

Mr B / Ideology Behind Accents / Lesson 1 Recap

The lesson dealt with English. But English as a Second Language. The English language, as it's spoken by foreigners.

An obvious fact = foreigners do not sound like native speakers.

Foreigners learning English want to be understood, want to interact with other people, their objective is to communicate. >COMMUNICATION

In the process of learning (studies/company), everyone tries to improve their skills, they want to possess a proficiency ; they want to be good at speaking English.

Looking to be fluent is not the same as be willing to sound like a native. For Natives are diverse.

So, is having an accent a synonym for being bad at the language ?

Well, if we listen to Nabokov, we would inconsiderately think he's bad at English, yet he's one of the great masters of the English language.

Having an accent should not be a shame.

Recognizing someone's accent shouldn't lead to judgment. Native speakers shouldn't be judgmental.

The newly arrived, the immigrants, the foreign-born are looking for a better future, they don't want to be discriminated against, based on the way they talk.

H. Diaz

He reassesses the notion of accent, which seems so natural and obvious. He uses his own experience as a way to prove his point.

He criticizes the very fact that foreign accents need correcting.

who seems interested in reducing their accents ? > immigrants

so that the social reality of « accent perception » happens to be the true cause for economical discrimination

in a rather poetic manner , Diaz shares his loves for accents

accents should be a form of pride, not a stigma