Hobbes and Rousseau

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Introduction

Ever heard about Hobbes and Rousseau? These are few of the most renowned philosophers of the history. People generally believe that both the philosophers do not have significant amount of commonalities. The purpose of this paper is to highlight the commonalities between Hobbes and Rousseau, the importance each philosopher places over the usage of language, how do they think language allow people to do certain things or to prevent them from doing and lastly the difference in their opinions about the role of language in the welfare of human beings.

Commonalities between Hobbes and Rousseau

Hobbes and Rousseau had quite a few things common in their writings. For instance, the advocacy for developing the political rule by the consent of people remained one of the most important aspects of the commonalities traced in the works of Hobbes and Rousseau. Also, both Hobbes and Rousseau favored the establishment of the human communities in a very systematic manner (Morgan 2011, 100). This was mainly because the philosophers believe that when people agree to some covenants, the strength of the prospects for preserving the members of a great society through the impact of social contracts tend to increase.

Importance of Language for Each Philosopher

The focus of Hobbes towards language was related to the anthropological importance of language. Hobbes believes that language was an important aspect towards analyzing the history and anthropology of different civilizations. Hobbes presented an inter-subjective theory of language focusing towards its meaning and cognition. Similarly, Rousseau also considered language an important aspect of the historical evaluations. According to Rousseau, the first

words must have been sung rather than spoken. Rousseau believed that language facilitate people to socialize and become more interactive (Cohen 2010, 2).

Thinking about Language

Hobbes and Rousseau both have differential concepts about language allowing us to do and preventing us from doing. Hobbes believed that language facilitate us to communicate and understand the feelings of others whereas Rousseau believed that language is important for making others understand what you are trying to say and to elaborate over the historical evaluations. On the other hand, Hobbes believed that language prevents us from getting lost in this world and from presuming things whereas Rousseau suggested that language prevent us from losing the connection from the past and ensuring positive development of the future societies (Morgan 2011, 100).

Language's Role in Human Welfare

The role of language in the human welfare was accepted by both Hobbes and Rousseau. Hobbes suggested that human welfare can be ensured through appropriate usage of language because it has immense power to influence and impact the community development in an effective manner (Mintz 2010, 15). On the other hand, Rousseau believed that appropriate usage of language can ensure the usage of modern political, social and educational development and facilitate people to develop better communities and political rule by consent.

Conclusion

Understanding philosophy is not an easy thing to do until and unless people have a clear focus and determination to do so. Hobbes and Rousseau are assumed to be few of the most famous philosophers of their times. The purpose of this paper was to highlight the basic differences and commonalities between both the philosophers majorly focusing over language. In

order to conclude, it can be suggested that both Hobbes and Rousseau were keen to create the important elements like language and political rule by consent in order to develop human communities in an effective manner.

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