

LBST 330

Response paper 2

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Reflection: The leading ideas connecting Monica Vilhauer paper “Gadamer and the Game of Understanding” and Tao Ruspoli’s movie “Being in the world”

After reading and watching the weekly assigned material I came to the conclusion that both resources refer to philosophical hermeneutics; in other words how we see and we interpret the world.

Vilhauer’s paper presents Gadamer’s philosophical hermeneutics centred on “the play” as a basic concept for the process of all understanding. Tao Ruspoli’s movie illustrates Heidegger’s philosophical model of interpretation by presenting a few skilful characters who have the most meaningful existence possible and who are able to grip the comprehension of others, who do not have their skills.

For achieving understanding, Gadamer’s model requests us to commit to a genuine participation with each other, to ethically listen and respond and to take each other seriously. Through the dialogue-play, Vilhauer’s work emphasizes the candidness toward one’s dialogue partner, the enthusiasm to learn from him during dialog as crucial ethical conditions of genuine understanding and own development as human beings. Although Gadamer’s hermeneutics has the power to develop understanding for the ones who are seeing the mutual understanding as a “valuable pursuit for our common good” (Vilhauer 2013), Gadamer’s model is unable to assist us when others refuse the dialog.

The documentary “Being in the world” enables me to foresee the ways in which we can pursue mastery and reach others comprehension. One of the movie quotes, "If you can choose anything—or manipulate things in any way you want, you're a sovereign of a land of nothing. You're a king without a castle", opened my eyes to the fact that we have multiple choices in which we can express ourselves in a way so as to reach other peoples hearts.

Ruspoli’s documentary inspires us to develop our skills and talents in order to transform into experts who are able to grip other’s attention and understanding. The filmmaker helps us see just what this means in fascinating portraits of a Japanese master craftsperson, a soul-food cook in New Orleans, and several jazz musicians who have mastered the art of improvisation and how they contribute to humanities’ development and global understanding.

Reflection on HOW TO DO your research project(s)

I wish I knew and consulted the assigned reading materials before I worked on my first tutorial. At that time, I had no sense of what I was doing. My only perception was that I had to choose a topic and write my tutorial on something that I mastered which were sports, languages and teaching.

I was not sure if my research was able to convey my experience as an ESL instructor in Spain, to my audience. It was hard for me to think of a way to transfer my emotions and experiences into text. Now after I reviewed Vilhauer paper “Gadamer and the Game of Understanding” and I saw Ruspoli’s movie “Being in the world”, I have a better

understanding of how I could make myself understood to my audience. How I have to deal with my research and interpretation of data and how to turn my results into a certain form that will reach my audience's attention and hearts.

My next tutorial is on education, and I'm thinking about taping one of my classes in Vancouver and one in Spain, and compare the way classes were managed in both places. I could also have interviews with teachers on how they handle their classes or explore creative ideas of teaching.

I could video tape and interview one of my Spanish or Canadian students on how they feel about my class and how we could create a better learning environment. Although, I am not sure that for my current tutorial I have the time and liberty to deviate from the outline, I will try to include as much photographic material, I collected during my research in Spain, as possible.

For my next tutorial who's topic will be on Sports, I will make sure to take my adviser to the classes and competitions that I have with my little swimmers.