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English 201H

Reading Expert – March 27, 2012

In the article, “Sex, Lies and Conversation; Why Is It So Hard for Men and Women to Talk to Each Other?”, Deborah Tannen explores the psychological differences in communication that make it and for men and woman to communicate. She explains that many times woman feel as if men are not listening to them when they speak. However, men really are listening. The reason for this problem starts at the peak of every man and woman’s childhood. At an early age, psychologists have examined that when a girl is trying to build a friendship with another person of the same sex they communicate by sharing secrets and common ground. This causes woman to see “conversation as the cornerstone of friendship” With that being said, woman expect to build that same intimacy and friendship with their partner through conversation. On the other hand, at a very early age, men build friendships by doing things together rather than talking. Also, at an early age It has been engraved in men that being a listener is something seen as belittling. For this reason, many men have trouble actually listening to their wives. Another study found that when woman communicate, they make eye contact along with positive feedback and encouragement, this is the opposite for men. When men are speaking or being spoken to they tend to look away as they speak or someone is speaking, they do not make any comments of positive feedback, and they tend to quickly dismiss the problem at hand. The fact that the way men and woman communicate has been so different since childhood, makes it important for men and woman to both try and understand these differences. Understanding such differences can help men and woman to effectively communicate and adapt to one another’s communication styles.

I thought this article was a very interesting. I can agree and say that I have been a witness to the differences in communication between men and woman. I think it is very important for men and woman to understand that we are very different in the way we communicate. While woman build relationships with people by communicating and finding common grounds, men build relationships by exhibiting their accomplishments and opinions. I believe that anyone who is married should understand the common differences between men and woman because they can improve a marriage tremendously.

Works Cited

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Each Other?”. *The Washington Post*. 24 June 1990. Web. 27 March 2012.

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