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Response paper #3, Arrival movie

Words form the basis of all reality. Without a proper “language”, true understanding cannot be achieved. This is evident in the film *Arrival*, where understanding is only achieved through a dialogical relationship between humans and aliens (the Other). As well, it is important to approach research with different perspectives, as exemplified by Banks and Donnoelly. In the film, Donnoelly uses the scientific approach, whereas Banks uses linguistics. Combined, these two approaches allow for true understanding and create a new philosophical approach. This film and its approaches to knowledge tie into the philosophical approaches introduced in Ruspoli’s film from last week. The film is also comparable to the concept of “play” introduced by Vilhauer. Banks’ approach to understanding the aliens in the film was unconventional and not well accepted by those around her, including Donnoelly and those in the USA military, but in the end, that approach, connected with Donnoelly’s more conventional scientific approach helped them understand and, in the end, communicate with the aliens.

This film helped me open my eyes to different research approaches going forward with my tutorials and Grad Project. The concept of merging two approaches together to come to an understanding of a topic at hand was never something I considered. In previous courses I was asked which approach or which paradigm I resonate with most and which one I would consider using in my final Grad Project, which suggested that only one approach was sufficient. I have yet to find specific ways to incorporate multiple approaches or methods into my project, but this has sprung the idea in my mind and will hopefully be more fruitful the more I think about it and reflect on it.

A new idea I had not thought of previously, is the importance of First Nations language and how to incorporate it in film or into the on-reserve school system. During my time working on Tsleil-Waututh Nation, there was an evident push to get the younger generations to learn their mother tongue of Halkomelem through the use of sign-language and song. As a consequence of the atrocities of colonialization, First Nations’ people around Canada have had a steady loss of language and cultural practices. In recent years with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the need for the younger generations to learn their language and revitalize that sector in their tradition is an utmost importance. It is my hope to study a number of people who identify as First Nations and see how many of them have an understanding of their People’s language. Through this, I hope to find what importance their language holds to

them and how to encourage other First Nations youth to go back to their roots and learn their native tongue.