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**Thought - Language – Communication**

[Inspiredfrom the article by Christos Tsolakis: *“Language and Thought”* (11.09.1997). Minutes of the Daily convention: “Rights of the less spoken languages of the European Union”, Brussels-Athens (1998), pp. 52-68]

Could there be thoughts without language? And if so, could they be expressed without the use of some signs or language? On the other hand, could there be language without thoughts? What would there be to say or write, if man didn’t think. Perhaps, this could be food for thought: what would happen or how would people survive if they didn’t communicate through some commonly understood system that would signal what they needed or felt or wanted to express.

Our thoughts and feelings are usually expressed through language. We use words (written and/or oral language); in other cases, we use sign language or body language. What it boils down to, if we didn’t have some kind of language to express our thinking, we couldn’t easily communicate. People without language may sketch or paint something, in order to show what they want to say; or they will use their voice, but in an incomprehensible, to others, way (cry-κραυγή).

Languages, and maybe even some of our ways of thinking, are social products of a cultural communication system. One language may have a different way of “thinking” and “expressing” itself from another. So, to say the same thing in Greek or in English or Spanish, certain expressions are used – besides the fact that there are differences in Grammar and syntax. Thus, we use different words that have different connotations, even though they may allude to the same meaning of things. These connotations are, like language, a cultural product. So, language, like gestures, like the way we think in this or the other language, is also different in its way of ‘inner structure’ besides the fact that it has a whole history and development behind it; and also, languages accept influences and words from foreign vocabularies, so they keep evolving.

Cultures, therefore, have similarities, but also differences. If we get to know one culture, we must understand the way the particular language functions along with the meaning of words, and so on. That would also help us to communicate and, thus, to understand ‘the other person’ better.