

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"There was speech in their dumbness, language in their very gesture."

Shakespeare, The Winter's Tale.

"God, that all-powerful creator of nature and architect of the world, has impressed man with no character so proper to distinguish him from other animals, as by the faculty of speech."

Quintilian

"Language- human language, - after all, is but little better than the croak and cackle of fowls, and other utterances of brute nature, - sometimes not so adequate."

Hawthorne

"...Philologists, who chase
A panting syllable through time and space,
Start it at home, and hunt it in the dark,
To Gaul, to Greece, and into Noah's Ark."

Cowper, Retirement

"Stability in language is synonymous with Rigor Mortis."

Ernest Weekley

"We ain't what we want to be, and we ain't what we're goin to be, but we ain't what we wuz."

South Carolina mountain proverb

"England and America are two countries separated by the same language."

G. B. Shaw

"No nation knows itself until it knows its past."

Ben Ames Williams

"The myrtle that grows among thorns is a myrtle still."

Talmud

"What are names but air?"

Coleridge

"Mend your speech a little, lest it mar your fortune."

Shakespeare, King Lear.

"The palest ink is better than the most retentive memory."

Chinese proverb

"Who climbs the grammar-tree, distinctly knows

Where noun and verb and participle grows."

Dryden

"The spoken word is the foundation of all language."

Linguaphone motto

"The word makes men free. Whoever cannot express himself is a slave. Speaking is an act of freedom; the word is freedom itself."

Ludwig Fenerbach

"The minimum grammar is no grammar at all."

Giuseppe Peano

"Order is Heaven's first law."

Alexander Pope

"Language exists only when it is listened to as well as spoken. The hearer is an indispensable partner."

John Dewey

"Upon the ability to translate ideas and political policies into terms that have the same meaning to all who use them depends the outcome of the peace of the world for all time."

**Editorial, "In the Beginning Was the Word,"
Saturday, Review of Literature (October, 1941)**

"What we frankly give, forever is our own."

Granville

"Language is not an abstract construction of the learned, or of dictionary makers, but is something arising out of the work, needs, ties, joys, affections, tastes, of long generations of humanity, and has its bases broad and low, close to the ground."

Walt Whitman, "Slang in America"

"All slang is metaphor, and all metaphor is poetry."

G. K. Chesterton

"Lots of people who don't say 'ain't' ain't eatin'!"

"Dizzy" Dean

"Language is a city to the building of which every human being brought a stone."

Emerson

"Language most shows a man; speak, that I may see thee!"

Ben Johnson

"In the beginning was the word; and the word was with God, and the word was God."

John 1:1

"They shall speak with new tongues."

Mark, 16:17

"Next to God, thy parents."

William Penn

"With words alone, you don't make the soup."

Rumanian proverb

"Language is a steed that carries one into a far country."

Arab proverb

"Whatever was required to be done, the circumlocution office was beforehand with all the public departments in the art of perceiving - how not to do it."

Dickens, Little Dorrit

"The superstition in which we were brought up never loses its power over us, even after we understand it."

Lessing

"Supernatural is the laziest word in the vocabulary of ignorance. Nothing is supernatural, because nothing can transcend the laws of nature."

Louis K. Anspacher

"Without reprieve, adjudged to death
For want of well pronouncing shibboleth."

Milton

"We have room but for one language here and that is the English language, for we intend to see that the crucible turns our people out as Americans of American nationality and not as dwellers in a polyglot boarding-house."

Theodore Roosevelt

"Language is as much an art and as sure a refuge as painting or music or literature."

Jane Ellen Harrison

"Science and art belong to the whole world, and before them vanish the barriers of nationality."

Goethe

"The pen is the tongue of the mind."

Cervantes

"Understandest thou what thou readest?"

"How can I, except some man should guide me?"

Acts, 8:30-31

"Smells, colors, and sounds are in direct correspondence."

Bandelaire

"Proverbs are the wisdom of peoples."

Italian proverb

"Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth."

Genesis 11:9

"The man who knows no foreign language knows nothing of his mother tongue."

Goethe

"In richness, good sense, and terse convenience, no other of the living languages may be put beside English."

Jakob Grimm

"I have shown that the German language needs reforming."

Mark Twain, "The Awful German Language"

"The Russian is strong on three foundations: "perhaps," "never mind," and "somehow."

Russian proverb

"But, for my own part, it was Greek to me."

Shakespeare, Julius Caesar

"And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech."

Genesis, 11:1

"One picture is worth many thousands of words."

Chinese proverb

"Language, as well as the faculty of speech, was the immediate gift of God."

Noah Webster

"You speak Middle Country Language? "

(literal translation of the Chinese phrase for "Do you speak Chinese?")

"What is healthy to a Russian is death to a German."

Russian proverb

"No man fully capable of his own language ever masters another."

G. B. Shaw, Maxims for Revolution

"Interpreting is not everybody's art."

Luther

"Egad, I think the interpreter is the hardest to be understood of the two!"

R. B. Sheridan, The Critic

"Long Friday number one piccininni belong king belong you and me'e marry."

From Pidgin English account of wedding of Princess Elizabeth published at Lae, New Guinea.

"That language is the best which, at every single point, is easiest to the greatest possible number of human beings."

Jespersen

"Here you have a very carefully wrought plan for an international language, capable of very wide transactions of practical business and interchange of ideas."

Winston Churchill (speech advocating Basic English as a world tongue, September 7, 1943)

"A world language is more important for mankind at the present moment than any conceivable advance in television or telephony."

Lewis Mumford

"A living language is like a man suffering incessantly from small hemorrhages, and what it needs above all else is constant transactions of new blood from other tongues. The day the gates go up, that day it begins to die."

H. L. Mencken, from The American Language, 1919;

"When we see men grow old and die at a certain time one after another, from century to century, we laugh at the elixir that promises to prolong life to a thousand years; and with equal justice may the lexicographer be derided, who, being able to produce no example of a nation that has preserved their words and phrases from mutability, shall imagine that his dictionary can embalm his language, and secure it from corruption and decay..."

Dr. Samuel Johnson, from his Preface to A Dictionary of the English Language, 1755.

"The English language is the sea which receives tributaries from every region under heaven."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

"The genius of the language is the power that guides and controls its progress."

Logan Pearsall Smith

"We each of us possess, in a greater or less degree, what the German call "speech-feeling," a sense of what is worthy of adoption and what should be avoided and condemned. This in almost all of us is an instinctive process; we feel the advantages or disadvantages of new forms and new distinctions, although we should be hard put to it to give a reason for our feeling. We know, for instance, that it is now wrong to say "much" rather than "many thanks," though Shakespeare used the phrase; that "much happier" is right, though the old "much happy" is wrong, and that 'very must in many cases take the place once occupied by much. We say a picture was 'hung', but a murderer was 'hanged', often, perhaps, without being conscious that we make the distinction...

Grammarians can help this corporate will by registering its decrees and extending its analogies; but they fight against it in vain. They were not able to banish the imperfect passive, "the house is being built," which some of them declared was."

Anonymous

"The last Englishman left will be an Indian."

Malcolm Muggeridge;

"English is probably the most important link language in science. That's because science developed in the UK., and then, of course, in the US, particularly after the last war, at such tremendous growth that most scientist find it easier to get along with each other if they know English."

Professor Yash Pal, India's Department of Science and Technology.

"We Americans are still moving and communicating from one part of the country to another. As easterners and midwesterners continue to move to the sun belt, the local Florida and Texas speech patterns will be diluted; as people continue to leave large cities for small ones and for rural areas, pockets of local dialects will tend to weaken or disappear. Perhaps someday in the future regional dialects will be no more. Then we may have only two dialects, that of educated, urban Americans and that of rural and poor Americans."

Stuart Flexner in 'I Hear America Talking'.

"Beware of heard, a dreadful word
That looks like beard and sounds like bird,
And dead; It's said like bed, not bead-
For goodness' sake, don't call it deed!"

An advice to foreign students (anonymous)

"The Sanskrit language shared with Greek and Latin a stronger affinity...than could possibly have been produced by accident; so strong, indeed, that no philologist could

examine them all three, without believing them to have sprung from some common source, which, perhaps, no longer exists."

Sir William Jones, announcing to the Asiatic society in Calcutta on 2 February 1786.

"English is destined to be in the next and succeeding centuries more generally the language of the world than Latin was in the last or French is in the present age. The reason for this is obvious, because the increasing population in America, and their universal connection and correspondence with all nations will, aided by the influence of England in the world, whether great or small, force their language into general use..."

John Adams in 1780

"Our misapprehension of the nature of language has occasioned a greater waste of time, and effort, and genius, than all the other mistakes and delusions with which humanity has been afflicted. It has retarded immeasurably our physical knowledge of every kind, and vitiated what it could not retard."

A. B. Johnson, A Treatise On Language.

"Language completely interpenetrates direct experience. For most persons every experience, real or potential, is saturated with verbalism. This perhaps explains why so many nature lovers do not feel that they are truly in touch with nature until they have mastered the names of a great many flowers and trees, as though the primary world of reality were a verbal one, and as though one couldn't get close to nature unless one first mastered the terminology that somehow magically expresses it. It is this constant interplay between language and experience which removes language from the cold status of such purely and simply symbolic systems as mathematical symbolism or flag signaling."

Edward Sapir

"These correspondences are a matter of historical detail, but their significance was overwhelming, since they showed that human action, in the mass, is not altogether haphazard, but may proceed with regularity even in so unimportant a matter as the manner of pronouncing the individual sounds within the flow of speech."

Bloomfield

"Human beings do not live in the objective world alone, nor alone in the world of social activity as ordinarily understood, but are very much at the mercy of the particular language which has become the medium of expression for their society. It is quite an illusion to imagine that one adjusts to reality essentially without the use of language and that language is merely an incidental means of solving specific problems of communication or reflection. The fact of the matter is that the 'real world' is to a large extent unconsciously built upon the language habits of the group...we see and hear and otherwise experience very largely as we do because the language habits of our community predispose choices of interpretation."

Edward Sapir;

"For every disciplined effort there is a multiple reward."

Jim Rohn

"The great end of life is not knowledge but action."

Thomas Henry Huxley

"To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Life is not a static thing. The only people who do not change their minds are incompetents in asylums who can't and those in cemeteries."

Everett Dirksen

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

Theodore Roosevelt,

"If you do what you've always done, you'll get what you've always gotten."

Anonymous

"A musician must make music, an artist must paint, a poet must write, if he is to be ultimately at peace with himself."

Abraham Maslow

"If a man hasn't discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

"He who knows much about others may be learned, but he who understands himself is more intelligent. He who controls others may be powerful, but he who has mastered himself is mightier still."

Lao-Tsu, Tao The King,

"Man is not the creature of circumstances.
Circumstances are the creatures of men."

Benjamin Disraeli

"Whatever kind of word thou speakest, the like shall thou hear."

Greek proverb

"That which is achieved the most, still has the whole if its future yet to be achieved."

Lao-Tsu, Tao The King

"Little things affect little minds."

Benjamin Disraeli

"The chemist who can extract from his heart's elements compassion, respect, longing, patience, regret, surprise, and forgiveness and compound them into one can create that atom which is called love."

Kahlil Gibran

"If you could only love enough, you could be the most powerful person in the world."

Emmett Fox

"May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sunshine warm on your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again,...may God hold you softly in the palm of his hand."

Irish blessing

"Man is not the sum of what he has but the totality of what he does not yet have, of what he might have."

Jean Paul Sartre

"It's a funny thing about life, if you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it."

W. Somerset Maugham

"Things do not change, we change."

Henry David Thoreau;

"It is the mind that maketh good or ill,
That maketh wretch or happy, rich or poor."

Edmund Spenser

"The meeting of preparation with opportunity generates the offspring we call luck."

Anthony Robbins

"The ancestor of every action is a thought."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Man is what he believes."

Antony Chekhov

"One doubts are traitors, And make us lose the good we oft might win, by fearing to attempt."

William Shakespeare

"There is no sadder sight than a young pessimist."

Mark Twain

"Don't find fault, find a remedy."

Henry Ford

"Nothing has any power over me other than that which I give it through my conscious thoughts."

Anthony Robbins

"The man who is bigger than his job keeps cool. He does not lose his head, he refuses to become rattled, to fly off in a temper. The man who would control others must be able to control himself. There is something admirable, something inspiring, something soul-stirring about a man who displays coolness and courage under extremely trying circumstances. A good temper is not only a business asset. It is the secret of health. The longer you live, the more you will learn that a disordered temper breeds a disordered body."

B. C. Forbes;