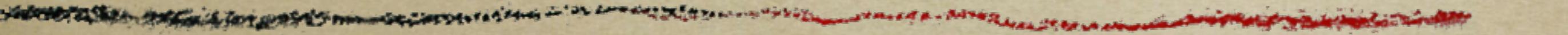


ORWELL / KLEMPERER:
Langue et pensée



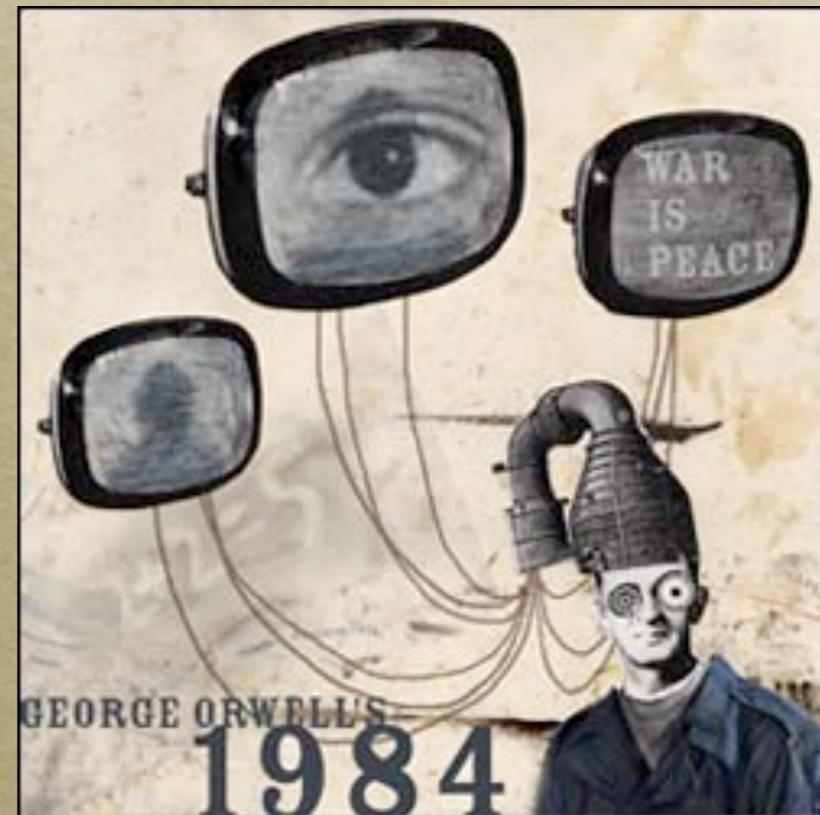
*La Révolution sera complète quand la
langue sera parfaite.*

Georges Orwell

1947



1949



Différence de parcours

Klemperer

*marié,
universitaire provincial,
intellectuel libéral peu
impliqué dans la
politique,
hostile à tout
extrémisme*

Orwell

*célibataire au parcours
erratique,
ancien policier aux
colonies,
écrivain engagé et
publiciste gauche
radical,
auteur des reportages
sur le monde ouvrier,*

ressemblance dans la position théorique

l'analyse de la «dégradation quotidienne de la langue»

Klemperer

ET

Orwell

Analyse de la «langue totalitaire»

Langue / Discours ?

Klemperer

ET

Orwell

Pauvreté de la «langue totalitaire»

«Toute-puissante autant que pauvre, et toute-puissante de par sa pauvreté...

Si la LTI est misérable, sa pauvreté est une pauvreté de principe»

«Le véritable but de nov-langue est de restreindre les limites de la pensée... Chaque année, de moins en moins de mots, et le champs de la conscience de plus en plus restreint... Moins le choix (des mots) est étendu, moindre est la tentation de réfléchir...»

Klemperer

ET

Orwell

Inversion de sens

Exemple:

Fanatique/Fanatisme

*Or l'opération n'est pas
sémantique mais
axiologique*

*Ministère de Vérité: falsification
de l'Histoire;*

Ministère de la Paix: guerre;

*Ministère de l'abondance:
pénurie;*

Ministère de l'Amour: tortures

Klemperer

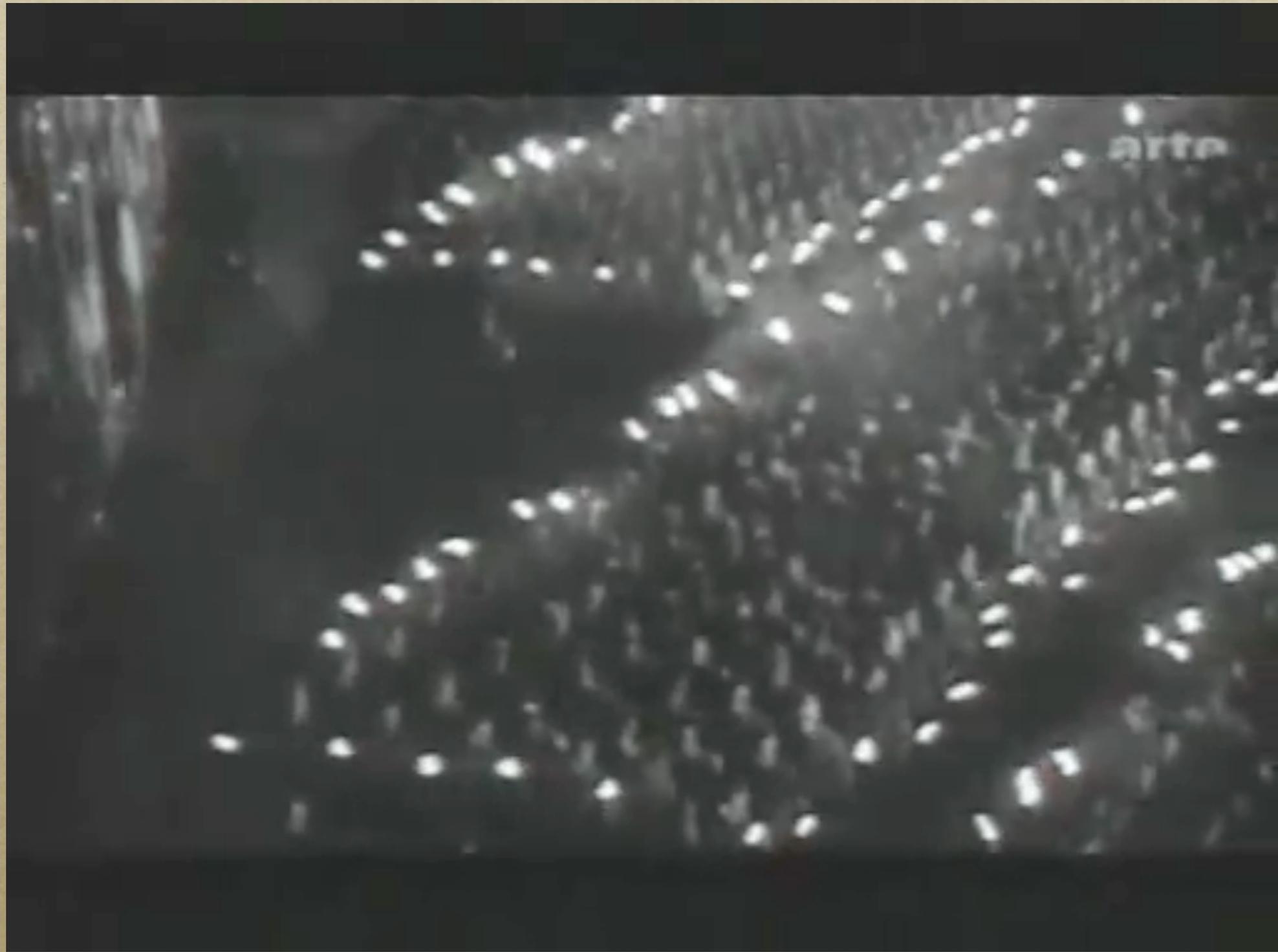
ET

Orwell

Dépersonnalisation

«La LTI s'efforce par tous les moyens de faire perdre à l'individu son essence individuelle, d'anesthésier sa personnalité, de la transformer en tête de bétail sans pensée ni volonté»

En un certain sens, le roman orwellien ne se propose rien d'autre que la description d'une tentative radicale de dépersonnalisation, l'éradication de toute personnalité autonome



1944; 1944-1945 sei früher Nacht; sein Hottel ja
24, das sei Heinrich Hoff in Rom bei Augusta
1945. Juli 44 Nachbar

2. „Verfassung“ von 2.7.1944. Das war für
sein 80. Geburtstag liquidiert.
Im Prinzip sein Kampf gestillt = sein
die Wirtschaft: Wirtschaft. Wirtschaft der Volk
Wirtschaft - Militär Wirtschaft Wirtschaft in Wirtschaft
in der Wirtschaft Wirtschaft für Wirtschaft - die

Wirtschaft der „Wirtschaft“ aus Wirtschaft in Wirtschaft

Klemperer

ET

Orwell

Langue écrite/langue orale

«La LTI ne fait aucune différence entre langue orale et écrite.

Ecrasement de la seconde par la première: réduction du langage à un rôle fonctionnel. Toute expression doit avoir un effet immédiat

Le constat est semblable chez Orwell.

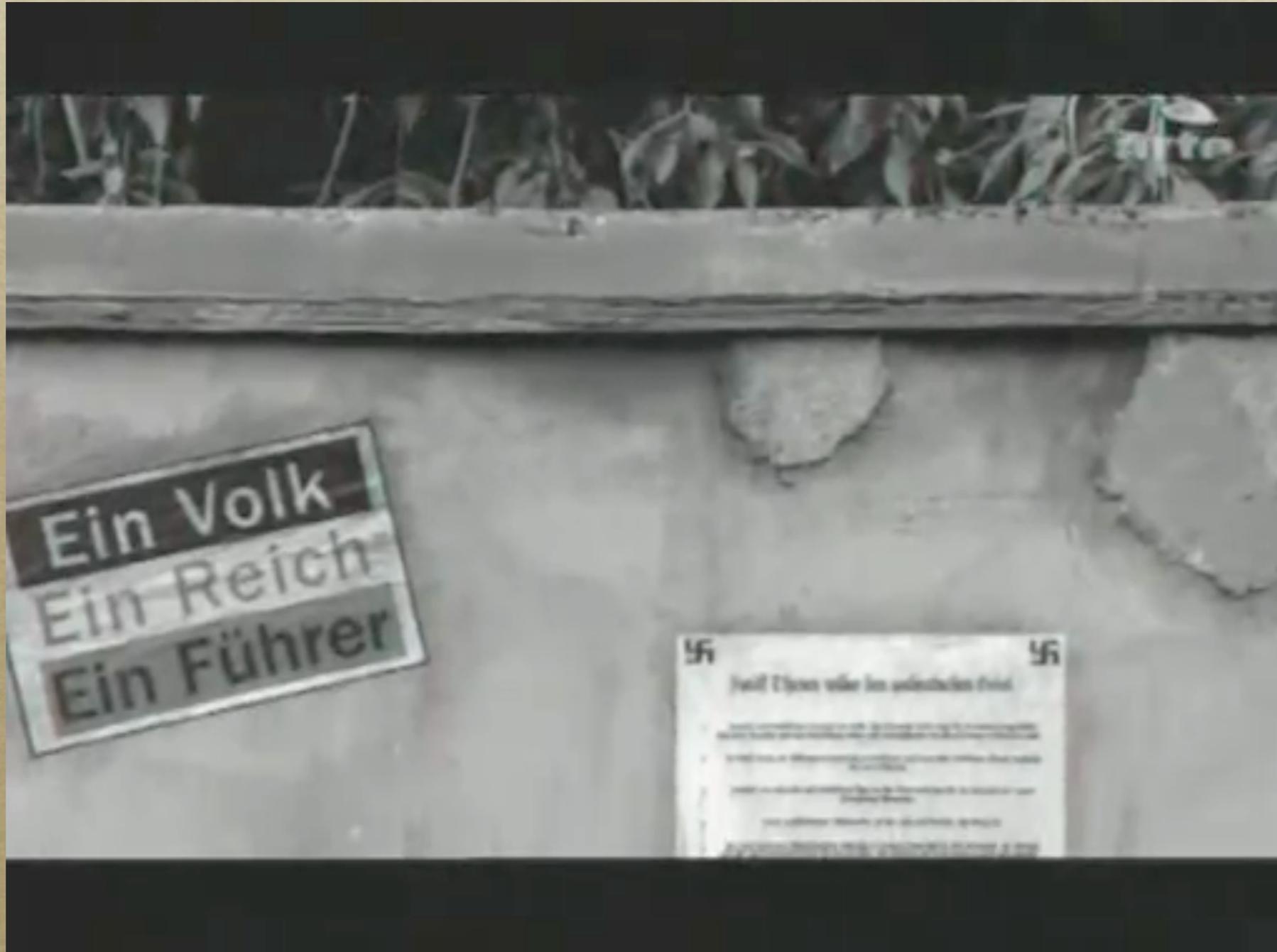
«Il criait hystériquement que la révolution avait été trahie, et cela en un rapide discours polysyllabique qui était une parodie du style habituel des orateurs du parti».

Conclusions

- *il s'agit d'un lien nécessaire entre la pensée et la langue:*
- *«Si la pensée corromps la langue, la langue peut aussi corrompre la pensée».*
- *là où il n'y a pas un mot, il n'y a pas le concept correspondant*

*Dans la
linguistique de
Klemperer et
d'Orwell*

langue est l'esprit du peuple



longue tradition

- *Herder*: «Une nation n'a point les idées pour lesquelles sa langue n'a pas de mots»



longue tradition

Edward SAPIR

1884-1939



longue tradition

Benjamin WHORF

1897-1941

*Le plus ardent
partisan de la
relativité
linguistique*

THE HARTFORD DAILY TIMES, FRIDAY, MAY 15

Mr Bench Takes Up Woman's I

Hartford Scholar, Expert in Study of Aztec Masters Difficult Language of Hopi Indians

Aided by Native, B. L. Whorf Compiles Dictionary and Grammar

By GEORGE W. BRADDOCK

Benjamin L. Whorf of Hartford, member of the noted Whorf family of talented brothers is the first scholar to study the Hopi Indian language according to modern scientific principles.

The study has been carried on in Hartford, thousands of miles from Arizona, with the assistance of a Hopi Indian, Ernest Nagaypooza, now residing in New York.

When Whorf took up the study of Aztec 17 years ago he found books available to teach him the language, which he eventually mastered, finally securing a point where he arranged work authorities with new contributions on Mexican research.

Spare Time Hobby

This was a spare time hobby of the young man who is employed as a special agent of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company.

But when he branched into Hopi studies he found no books in existence to help. It was essential to learn the language from the lips of its people, and the youthful Indian was found for the purpose in New York.

Nagaypooza is a young native of Toovee, Ariz., a Hopi village, and his name means Plume Bearer. Acting as Whorf's informant, he made several visits to Hartford and the linguist's home in Westfield.

First Hopi Dictionary.

Consequently the first Hopi grammar and dictionary of this scientifically important language are nearing completion. It ties in with Whorf's work on Aztec in which he visited little known portions of Mexico, in the ancient writing of the Mayas, which is regarded by scientific circles as the most promising approach yet made toward deciphering and reading these baffling inscriptions.

He gave lectures at Yale recently on the Hopi language at invitation of the celebrated Dr. Edward Sapir, professor of anthropology and linguistics. He gives talks last month before the Linguistic Society of America.

Dr. Sapir, one of the country's most eminent philologists, and the leading world authority on American Indian languages turned his eyes over to the Hartford scholar in recognition of his long research on Hopi, Aztec and other languages of the Uto-Aztecan stock, the race which bore the civilization and culture of

and language which throw interesting new light on the mystery of ancient "Middle America."

Middle America is the great vanished civilization of which the Aztecs, Toltecs and Mayas were parts.

Few Know Language

The languages of all these peoples, studied by the Hartford student, are as essential to unraveling the ancient American mystery as are Swedish, Assyrian, Sanskrit and Greek essential in the archaology of the Orient. But unlike the Oriental languages they are almost unknown except to a handful of American travelers such as those in Prof. Sauer's famous "Language Laboratory" at Yale in which Mr. Whorf is an active collaborator.

Mr. Whorf says:

"Hence the archaeologists in 'Middle America' diggers-out of ruined temples such as those which Col. Lindbergh, with Dr. Alfred V. Kidder and Dr. Oliver Dickenson, spotted from the air, have been largely digging in the dark. And the technique of the linguistic laboratory is that reaching the point where it will throw a surprising light on these ancient American ruins."

Indeed some of the new angles developed by Mr. Whorf are so startling that he insists on withholding them until they can be accompanied by proof so rigorous that it will bear the most exacting tests.

Study Accidental

His amazing career in language study began accidentally in 1924 when Mr. Whorf came across Aztec literature in the Watkinson Library which none had been able to decipher before. Four years later he was the only person known to be deciphering the language and classifying it for future students. In 1928 he started the International Congress of Americanists meeting in New York with an original paper which the savants admitted had thrown illumination on one of the deepest mysteries of American lore. This was the disappearance of the Toltecs who developed a magnificent civilization before the more savage Aztecs put an end to their rule.

The Social Science Research Council of New York sent him to Mexico in 1930—his first visit to the native scene—and his trip was credited to Dr. Marshall Howard Barley of the Museum of the American Indian in New York City with having discovered a possible link between Maya and Aztec civilizations.



—Photo by Buchanan
BENJAMIN L. WHORF



Source: Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University Library
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longue tradition

Leo Weisgerber

1899-1985



