



PRÉCIS

Central Superior Services Examination (CSS) 2002

Passage.

'The official name of our species is homo sapiens; but there are many anthropologists who prefer to think of man as homo Faber-the smith, the maker of tools) It would be possible) I think, to reconcile these two definitions in a third. If man is a knower and an efficient doer, it is only because he is also a talker) In order to be Faber and Sapiens, Homo must first be loquax, the loquacious one) Without language we should merely be hairless chimpanzees. Indeed \c should be some thing much worse) Possessed of a high IQ but no language, we should be like the Yahoos of Gulliver's Travels- Creatures too clever to be guided by instinct, too Self-centered to live in a state of animal grace, and therefore condemned forever, frustrated and malignant, between contented apehood and aspiring'humanity.) It was language that made possible the accumulation of knowledge and the broadcasting of information. It was language that permitted the expression of religious insight, the formulation of ethical ideals, the codification to laws; It was language, in a word, that turned us into human beings and gave birth to civilization.

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Final Draft

Importance of Language and Humans

Besides our official name 'homo sapiens', anthropologists also consider man as versatile. According to the author, this versatility is due to man's communication skills. The author believes that man without language would be worse than animals. As having different capabilities and qualities man still wondered. Language made possible to get information, have religious insights, formulate ethical ideals, codify laws and eventually to turn human beings into civilization.

total words in passage: 201

total words in précis: 70