

but participants should remember that Karl Popper debates are about ideas—they are not English language competitions. Debaters must treat their colleagues for whom English is a second language with the same respect they treat the other participants.

READING IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

When reading aloud in a foreign language, debaters should be familiar with three types of language uses: informative, expressive, and directive. Informative language occurs when language is descriptive. Expressive language is neither true nor false; it communicates a writer's feelings or attempts to evoke a response in the reader. Directive language tries to cause or prevent overt action; it includes commands or requests. Knowing these types of usage can help you understand the context of what you are reading as well as help you present evidence. For instance, when participating in debate, your tone should be different when reading informative material than when reading directive material.

Obviously, not all researched material will be written in the primary language of the debater or in the official language of the debate. Translating material correctly can be difficult. Translation risks inaccurate characterization of the original text, whether intentional or not. Translation also risks the loss of tone or linguistic expression such as satire or irony. Translation is complicated further when the text contains words that have no direct equivalents. The greater the cultural differences, the more difficult translation becomes. Take, for example, the concepts of equal opportunity, justice, democracy, freedom, or equality. Many cultures do not have exact correlations, or if they do, the correlated word may mean something that appears antithetical to those of another culture. In addition, some cultures have multiple meanings for words that are not translatable into other languages. Examples include the multiple meanings for snow in the Inuit culture, or the multiple meanings of war and peace in other cultures. These challenges, however, should not dissuade you from using foreign language material. What it does mean is that great care should be used in translating. Preferably, several people should translate and proofread material before it is introduced as evidence.

SPEAKING IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

As with reading in a foreign language, speaking in a foreign language can be difficult. If debaters are not well-versed in the language, they may be anxious about speaking. They should try to remain confident and visualize themselves giving powerful, effective speeches. Debaters must also work on the multiple components of language—vocabulary, diction, syntax, grammatical rules, and idioms—that may create difficulties in understanding.

Even the skilled foreign language speaker needs to practice debating in the language of the tournament. Drills that focus on clarity and articulation are very important. Such drills may include speaking with a pen in your mouth, utilizing special breathing techniques, speaking in front of a video camera, reading backward, and so forth. Of course, debaters must practice more than the mechanics. Debating requires intense processing of language elements, including compre-