

Why 'American English' Can Be Confusing and Very Misleading to Non-Americans

By Sister Christine

Have you ever stopped to think how one, whose native tongue is not American English, might hear the American English language? Believe me, a non-American finds this language very confusing and misleading.

I DID NOT realize this until I went to the Sudan. The American English is as confusing and misleading as are the people who made and used this language. Was it not through their tricks of words that we were brought here to America? And is it not through false promises (misleading words) that, we have been kept slaves to them, and blind, deaf, and dumb, to the knowledge of our true selves?

The Americans' use and misuse of the language is an example of the "tricknology" which is typical of this devil Caucasian race, who confuse the truth with the falsehood. Even the English have difficulty in understanding American English. Our black aboriginal people have taken this practice and have used it to fulfill their own bounds of communications.

LET'S TAKE A simple example: when something pleases us, we say that it is "cool," because to be cooled is to be refreshed. We say that a thing is "mellow," symbolizing that a thing is ripe like a melon, and so on.

One not familiar with these symbolic words may take "mellow" to symbolize that state one reaches after a long wait; and may take "cool" to symbolize an uncomfortable feeling, an uneasiness. Our people here in America are using a confusing language without the true knowledge of that language nor of the consequences of its use.

I was never one to use much American slang, but in the Sudan I realized that many words which are not considered slang here are not understandable outside of America. Among the many reformations which I underwent was one of language usage.

DURING MY first year at the University of Khartoum, I had a roommate named Fatma Nassir Bishir. I have many memorable times of Fatma, but here I would like to speak of a specific time.

I used to use the word "crazy" very often, when I spoke to friends. I did so with Fatma whenever she said something comical or funny. One day after I had just called her "crazy," tears filled her eyes and she began to cry. I was shocked. I could not understand why she was crying.

After repeatedly asking her why she was crying, she asked me: "Christine, do you really think I am crazy?" This was really a blow to me. I had no idea that she had been offended by my use of this word. I tried to apologize and I promised her that I would never call her this again — and I did not.

THIS IS AN example of how the use of this confusing language affects one not familiar with the language of "tricknology." Here I used a word in fun which brought pain to someone and I was ignorant of the real knowledge of the pain that I caused.

I tried to explain to her how we in America use the word "crazy" to mean silly or comical or funny. I tried to explain how Americans confuse the language. She explained to me that in Arabic there are distinct words for the different proportions of madness. For example, to be silly is "mekeshkish," to be mad or insane means "mejnoon," between these words is "matartish," which is a very silly person.

SO MANY OF us are unaware of the real extent of our confusion. We cannot go to our Muslim brothers and sisters, taking with us even the language of the American people. All the things in connection with this world must be left behind.

Our dear Messenger, the

Honorable Elijah Muhammad, teaches us this, and I bear witness to his teachings. For if we go even with a willingness to love our people there, and we take with us the language of "tricknology" and confusion, they shall not be able to understand us.

How then do we communicate? We must learn the language which is a clean and non-confusing language. We must leave all of this old devil's world behind.

FROM THAT time onward I guarded my words, trying to be more accurate. Whenever possible, I substituted the Arabic in place of the English. I was trying to bridge the gap.

It was not until I came into the Nation of Islam under the teachings of the Honorable Messenger that I realized why my language was so confusing to my brothers and sisters in the Sudan. It was the language of the arch deceivers of "tricknology," the American "Caucasian, devil.

To be continued)