Sirena Walsh

01/31/2019

English 400

Journal Entry on ‘Terministic Screen’

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

Keough’s article defines “terministic screen” as “a definition of reality” (page 5). With this description, he further goes to mention how language is a way that shapes our thinking. With this, a terministic screen isn’t limited to a specific language but it is in fact, all language. With the terministic screen, it seems as if when it is used, certain words start to feel like reality and so these words than become relevant for the future. For instance, when terministic screens are implicated, some language is “accepted as reflecting reality, the term influences the selection and deflection of future observations.” (page 6).

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)?

The relationship between sexist language and terministic screen is that “sexist language does operate as a terministic screen and contributes to sexism” (page 5). Going off of this, he then continues to state, “the implication of terministic screens is that once a linguistic terminology is accepted as reflecting reality, the term influences the selection and deflection of future observations” (page 6). This quote relates to how sexist language can be implicated into sexism by using certain terms that stick. These terms don’t tell the whole truth, just a selection of it which becomes the reflection and ultimately shapes the way we talk about sexism. When one terminology is accepted in the past, it is hard to change reality in terms of words and the way they are implied. The past language has an impact on the future and the way words are to be understood, good or bad.