

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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I must acknowledge the contribution of the Junior Research Fellowship given by the University of North Bengal which gave me the impetus to start my research without worrying about financial obstruction. The fellowship was healthy enough to keep the momentum as well as maintain my living; my sincere gratitude to the University authority in this regard. I duly admit the cooperation from the officials and the colleagues of the Directorate of Distance Education, University of North Bengal, where I am working as a Lecturer in Philosophy since February, 2011. The fact that I am still in the same institution where I started my research has surely helped my progress. I also acknowledge the influential contribution of the Central Library of North Bengal University for providing me the required help in terms of the books, journals, internet and Xerox as well as printing facilities. I specially thank the Library authority for affording such useful online links as JSTOR, Project Muse and INFLIBNET which enable me and so many researchers to access a large number of valuable research journals. I also thank Mr. Mayukh Dutta, for being so generous in issuing books from the prosperous collection of the departmental library. I take this opportunity to thank the authority of the Academic Centre of the Indian Council of Philosophical Research in Lucknow. I got a great number of photocopied

materials from the ICPR library that has played a crucial role in my doctoral research. It would be an injustice if I do not acknowledge the research inputs given by the learned faculty members of the Centre for Philosophy, Jawaharlal Nehru University where I did a semester of M.Phil. before joining here at N.B.U. as a JRF. I also managed to take some materials related with my research from the rich JNU library, my honest due to that premiere institution where I have some beautiful memories with my friends.

Gauranga, Anup, Buddhiswar, Nabanita, Juhi, Monalisadi and other scholar friends have formed a great group and made my journey wonderful. No appreciation is enough for Sonali, my beloved friend, who had to tolerate my anxiety and frustration at the times of despair in my route towards completion of the thesis. I don't want to thank my parents, it would belittle them, I think. They are beyond any thanks and acknowledgements as they are the ones who have made me whatever little I could achieve today. My family, including my elder sister, my brother-in-law, and their little son have kept me joyous when I needed that feeling, as pursuing Ph.D. is an arduous task to accomplish. I acknowledge their enormous contribution and dedicate the thesis to my parents from the core of my heart.

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The private language argument is a special case of his broader argument: the meaning of an expression cannot consist simply in the (kind of) private sensation it stands for. In. So, on one weak interpretation at least, Wittgenstein's private language argument is right, as are many of his ideas about linguistic meaning. To say that a word's or a sentence's meaning is just Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language. An Elementary Exposition. Harvard University Press Cambridge, Massachusetts. Copyright © 1982 by Saul A. Kripke. All rights reserved. EIGHTH PRINTING, 1995. Printed in the United States of America. Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data Kripke, Saul A., 1940-. Wittgenstein on rules and private language. Preface 1 Introductory 2 The Wittgensteinian Paradox. 3 The Solution and the 'Private Language' Argument Postscript Wittgenstein and Other Minds Index. VII. 1. 7 55 114 147. To my parents. Preface. The main part of this work has been delivered at various places as lectures, series of lectures, or seminars. The argument in favour of this position is most forcibly set out in paragraph 258 of the [Philosophical] Investigations. "Let us", says Wittgenstein, "imagine the following case." The crucial fact which it seems to me that Wittgenstein persistently overlooks is that anyone's significant use of language must depend sooner or later on his performing what I call an act of primary recognition. In Wittgenstein's example, it is supposed not to be sufficient for someone to check his memory of the time at which the train is due to leave by visualizing a page of the time-table. He has to check the memory in its turn by actually looking up the page. This would, indeed, be a sensible measure to take. Wittgenstein's Private Language Argument. 14 July 2014 17 December 2018 ~ 1000 words philosophy. Author: Ian Tully Category: Philosophy of Mind and Language Word Count: 1000. From roughly §243 to §315 in his Philosophical Investigations, the Austrian philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein lays out what later commentators have dubbed "the private language argument." Wittgenstein imagines a case roughly like the following. Thus, Wittgenstein's "community" view, which locates the determinants of content in the patterns of agreement in one's linguistic community, is incompatible with private language. But here's a worry for this view. Suppose that everyone agrees that a certain shiny yellow metal is gold. Yet they're wrong: it's actually fool's gold.