Over the years, competence in the English language has continuously become the basis of human intelligence in the Philippines. Filipinos are being dramatically biased to others who speak fluent English. They often see them as people of remarkable intellect.

Learning a foreign language like English is a process of acquisition that takes a lot of practice and immersion. One has to spend time and effort to be able to master it. Therefore it is viewed as a challenging language to attain. In some countries like South Korea, Japan, and China where people devote extra money to enroll themselves in English academy only shows that English, indeed, is a necessity. Hence, if a person converses articulately in English, then he is regarded as brilliant.

In the Philippines, this notion has developed into a dispute. People start to argue about English as the basis of intelligence. Even known personalities shared their opinions about the subject. Two of the most discussed views were from Jericho Arceo and Marian Rivera.

Jericho Arceo is a YouTube vlogger. He posts about random informative topics that he debates logically, based on facts and research. One of his video uploads concern the misconception that has been circling around the Philippines. There he claims that English is a language and not a knowledge. Furthermore, he also reasons that people who are good in English falls under the category Verbal-Linguistic of Howard Gardner’s Theory of Multiple Intelligences. Which, counteracts his claim. If being good in English is not a knowledge, then why did he support it with a theory of intelligence? If that’s case, what does that make English besides it being a language?
Another opinion that heats up the topic is from the Prime time Queen actress Marian Rivera. In one of her interviews, she admits that her English is not good. She even adds that if English is the basis of intelligence, then she doesn’t want to be intellectual.

While it is true that it is unfair English has become a reference of intelligence, it is also true that English is a form of knowledge that a person can acquire. And at the same time, it is a language that Filipinos adapt from Americans.

Evidently, English is both knowledge and language.

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