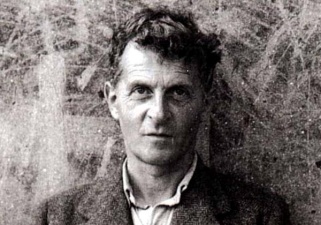
**To what extent does language determine our reality?**



* *Ludwig von Wittgenstein*
* *One of the few 20th century philosophers to already be viewed as great*
* *Spent his academic career looking at philosophy of language*
* *Early and late works directly contradict each other*
* *Demonstrates the complexity of looking at language and its role in our pursuit of knowledge*

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| --- | --- |
| **Tractatus – 1921** | **Philosophical Investigations - 1953** |
| * Language as a creation * Reflects reality * Structure of language reflects the structure of reality * Real life relationships and meanings are mirrored by language * Language determines our reality   "the limits of my language are the limits of my world" | * Language as a tool * Reflects language games we play * Structure of language reflects pre-determined rules of these games * True meanings determined by the use of surface & depth grammar * Language an innate function   “if God looked into our minds, he would  not have been able to see there of  whom we were speaking.” |

1. **HC - TOK - Knowledge + Language - Language as Thought; Language as Commmunication**

Read; match Wittgenstein’s theories in the table above to a stance on language in each section

* *Relative (language depends much more on individuals and their existence)*
* *Universal (language depends much more on common characteristics that we all share)*

1. **Which do you see as being more likely and why?**