

Gonzalo Fernandez-Mediavilla

10/2/2018

ESSAY 2-Take a few moments to consider the academic schedule you are following; now consider the role language plays in each of the classes you have undertaken.

The way information is transferred requires the emitter and the receiver to have a common language code. This is, in fact, the most important thing to consider if we want to have a full understanding of the subject we are being taught or told. In my case, being a mechanical engineer makes the language be something essential to succeed in my professional career. This school year I am using three different types of coding: math and all that is related to numbers, algebra and physics, and English.

Engineering is all about imagination and desire of innovation. These both can not go alone without some math knowledge. Two of the classes I am taking are Calculus 3 and Ordinary Differential Equations, which cover very advanced mathematics. In these kinds of subjects, English or any other spoken language is not the only way to get information, in fact, math is a language itself. The way a teacher explains how to solve problems is essential. Taking notes in these types of classes is completely different than others. This is because copying every number I see on the board is useless; it is the fundamental background and the reason of doing something a certain way what makes the difference between passing and failing.

On the other hand, I am taking two physics classes. One of them is called “physics” and the other one is named “statics”. I consider that this last one should be in this group because it covers similar information. Physics is the study of motion; therefore, numbers are important here too. It is not the same saying a car is travelling 40 than 80 miles per hour; however, in my opinion, that is just math. It is very significant that I get to understand the physical fundamentals and properties, which involve a lot of algebra knowledge. Once I enter one of these classes, my mind must hit the switch and start thinking beyond letters and numbers. The role of language is a main point to consider here. My teacher must be able to make the students imagine a physical world related to the basic physical relations, using English as an intermediate, and the students must be able to relate these equations to the real world.

Finally, I have UNIV 150 as my English class. This has a completely opposite way of understanding. Language here is focused on showing the correct use of English. In my case, English is my secondary language, so taking notes is hard for me. Sometimes I do not get all the idioms or expressions used during an explanation, and asking questions has become one of my daily concerns. Another thing that makes this class difficult is using English to write essays. I have never written in this language before.

In this 5 classes I am taking language is used very different. In fact, in some subjects, languages don't look alike and hitting the switch in my brain all the time makes it very challenging. Fortunately, math is a universal language so, as my major is mechanical engineering, I will not have much problem of understanding since I have used math almost my entire life.

