

ENG522 GDB SOLUTION SPRING 2023

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QUESTION:

“Write a conclusion that synthesizes the key insights from the readings and discussions on language and identity.” Explain your stance in 170-200 words.

SOLUTION:

Language and social identity are closely related. The language(s) we speak and the way we use language can reflect and shape our social identities, and the different ways we identify ourselves in relation to others.

A person's identity can be influenced by different factors (parents, peers, and region) at different ages. These factors can affect a person's language use.

During childhood, a person's language will mirror that of their parents because they are the ones they will interact with the most.

When speakers reach secondary school, they may begin to adopt the language characteristics of their peers as they socialize with more social groups.

A person's regional identity will be shown through the use of a regional accent. It can change to capture the characteristics of different regions, for example, if one moves to another region for a certain period of time.

Language and Identity - Key Points

- A person's identity can be revealed through their use of language.
- A person's identity is often influenced by the social groups they belong to.
- Social factors that can contribute to one's identity are region, gender, age, occupation, class, and ethnicity.
- Some key theorists in language and identity include M. Halliday, G. Ives, C. Llamas, and M. Nelson.
- Oppositional language is used by groups of people who want an alternative to 'normal' society and a secret identity.

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