CHAPTER 2. LANGUAGE

PART 1. Linguistic Arbitrariness

Genesis 11:1-9

1. Now the whole world had
one language and a common speech.
2. As men moved eastward, they found a plain
in Shinar시나이 and settled there.
3. They said to each other, "Come, let's
make bricks and bake them thoroughly404."
They used brick instead of stone, and tar for
mortar.
4. Then they said, **"Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered212 over the face of the whole earth."**
5. But the LORD하나님 came down to see the city
and the tower that the men were building.
6. The LORD said, **"If as one people speaking the [same/different] language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.**
7. Come, let us go down and [unify/confuse] their language so they will not understand each other."
8. So the LORD scattered them from there
over all the earth, and they stopped **[to build/building]** the city.
9. **That is [because/why]** it was called Babel -
because there the LORD confused
the language of the whole world. From there
the LORD **[gathered/scattered]** them over
the face of the whole earth.



Linguistic Arbitrariness

In linguistics, arbitrariness157 is the **[presence/absence]**359 of any natural or necessary connection between a word's meaning and its sound or form. An antithesis675 to sound symbolism, which does **[inhibit/exhibit]**210 an apparent121 connection between sound and sense, arbitrariness is one of the characteristics shared between all languages.

As *R. L. Trask* points out in *Language - The Basics*:

"the overwhelming200 **[presence/absence]** of arbitrariness in language is the chief716 reason it takes so long **[to learn/learning]** the vocabulary of a foreign language."

Trask goes on to use the example of trying to guess the names of creatures in a foreign language based on the sound and form alone, providing a list of words – "zaldi, igel, txori, oilo, behi, sagu," which mean "horse, frog, bird, hen, cow, and mouse **[respectfully/respectively]**89" – then observing that arbitrariness is not **[universal/unique]** to humans but instead exists within all forms of communication.

Naming/Labeling 명명하기

"To name is to call into existence - to call out of nothingness," wrote French philosopher Georges Gusdorf. Words give you a tool to create **[what/how]** you perceive109 the world by naming and **[label/labeling]** what you experience. You **[hesitantly/undoubtedly]** learned in your elementary초등 science class **[where/that]** Sir Isaac Newton discovered gravity125. It would be more accurate187 to say that he **[labeled/discovered]** rather than **[labeled/discovered]** it. His use of the word gravity gave us a **[cognitive/physical]** category; we now **[conserve/converse]** about the pull of the earth's forces that keeps us **[flying/from flying]** into space. Words give us the symbolic vehicles427 to communicate our creations and discoveries to others.