

Preface

When I started to think over the issue on private language, my only source of knowledge was the familiarity, although not in a great extent in terms of literature, with the *Private Language Argument* in Wittgenstein's *Philosophical Investigations*. I studied the *Investigations* in my P.G. classes as one of the texts of Wittgenstein along with the *Tractatus* as a special paper. In those days I got interested in Wittgenstein, later on when I decided to do research on Wittgenstein, I consulted with Dr. Kantilal Das who was to be my supervisor later on. We thought that private language problem has a lot to offer in terms of its scope. Although there is extensive literature with regard to the problem, we could find that it is still a viable issue, because the interpretations have opened the door to a new level. One has to ponder over the issue in the light of the received interpretations and look for the new road. The interpretations have shed light on the issue, but many of them are misleading, like Wittgenstein's text is apparently misleading to many.

We have divided the thesis into six chapters including the introductory and the concluding chapters. The chapters discuss the various facets of the famous private language problem. As there are so many things related to the thesis, we have tried to focus on the key issues in a new light, with the backdrop of the interpretations of the leading scholars in the field. Two chapters have been made to examine the arguments for and against the possibility of private language. Chapter 2 is mainly about the position of Descartes, Ayer, Fodor and Chomsky who are in favour of the possibility of private language, whereas, Chapter 3 studies the position of Wittgenstein and his followers on the rejection of the possibility of private language. Chapter 4 inspects how the Private

Language Argument is related with the problem of other minds. The other minds problem is an age-old concern in the philosophy of mind, and private language argument relates the philosophy of language with the problem in a way that can hardly be overlooked if we investigate it properly. The fifth chapter highlights a very crucial issue of language and thought and their relationship. The dimensions of language and thought have been critically looked after as the issue is after all about the problem of meaning. We have tried to locate the intention of Wittgenstein and assess the problem in a contemporary perspective. Our aim is to unveil the real impact of the private language argument and to evaluate the worth of Wittgenstein's textual remarks and their relevance in the worldview. However, one thesis is not enough to do the justice and I do not claim it anyway. This is my humble attempt to explore the immense scope that the argument offers as far as I could observe and I have tried to carry out the mission with utmost sincerity and honesty.

It becomes my earnest duty to acknowledge those who have stood by me right through the journey, contributed directly or indirectly to my research and the making of the thesis. First and foremost there is my supervisor Dr. Kantilal Das, Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of North Bengal, who with all his insight and enthusiasm initiated the key ideas of the project and persuaded me to take the task. He kept me on my toes throughout the endeavour and never allowed any complacency in my thinking. He has always been there to help me whenever I faced difficulties in sorting out the arguments. His constant encouragement and scholarly guidance played an instrumental role in developing my thesis. If there is any imperfection in my thesis, the responsibility solely lies on me. I am grateful to the entire faculty of the Philosophy Department, North Bengal University for inspiring me right

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