

'The Fool speaks and the wise Listens'

Outline

1- Introduction

2- What does the proverb signify?

i) Those who talk much are considered fools.

ii) Those who emphasize more on listening rather than talking are considered wise.

iii) 'Think before you speak'

3- Why is speaking much considered the trait of fools:

a. Such people lack sense about what to say and when to say and where to stop.

(Franklin's Quote)

b. have little or no interest in listening / learning.

(Johnson's quote)

c. shortage of knowledge

(Democritus)

d. They are considered reactive and short tempered.

(Noam Chomsky's saying)

e. Show dominance as they consider themselves right and disregard others viewpoint.

(The conduct of politicians)

4. Why is listening considered an attribute of wise people:

a. Good listeners are better able to process information through critical thinking

(good listeners are good speakers)

b. Have more knowledge and information

(good communication building)

c. Understanding others' perspective broadens one's horizon.

(Bruce Lee's quotation)

d. Strong decision making skills

(Role of international bodies)

e. apt conflict resolution

(mediation by leaders)

5. How good listening skills can become a part of ~~ones~~ a man's life:

- a. Developing a learning attitude
- b. Acting wisely.

6. Historical examples of leaders more focussed on listening rather than speaking:

- i. Gandhi's role in the British colonial times
- ii. Abraham Lincoln during his presidency.

7. Why is speaking not always a symbol of foolery everytime:

- a. People who raise their voices on current crises are better aware.

(Quranic verse)

- b. Those who speak less are often considered introvert, people overpower them

8. Conclusion

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People who speak without a check make ~~a~~ fool of themselves in others' eyes. Such people lack the insight and sensitivity and thus do not know when and where to stop. On the other hand, wisdom breeds patience, which comes with listening others' opinion for the sake of self-growth. Everyone can speak, but a few bear the courage to master the art of listening. It's what separates the fool from the wise. The proverb 'The Fool speaks, and the Wise listens' signifies the importance of listening over speaking. This aspect creates a difference in recognizing a person's character traits; being foolish or wise. This is because the talkative ones usually lack the sense about what and when to say and where to stop. Such people are considered reactive with little interest in listening. They are also regarded as dominant individuals. On the other

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hand, wisdom approaches those who ^{first} gather information while listening to others, critically think and then communicate the relevant idea. Such people can communicate effectively by understanding ~~the~~ ^{the matter} subject from different perspectives. ~~Whereas~~ Therefore, a balance should be maintained ~~when~~ between both choices in order to be skilled in communication.

The proverb 'The Fool Speaks and the Wise Listens' signifies that those who speak more are considered fools. This can be due to various reasons, as such people are more focussed to convey their idea and stance rather than listening to anyone else's. Whereas, the ~~people~~ ~~are~~ active listeners are considered wise people as they have a receptive attitude and ~~by~~ they streamline their thoughts with speech, making it worth-listening.

The proverb 'think before you speak' also manifests the same idea. It is an advice in itself and also ~~int~~ dictates the notion that if the wise is one who ~~can~~ can think a thought before ^{they} speaking. But those who are just fond of speaking get so busy ⁱⁿ speaking that they hardly find any time to think, so is regarded as a fool or unwise.

Speaking ^{more} is considered a trait of fools, as such people lack sense about what ~~to~~ and when to say and where to stop. Such people continue to elaborate their meaningless talks without developing a sense of reasoning. They are quite talkative; regardless of ~~what~~ the purpose of their speech or the nature of talk. In this context, the idle talk of such people makes them fools in front of others. As Benjamin Franklin says: "Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain, and most fools do." In this way, the

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frequent speakers, while indulged in
idol talk, speaking more without
any checks, hence are regarded foolish.
As they lack the sense to consider
the time, place, and company
before speaking.

In addition to this,
those who ~~se~~ like to speak more
have little or no interest in listening.
They mindlessly talk what they
consider right. They are considered
unwise as ^{they} do not bear the courage
to understand something from mul-
tiple perspectives. They ~~are~~ just con-
sider themselves apt and influenti-
al enough to convey their thoug-
hts to others without ^{giving} them this
opportunity. The less listening
courage makes them poor speakers.
They do not spend time to listen,
understand and reflect upon
the counterarguments of their
narrative, thus make a fool^{ry}
of themselves. According to an
American President - Lydon B. John-
son: "You are not learning anything

When you are talking." Thus, fools speak because they do not want to learn anything by listening.

In the same context, the outspoken people also have shortage of knowledge. This is due to their talkative nature which resists them to listen to others' viewpoint. These people are more on the losing side as they speak more, listen less and thus ~~gather~~ could not gather enough data and information regarding any particular subject. This element, in their conversation, depicts them as less knowledgeable and foolish. They lack the ability to critically think and analyse any situation. As Albert Einstein said, "Any fool can know. The point is to understand." Einsteins, ^{also} regarded knowledge as truly understanding something. This is how, understanding develops when one gains knowledge through listening more which

is disregarded by outspoken people.

Moreover, the people who are more expressive are considered reactive and so short-tempered.

This is because they do not possess the ability to bear anything, & any criticism ~~or~~ negativity or huddle in their way or argument.

They cannot face opposition or even a slightly different opinion.

They become reactive and ~~so~~ continue to argue. ^{upon} In this behaviour, people regard such individuals 'mentally incompetent'. They breed negativity and contribute to ^{changes in} societal norms. In the words of Noam Chomsky: "When fools speak, the wise listen, but when the wise speak, the fools argue."

In this is how, ~~they~~ the members of society who are more focused to speaking cannot accommodate new ideas; rather become violent and talkative.

Similarly, the more talkat-

ive people are declared to be more dominant as they consider themselves right and disregard others' viewpoint. They lack the competency to present their side of stance profoundly, ^{while} and they attempt to demean others. They show dominance; ~~due~~ to as according to their halqut, are only the knowledgeable and all knowing. A common example of modern day politicians is that they ~~do~~ do not want any other (opponent) to give suggestion or make any criticism. They just criticize those people and consider themselves right, keeping aside the national interest as well. In this way, they the blunt and fluent speakers give more weightage to their argument, leaving behind the opinion of every one else.

Turning the new leaf, listening first and then presenting an argument is considered an attribute of wise people. This is due

to the fact that they are better able to process information through critical thinking. As a result, when they process the information, they are better able to critically analyse every aspect of the point and then build a narrative on it. This is how, when they articulate their point, they are more likely to be considered correct, and witty.

Also they can communicate effectively and confidently. It is also a common notion that 'good listeners are good speakers.' In the same way, those who prefer listening carefully to others rather than bombarding their stance are better able to deliver as well.

Furthermore, the attentive listeners are considered more valuable as they have more knowledge and information. While listening carefully, they have a knowledge and a vocabulary bank regarding multiple subjects, and events. They have more diversity in their th-

oughts. Such people are also skilled in defending their stance. For instance, a good communication between two persons can benefit both the addresser and the addressee; they can better able to ratify the ~~facts~~ ^{situation}. In this way, attentive listening is a key to effective communication.

Besides strengthening communication, engaged listeners ~~per~~ broaden their horizon by having this ability to get exposed to many kinds of spoken discourse they come across. In this way, they have ^{the} ability to enrich their minds and mental faculties to absorb more data, become broadminded, and can tactfully agreeing or disagreeing with others' narratives. Such people speak with greater proficiency as they learn while others speak and, mould their judgement into ~~fine~~ productive and meaningful discussion. As Bruce Lee once said:
"A wise man can learn more from

a foolish question than a fool can learn from a wise answer." In this way, they find meaning in every thing and are considered wise.

Active listeners also have strong decision making skills. They are more knowledgeable and thus can make right choices. Their active listening ability ~~to~~ helps them to ~~or~~ make rational decisions regarding any problem. Such people make the most informed decisions to resolve their issues through diplomatic means. Mediators come and use active listening to understand the perspectives of all parties involved in order to solve issues at hand. For instance, the spokespersons of UN (or any international organization) offer mediation between Pakistan and India through cease fire resolutions. So, the wisdom of listening also put ^{to use} ~~positive~~ beneficial to the countries in the arena of international relations.

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In the same way, listening carefully to others develops the ability for apt conflict resolution. One can clarify his ~~st~~ stance on a particular issue with a clear ~~and~~ outlook as he has heard such circumstances multiple times. Such people are ^{then} considered wise due to this professional approach. The mediation between two groups by a third party leader who tends to communicate effectively after listening the grievances of both sides is and resolves the dispute is one such example. In this manner, good listeners hold importance in dispute and conflict resolution, therefore being considered wise.

Good listening skills can become a part of man's life by developing a learning attitude. One who is ~~at~~ a proactive listener must ~~go~~ welcome more spoken discourse to be a part of one's life. He should be mentally active while listening to some-

body else so that the act is not merely hearing but productive absorption of the words ^{that} the speaker delivers. In this way, he would definitely outweigh the merits of being a good listener over a talkative speaker. It will also assist him in improving his knowledge and insight on various topics and themes.

Another aspect of being a ~~go~~ fine listener is that one acts wisely during the conversation. One must listen carefully, refrain from interrupting, while noting the important message being given. This will help him to make better judgement and wise decisions. His communication would then reflect it in the form of clarity and conciseness. Ultimately, this action becomes part of a man's life and his actions and moves revolve around it.

In order to validate that listening breeds wisdom, historical figures are a key instance. Many top-world leaders proved to be more ~~contious~~ conscious and contented while listening rather than ^{being} more focussed to bombard facts on their audience. By listening to others, they get to form their unique perspectives of life, and their points of view are not longer conventional. For example, Mahatma Gandhi is known to have sought out diverse perspectives to inform his own beliefs and actions. He was well-known for his effective listening during British colonial times. As a result, he absorbed criticism and opinions, developing his political ideology and making him one of the most renowned leaders in history. Thus, wise people always listen to develop their personalities.

Like wise, Abraham Lincoln, the US President, during his

presidentship simply listen to competing ideas, process that he had heard, and then respectfully make his final decision. That is why, he is often regarded as a genius when it comes to speech presentations. He conveys the unheard message or the meaning also, and was strong enough to judge which question requires a detailed justification and where to mould his argument.

Conversely, speaking, ^{more} is not always a symbol of foolery every time. The people who raise their voice on the current issues or crises are better aware. This is because they keenly take ~~interest~~ ^{interest} in discussions and gather knowledge about every happening. They have a say and opinion regarding every matter and are thus regarded valuable and more informed citizens. It is also mentioned in a Quranic verse, "The

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hottest places in Hell are reserved for those, who in time of great moral crisis, maintain their neutrality."

In this way, the fast pace of constant happenings are analyzed and opined by such people, and the world considers and talks about their opinion as an asset.

Nevertheless, those who speak less are often considered introverts. Due to this factor, people always violate their rights, and consider^{ing} them a poor fellow.

Such people are considered quite submissive, and people try to dominate them. They can ~~misunderstand~~ misapprehend their docile nature with that of helpless and lacking knowledge and experience of something. In this way, speech is also mandatory to have a say in different matters and a stance on any matter.

In order to balance

the phenomenon, it is a wise choice to ~~spea~~ speak at the moment and listen till it is bearable. A balanced approach is favourable to maintain the effective communication. It also clarifies one's viewpoint, and thus will not delimit the effectivity or significance of conversation.

In conclusion, ~~people~~ active speakers are considered imprudent in contrast to active listening being considered ^{a trait of} wise. This is due to their thinking capacity and the absorption of the spoken discourse they have heard. Both speaking and hearing have their sides of strengths and weaknesses. In order to maintain the balance, it is crucial to stabilize the both ~~&~~ according to the need and demand of the time. Only then it makes a man wise in its true ~~&~~ sense.