finite Verb</p>
Week 8	<p>Persuasion and Influence What is Argument? General Rules Constructing a Logical Argument: Persuasive Logic Message Characteristics: Persuasive Style Inductive and Deductive Arguments</p>
Week 9	<p>Inductive Arguments: Arguments by Example Arguments by Analogy Arguments from Authority Arguments about Causes</p>
Week 10	<p>Deductive Arguments: Syllogism Modus Ponens Modus Tollens Hypothetical Syllogism Disjunctive Syllogism Dilemma</p>
Week 11	<p>Logical Fallacies</p>
Week 12	<p>Logical Fallacies</p>
Week 13	<p>Power Coercive Power (when people are <i>forced</i> to obey) Reward Power (when one has something that others want) Legitimate Power (authority by status/ social hierarchy /position) Referent Power (personal charisma, charm, influence, fame) Expert Power (power of knowledge).</p>
Week 14	<p>Development: Language Policy & PNG National Development</p>
Week 15	<p>Revision</p>