

## TOK- Essay Outline

### **Title Question:**

The vocabulary we have does more than communicate our knowledge; it shapes what we can know. Evaluate this claim with reference to different areas of knowledge.

### **Introduction:**

1. a) Defining the terms **NOT AGAIN!!!! EXPLAIN THE Knowledge Issue OF THE TITLE, not simply explain terms!** in order to make the title question more understandable  
vocabulary does more than communicate our knowledge: vocabulary (the words we use, our language) is not only used for talking to people and exchanging information.

it shapes what we can know: the knowledge of each person depends on his /her vocabulary and how it's influenced by certain factors. **This is a repetition of the title question. No new information.**

b) how the vocabulary influences our knowledge (way of thinking) and how it reflects our way of thinking and how it shapes it – vocabulary defines and forms/creates what we consider important/relevant or wrong. Quotation (by Angela Carter): **OK!**

„Die Grenzen der Sprache sind die Grenzen der Gedanken.“ → so to my mind vocabulary shapes our approach/attitude/knowledge a lot, because knowledge is not only words it's also the approach or attitude to certain things.

**„Die Grenzen meiner Sprache bedeuten die Grenzen meiner Welt“  
Ludwig Wittgenstein.**

c) how a word is actually defined; how the vocabulary differs comparing different cultures or languages, how people build up their knowledge based on their vocabulary.

→ there are certain thoughts and ideas that can only be thought in a particular language.

**Like what? Give example.**

c) **AOKs: Every AOK has specific vocabulary!**

**History:** -George Orwell's book 1984 describing the language „Newspeak“

- Hitler: **I knew it! The Nazi example!** how his rethorics influenced what people knew and considered good or bad. **Specific example?**

-How with the knowledge we have about history certain words are cancelled out of our vocabulary because it's prohibited using them. **Specific example?**

**Ethics:** Personally a very significant aspect to me referring to the quotation I mentioned above: The German language and how it refers to the society's view on gender equality. Because language shapes our knowledge and our attitude.

Statistics show there is a huge difference whether you ask people for example: „Sag mir bitte ein paar bekannte Schauspieler!“ or „Sag mir bitte ein paar bekannte Schauspieler\_innen?“  
→ because: vocabulary (in this case: „gendern“) does influence our way of thinking

But also cross-culturally and also due to different religions

**This example is good, but you must explain fully in order for non-German speakers to understand it. Reference needed for this statistic!**

**Sciences: (Biology):** The human body and what we know about it. We need it for every-day life! How would we end up if nobody knows how to run, swallow or most important express wishes or needs: „I have bellyache, I'd rather go and see a doctor maybe it's appendicitis“.-->

what would the person do in society if she didn't know the word for „ pain in the region of my belly on the right side“  
such a psychological condition. **Ok, but what point do you want to make? You need to evaluate the claim of the title question.**

**WOKs:**

**Emotions:** Knowledge is not only words, but also feelings and memories and pictures stored in certain schemas in our brains. **No connection to title evident.**

**Language:** Cross cultural differences! Certain words do not exist in languages such as: In German we say: Torschlusspanik, Fernweh, Geisterfahrer – hardly possible to translate into english

English: phony – hard to explain in german

Japanese language & culture: the word „depression“ → culturally it's usual for japanese people to not talk about psychological problems or even about their feelings. Not the single person is in the focus but always the community. Therefore they don't have a expression for such a psychological condition.

**No connection to title evident. What is your specific point that you want to illustrate with these examples?**

**Conclusion:**

-summarizing all the paragraphs with all the theories,

- finally answering the title question! **NO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! You answer it in the INTRODUCTION, in the BODY AND in the Conclusion. So far I could find NO answer to the title question at all.**

- stating my personal opinion

**If you know what it is. Evidently you don't know it yet, otherwise you would have written it down.**

des us was u gsagt hab: "Religion, like other areas of knowledge, is brought about by language by authorities such as the government, the pope and the media as well as through scriptures like the Bible or the Quran. Due to the majority of the people's tendency to obedience a kind of lack of critical thinking is involved, often in religious persons. "