

Student's name: _____
Grade: Twelve ()
Subject: English



Al Naser Modern Schools
Secondary Department
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Quiz (4)

Read the text and then answer the following questions:

Have you heard that the Inuit have hundreds of different words for snow? The theory goes that because snow is so much more present in their lives, and often of vital importance, they actually perceive it differently, and recognise more subtle distinctions between different types of snow and ice than those of us living in warmer climes. In fact, this theory is something of a myth, not least because there isn't a single Inuit language, but a variety of dialects. However, recent research has shown that there is at least some truth in the idea that these dialects have more ways of distinguishing different types of snow than many other languages do. The key question though, isn't really whether there are more words to describe frozen water so much as whether this implies that the languages spoken by the Inuit mould the way they conceive of the world. This concept is referred to as linguistic relativity or, more famously, the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, after two scientists who both wrote, separately, about this idea. There is certainly plenty of evidence that different languages (and cultures) appear to see the world through different filters. For example, speakers of Guugu Yimithirr, a language used in North Queensland, Australia, would always refer to someone's position using the words for the directions: north, south, east and west. As a result, speakers of Guugu Yimithirr will naturally be far better than most of us at instantly knowing which direction they are facing. To give another example, you may assume that counting is a universal human trait, but in fact, not all languages have numbers. Some indigenous people of the Amazon rainforest in Brazil simply distinguish between a smaller amount and a larger amount. European languages also differ in the way they see the world. For example, the word for bridge has a masculine gender in Spanish and a feminine gender in German.

1. How do the Inuit perceive snow?
2. Quote the sentence which indicates the truth of the Inuit theory.
3. Three examples were given to show how language affects the way we understand the world. Write them down.
4. What is this concept referred to?
5. According to the text, speakers of Guugu Yimithirr will be good at something. What is it?
6. What does the underlined pronoun refer to?
7. Find a word in the text which means **a particular characteristic or a way of behaving**.
8. learning a foreign language helps in promoting the global understanding. Think of this statement and in two sentences, Write down your point of view.

Best Of Luck

7. Ala'a Al Sharif ☺