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WAR v/s LANGUAGE : War happens
when language fails

In a war there are no victors, only victims. Humanity have faced many wars till now and they have happened over the years for mere difference in opinion. So we can say in a way that wars tend to happen when language fails. Languages does not merely mean what we use for communication. Language is the very finest thing we have in this world through which we can penetrate through the walls of cultural ~~indifferences~~ and racist barriers. Language includes literature, communication, and it even shapes our daily lives. We have accepted English as our lingua franca after colonisation. It is this



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Language we use to convey our ideas, feelings and thoughts in the global village. Literature had ~~the~~ taught us many values regarding life and war. Yet now we are standing in an Earth where even the slightest doubt can lead to a huge war. War has too many ramifications in its path that may be something we cannot rectify. We witnessed the two great world wars. All the nations were affected. England lost its significance and colonisation ended after that. USA and Soviet Union became global superpowers, just to start another cold war.

Words can throw more hurt and pain to a person than what weapons can. Our words are said to be the most dangerous and lethal weapon.



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that can ever exist in this world. It has both ability to reform, to rejuvenate and to destroy and disrupt. While we use our words we should choose wise what to say. Once something is said it cannot be taken back and sometimes mental pain is greater than physical pain. Language sure has ability to stop great wars from happening, we just don't realise that. As said before literature is a crucial, imperative part of language. Literature world wide teaches us that wars are just done to prove to the world that they country who win is stronger. But in reality they simply wipe out humanity from the surface of the Earth. Wars have far reaching impact on humans. People lose their loved



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ones, some get injured, we lose our homes, millions get displaced. The decision of a war once taken cannot be withdrawn, or this is what is thought everywhere. The leaders do not think of it as a major issue as they do not suffer directly. We have faced many wars which could be removed if there had been proper talk about peace treaties.

The myths of India like Mahabharata and Ramayana has depicted war as a demon which possess unjust and unrighteous people. The Bible and Quran opposes the very idea of war. We can never reach the banks of peace if we are swimming in a sea of war and blood. A person of sound mind and soul will always



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See a way to not let a war happen. In recent years we saw the Russia-Ukraine war and the Palestine-Israel war. Both of these ended in huge bloodshed and massacres. We saw many refugees who were forced to leave their home country just because of the unwise decision of their leaders.

Wars do happen when language of people and leaders fail. We are all given the ability to speak so that we stand up for those whose rights are being denied. Malala Yousafzai once said that she raises her voice not so that she can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard. The youth of today can shape the future we will have to experience tomorrow.

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Language can be used as the strongest of weapons to defeat war. The peace-makers of this world whom we look upto did not use guns or swords to achieve peace. They used their words more than their actions. We can see these qualities in world leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr. etc.

Their words inspired us more than the actions of extremists who fought for freedom. We all know that Hitler was a brutal leader who would stop at nothing to wipe out the Jews in Germany. But Hitler was a perfect speaker who used his oratory skills to make sure that the non-Jews are by his sides. This is how language can be used against



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the goodness of humanity. Hitler's actions, combined with his words led to a world war which caused innumerable loss to the world.

War is an injustice and injustice in a place is against the justice everywhere. If there is an act of injustice, it is our duty to act against it. Writers and poets all over the world has used their penmanship to be as a powerful weapon against war. It is a perfect example of how language can put an end to war. If we want wars to end we should understand where our language is failing. The children of today should be taught the value of having fluent language which should be used for moral purposes.



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We can communicate beautiful ideas of peace and brotherhood to people rather than the hateful ideas of war, bloodshed and oppression. We should learn to voice our dislikes for war and not go with whatever our government says. God has given everyone an inbuilt skill to differentiate between the good things and bad things. We all know that war is not just a bad thing but the worst of the worse that humanity have to face.

Language teaches us to see all as equal and as brothers and sisters. If we truly follow this vital principle we may be able to wipe out this disaster of war from the face of Earth. Wars have started due to many reasons such as



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cultural differences, racist ideas, acquiring of power and strength etc. If we are truly a person who have inculcated the values, principles and morales which each and every language presents to us, then we will understand that all of us are the same and that there is no need to fight out and create wars just to acquire more power.

Our actions are said to speak more than our words. But it is our words which hurts us more than our actions. We have enough and more barriers in this world to create wars, and proper communication is the only solution to this. Our great saint of Sabarnathi, Gandhi had once said that 'An eye for an eye will only make the world blind'. We had

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been entrapped under the British rule for more than two centuries. In 1857, there was an armed war against them. But it did not succeed much. After a few years Gandhiji came and started participating in our freedom struggle.

He did not use extremist ideologies, but travelled round our nation and spread his ideologies through his words. This motivated the masses of India and we finally attained freedom. Although it was rather a slow but steady process, the fruit of the struggle was indelible. We cannot make a mark in history with a gun or a sword. Martin Luther King Jr. once quoted that "We do not make history. History makes us". Our history is abun-



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abundant with wars and so we don't need ^{them} any more. A person can truly find himself if he works to serve others. If we think for one moment what impact wars will have on the people who we live with in the society, we will call it off.

Humanity is still there in humans, but it's just that we have to look closely to realise this. As long as humanity is there language is prevalent and it will always inadvertently prevent great wars from happening. If only the leaders of the world could learn more from language it would have been help us in preventing any more wars from happening. Small children make friends with anyone



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they see irrespective of the language they both talk. But when we grow up we realise that language is important to communicate, because the person opposite to us may not understand what we are trying to communicate through our gestures. The same goes with nations.

Only if the leaders of the nations all over the world communicate effectively can we have world peace. The leaders of India, including the prime minister, president and foreign minister, have travelled all around the world visiting nations and speaking with their leaders. For us it may seem as though they are making small world tours, but in reality they are building unbreakable bonds with their neighbouring and



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non-neighbouring countries so that they can understand where they differ in their opinions. We only have a strained relation with our neighbours Pakistan and China. This is because of our past. Other than that we do not have a serious life threatening scenario with any other countries.

English is the commonly accepted language that is used for global commercial purposes. This language has its own charm and if not used accurately it can easily lead to misconceptions and misunderstandings. The people who represent a nation in a global stage will usually be well versed in English. Those who do not know English fluently usually appoint a translator. This



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simple gesture itself shows us how important language is. Just one simple word 'war' can change millions of people's life. And if we add one more simple word in front of this it becomes 'no war', which will in turn save the lives of millions. War is not beneficial to us. It is a reaper of life. One single decision of one moment is all it took for the United States to drop the atom bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Just one moment it took Israel to drop a bomb in a refugee camp in Gaza.

If they had communicated cleared the misconceptions and realised that it is not the innocent people who have to suffer, then all the countless deaths could have been avoided. This



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is where language plays an integral part. If Japan and USA had come to a treaty they wouldn't have suffered the great loss. It all depends on how people use their language skills. Children of today are said to be the leaders of tomorrow. The wars which have happened have happened, we cannot reverse their effects or impact. What we can do is look forward to a brighter future and dream for a world where wars are not the answers to the attainment of peace.

Rather than planting the seeds of hatred, war and disgust in children, we should teach them about the effects that our words can have on people, values, ^{principles} principals and morals which makes us the best of humans. People sometimes



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tends to overlook the importance of training their children to use their language wisely. A person should learn to respect others and should be equally respected back by the society. A person who uses bad words, who badmouths every one he sees will be hated by people. If he wants he will not be able to make a change in this world, because the world gives back what we give the world.

In today's dog-eating-dog world our personality shows what kind of leader we will become.

When we become a leader of a nation, it is our responsibility to safeguard the security of our people. If we resort to wars, then that will make us a bad leader. But if we have the talent



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to speak a person out of such a crucial decision of waging war than that is where we win. As youth we have many opportunities to prevent bloodshed. The future is in our hands. Our very future depends upon what we speak and what decisions we take.

Be the change that you want to see in the world. These wise words were spoken by the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. It is hightime that we realise that language is the only factor which can mitigate war. There is no one coming to save us from another world war breaking out. We have been able to control and contain the wars in the recent years through a combined efforts of treaty talks of the United



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Nations. There should be more open mind talks between the representatives of the nations. We should remember that language can heal wounds but create new ones too.

Wars occur when language fails and as the only people who can create a better tomorrow we should master the art of communicating without hurting anyone. This is the only way through which we will be able to build a strong, robust future where we cannot bifurcate people and create disputes. Nothing is impossible in this world, but we have to believe in it to make it work. It should be taught separately with utmost importance to children along with their education, how important language has become



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in this world. English has gained prominence among world language after colonisation. All countries accepted English as a common language after the entry of globalisation into world economy. Now we have all become a global village in which all countries have their own place.

All languages have their own importance and beauty. But we should know that these languages are not merely a tool for communication which we can use as we wish, in any way. Everyone who can speak a language is wielding a weapon more sharper and more effective than any weapon in this world. We change our future according to how we



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use it. I hope that all of us can use our respective languages for the bright future of our nation and the world. If we can prevent a war, then speak up your thoughts and ideas. If we are ~~yield~~ wielding the strength of language then use it for the greater good. In the end we are all humans, with an profound humanity in each one of us. If we believe in something, then we can do it. Nothing is impossible in this world.

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