

Language & Culture

Chapter 4 (Class ___)

Name _____

ID _____

Moran states on pg. 34 that “...*This lesson on the use of tu et vous in French is one among many that I’ve learned over the years. Like all French students, I learned the linguistic forms early on, with all of the appropriate verb endings for tu and for vous, but the lessons on appropriate use, or culture started with my first encounter with French speakers and have continued to this day.*”

Explain exactly what Moran is referring to in the above statement.

Language and Cultural Perspectives

“*Language also reflects and embodies perspectives. We use language to name and understand the perceptions, values, attitudes, and beliefs that govern our way of life.*” The ubiquitous bumper-sticker probably represents at the *grass-roots* level, one of the most insightful vignettes of culture in North America, albeit in a simplistic and humorous manner.

Go to this site: http://www.cafepress.com/ibs_store and click on one of the links to the left of the site for a category. After you choose your category, write down the sayings from at least three bumper stickers and do your best to interpret the meaning of each. **First**, however, do your best to interpret the meaning of those that I have captured below.

1



1. _____

2



2. _____

3



3. _____

4



4. _____

Sayings that you have captured from the above site:

▶ _____

Interpretation

▶ _____

Interpretation

▶ _____

Interpretation

On pg. 37, Moran quite aptly points out that “...*To participate* (in a culture) *appropriately, one needs to say the right words in the right way at the right time.*” The study of sociolinguistics and pragmatics guides us with the knowledge that we need to be aware of that goes beyond the linguistic rules of a language in order to communicate competently within a culture.

Go to this site: <http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/> and click on an idiomatic expression in the section that is named, **Try it out: Random Idioms**. Write the idiom on the first line below and then the real meaning and a fictitious meaning, which you have created to read to your classmates. Please make sure that your written English does not reveal to your classmates that the other choice is the correct meaning.

Idiom: _____

Real Meaning

Fictional Meaning

On pg. 37, Moran states that “...*Words, phrases, idioms, expressions – when we examine what they mean – reveal values, attitudes, and beliefs intrinsic to the culture.*”

I have embedded below, an example of a cultural product (episode from a TV sitcom) from America that clearly illustrates just how difficult it is to interpret culture without being familiar with its language. Do your best to interpret the excerpt from the sitcom, Frasier, highlighting the language that you believe conveys the humor in this vignette.

Idioms / expressions

Underlying theme

Click on the Box

