

LANGUAGE LIBERATION IS CRUCIAL

Language can be a key factor in achieving equal and inclusive relationships. Let me first clarify the following terms, as we have come to use them in RC:

1) Interpreting is the word for oral translation. An interpreter is the person doing this job.

2) Translation is the word for written translation. A translator is the person doing this job.

3) Interpretation (as opposed to interpreting), in our context, does not describe the work of oral translation. It refers to a person's performance, to his or her interpretation of a test, film, parchment, scroll, play, message, and so on. [Editor's note: We do still refer to sign language interpretation when oral presentations are translated into sign language for deaf people.]

4) A mother tongue is the first language a person receives in a natural way from her or his environment (mainly via mum* in our societies in which sexism pushes men away from caring). It could also be the person's own mother's language. We could describe it as the "father tongue" if (in the case of bilingual people, for instance) it reached someone mainly by means of his or her dad.

When we are speaking about language liberation, we are talking about equal relationships among us. Language liberation is crucial, both outside and within RC.

EQUAL RELATIONSHIPS

Equal relationships are important in our RC project because we necessarily need to develop peer relationships (see Guideline A.2 of the 2009 Guidelines for the Re-evaluation Counseling Communities) to guarantee everybody's re-emergence. Languages have been, and still are, used to reinforce classism, sexism, and racism—that is, to prevent human unity and support capitalism's lifestyle of isolation and separation. Some people

play the oppressor role; others are in the oppressed role. In general, the people who play the oppressor role are monolingual and speak "principal" languages. Speaking these languages can make them feel superior, better, more intelligent, developed, interesting, current, modern, and so on. They may act like "I will not include you (sometimes unconsciously) in my conversation, my session, my support group, the topic group, my goals and policies, my life." This is not true. Everybody wants everyone to be included in everything and benefits when inclusion happens. It is only distress patterns that make us feel that we do not want others in our life, or that other people don't matter to us.

On the other hand, the speakers of "non-principal" languages are generally excluded and made to feel ashamed, inferior, less than, not as intelligent and capable, and so on. This, of course, is not true either. All human beings on this planet are innately intelligent and essential.

As in other oppressions, people caught in the oppressor role have difficulty being aware of it; oppressed people notice it much more easily and quickly. So, both sides have a lot to learn and discharge about both sides and now we have the opportunity and space to wipe away oppression. This is a piece of the whole effort that we want to do together.

We can achieve language liberation and reclaim equal relationships through different ways; all of them are valid. And we can now use what we are learning about language oppression and language liberation to achieve inclusion even faster. It's going to be good for all of us. Inclusion will help us in this.

I am looking forward to doing this with you.

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* Mum means mother.