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ENGL 400

Journal Entry #1:

1) How does Keough's article define "terministic screen"?

2) What is the relationship between 'sexist language' and 'terministic screen'? How does the notion of "terministic screen" explain the use of sexist language (historically)?

1) In the article, Keough's defines terministic screen as the trigger or starting point for humans' thoughts in a specific subject matter. This means that as soon as terminologies are accepted by the society, they turn out to reflect reality. There on, people start transforming and twisting "reality", which is empowered for example by people's different perspective, background, and culture.

2) In the absence of androgynous terms across different linguistic terminologies, "words or actions which arbitrarily assign roles to people based upon sex or gender" (Keough, p. 3), language is prone to be called sexist language. This is because language over time, has not developed as quickly as the role of women has in nowadays societies. Therefore, language is antique. Terminologies or phrases reflect the exclusion of women. The following quotes: "Man and His World" or "Man and His Laws" (Keough, p. 8); are some examples of how women are not necessarily included. Thus, they are forced to identify themselves with such masculine terms.

The relationship between sexist language and terministic screen is that people utilize expressions and connotations which years ago truly meant what they portray. The reality at that time, when men were superior than women. But now, those terminologies are still being used by a completely different society and system. For this reason, what was seen normal and common language years ago, now is seen as sexist language. People have changed their perspective and have deflected what reality used to be before.

The notion of terministic screen explains the use of sexist language because the lack of identification that women experience. In the past, women were seen as the inferior gender and only had a limited role in society. But nowadays, women have emerged and has the same power as men do. The problem is that people are already so used to linguistic terminologies where women are undermined, that language is therefore sexist. In order to change and stop sexist language, people need to start communicating with an unbiased or genderless language.