IS ENGLISH PROFICIENCY A MEASURE OF INTELLIGENCE?

by:
Joaldean M. Apostol
Orani National High School Parang-Parang

There are memes spreading in Facebook that if being fluent in English is a measure of intelligence then they don’t want to be intelligent anymore. However, it is perceived that these people who are believing in this statement are those who speak terrible English. Moreover, people who speak poor English are labelled as stupid and those who are fluent in English are connoted as intelligent. Relatively, this perception is senseless. At the same time, proficiency in English as a measure of intelligence is still debatable in connection with how someone defines intelligence.

Merriam-Webster defined intelligence as the ability to grasp knowledge or the ability to adapt in a new situation. Human intelligence is described as the rational ability of human associated to giving sound opinion, being aware of the environment, self-awareness and preferences, which is according to psychology. Therefore, human has the intellectual capacity to recognize patterns, grasps and comprehend notions, provide sensible reasoning, make sound decisions and verbally skilled in communicating.

Conversely, intelligence can be measured through intelligence quotient where cognitive ability of a person is relative to one’s age. In order to get someone’s IQ score, mental age is divided by chronological age and the result will be multiplied by 100. Consequently, how do we relate English proficiency to human intelligence?

Verbal linguistic intelligence or the use of language articulately is being measured through verbal fluency test and ability to learn new language. People who are verbally articulate are usually skilled in reading, telling stories, writing and memorization. From this point of view, English proficiency is a measure of intelligence, people who are good in English are accustomed to the agreements and rules in constructing meaningful sentences.
or verses. The ability to comprehend texts, to compose and create literature are also manifesting intelligence.

In relation to the definition of intelligence, that the ability to procure knowledge and apply knowledge into situation connotes the person as intelligent therefore English proficiency is a measure of intelligence.

References:


https://lostboy.blog/2017/03/10/is-english-a-measure-of-intelligence/