
Gordon Allport grew up in Indiana and attended Harvard College; he majored in philosophy and economics and is now a professor at Harvard in the psychology department. He is known for his research on racial prejudices. Allport provides examples of many linguistic generalizations that are used in modern society. He gives examples of: nouns that are used to classify and/or cancel out certain groups of people, labels that are commonly used towards a subject or group of people that provoke human emotion, the use of words that blame other groups of people, and lastly the use of words that act as negative symbols towards a group or idea. One example that Allport provides is the noun, Chinese. More than likely, one will associate generalizations with a person being described as Chinese. For instance, this noun may spark generalizations such as impoverished and resistant. This is a prejudice because it is a distraction from what is real. Allport argues that without words our world would be even more complex, however, with the mere existence of words we develop many generalizations that we should learn to be more conscious of. The essay was written for a general audience.

Henry Louis Gates Jr., an African American professor at Alphonse Fletcher University and director of African American research at Harvard University, gives the reader a short excerpt from a moment in his childhood where he experienced racism. Gates uses this one key experience to exemplify the cruel aspects of racial classification that many groups of people face. In his example, a young Gates and his father have ice cream in a public market when an older Caucasian man walks by and calls Gates’ father, “George” because he calls every Black man by that name. Gates explains that his father explained the situation in a passive tone. He concludes by stating that he now remembers the situation only as “one of those things” and that those types of experiences can affect the group that’s being attacked, but the same group that’s being attacked often cannot have any effect on the attacking group. Gates describes that these prejudices have always been here and are hard to eliminate. Gates writes for a general audience.

Hsiang, Grace. “FOBs” vs. “Twinkie”s: The new Discrimination is Interracial. Language Awareness. Ed. Paul Eschholz, Alfred Rosa, and Virginia Clark. 10th ed. Boston: Bedford/St.Martin’s, 2009.306-307.Print. Grace Hsiang grew up in San Jose, California and graduated with a degree in literacy journalism from UC Irvine. She has been published in many magazines and news services. This particular piece of writing was written for news service and focuses on racism within the Asian community. In Hsiang’s piece, she explains in detail the type of racism that goes on in the Asian American community. She uses examples from a discussion in her sociology class when students were asked to share their experiences with racism. Many of the students that spoke were of Asian descent and spoke about discrimination within their community because they
were either “too Asian” (FOBs) or “too whitewashed” (Twinkies). In one example, Hsiang writes tension between two Vietnamese coworkers because if one spoke Vietnamese to the other, the other would yell or pretend that she did not understand the language. She writes that there is a trend among young Asian Americans to boast about how “un-Asian” they are. She uses the experiences of the students in her class to make a point that we should avoid internal discrimination within our cultural communities and instead celebrate our cultures as a whole.

Naylor, Gloria. “The Meanings of a Word”. Language Awareness. Ed. Paul Eschholz, Alfred Rosa, and Virginia Clark. 10th ed. Boston: Bedford/St.Martin’s, 2009. 291-294. Print. Gloria Naylor is an African American novelist and essayist that grew up in New York City and attended Brooklyn College. She has also developed the African American Studies program at Yale University for graduate students. She writes about the lives of African American women and incorporates her personal experiences. Naylor writes about one event in her childhood to describe the use and power of the “N” word inside and outside of the African community. She writes about a time when she was in grade school and a Caucasian boy called her the N word. As a child, even though she did not know what the word meant, she knew that it was derogatory and something that the boy should not have said to her. She then explains that she had often heard the word used within the African American community in a more acceptable ways to describe people in positive lights. Naylor argues that the word can have different meanings and concludes with a story of her mother explaining to her as a child what the word meant.
Russinova, Zlatka, Shanta Griffin, Philippe Bloch, Nancy Wewiorski, and Ilina Rosoklija.

"Workplace Prejudice and Discrimination Toward Individuals with Mental Illnesses."

*Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation* 35.3 (2011): 228-35. Web. 17 Dec. 2012. Zlatka Russinova, Shanta Griffin, Philippe Bloch, Nancy J. Wewiorski and Ilina Rosoklija are a group of psychological researchers that created a 5 year study on a group of people working while possessing a mental illness. They found that many people working with mental illness encounter daily prejudices and stereotypes; they also found that this behavior is a barrier against recovery of mental illness. For instance, a man with bipolar disorder was questioned by his boss when he pointed out many negative aspects in a report he was told to review. In turn, the man’s boss questioned his work ability and proceeded to personally monitor all of his assignments. The man ended up quitting his job because he felt so much unnecessary pressure. Another man working with mental illness in a more inviting work environment never experienced such problems. The researchers concluded that if those with mental illness were to work in an environment free of prejudice, they would make better employees make improvements in their recovery. This article was designed for a scientific audience.

Steinem, Gloria. “In defense of the Chick Flick”. *Language Awareness*. Ed. Paul Eschholz, Alfred Rosa, and Virginia Clark.10th ed. Boston: Bedford/St.Martin’s, 2009.302-303.Print. Gloria Steinem is one of the leading advocates for woman’s rights today. She graduated from Smith College and has published many articles and books on woman’s rights. In this passage, she argues that many of the phrases we use today are misogynistic. She uses an example of a man on a plane that groaned when he heard the
title for a movie that would be shown on the plane and complained that the movie was a “chick flick.” Steinem writes that it is this type of bias that creates linguistic sexism within our society. She also poses new words that women can use to describe movies and novels for men. Sarcastically, she proposes we use the term, “prick flick” to describe movies that involve gore and violence. She concludes with her theory that whoever is less powerful in any situation gets an adjective to describe them. For instance, women are seen as less powerful so they will receive negative titles. Steinem believes that this is unfair, yet it happens all of the time.

Zeisler, Andi. “The B-Word? You Betcha”. Language Awareness. Ed. Paul Eschholz, Alfred Rosa, and Virginia Clark. 10th ed. Boston: Bedford/St.Martin’s, 2009. 297-300. Print. Andi Zeisler is the cofounder and editor of a non-profit independent feminist magazine titled, Bitch: Feminist Response to Pop Culture. She grew up in New York and graduated from Colorado College with a degree in fine art. She has contributed many articles to many different publications. Zeisler uses political examples to describe sexism in modern day America. She uses one key example of Hillary Clinton being called a ‘Bitch’ by a reporter when speaking to presidential candidate, John McCain, and McMain shrugging the word off and avoiding a response to it. Zeisler explains that the word still has a very negative connotation, and that she would like the connotation of the word to change and represent “mouthy, smart women.” She then goes on to say that with this new definition, she wants the next president to be a bitch. She concludes by stating that these types of words need to be addressed in order to move forward in language.