

About Transcription

The spoken word and the written word are two different forms of expression. They both use words but they use words differently. The strengths and weakness of each are almost diametric to those of the other.

With the spoken word, the speaker can attune to the audience and tailor the talk to the audience. When speaking, the speaker can speak at length until he can sense that the information has been communicated. In a talk the speaker can extemporaneously delete or spontaneously improvise additional information. It is live and it carries the listeners along with the flow. The weakness of the spoken word is that in maintaining the flow, the speaker must sometimes sacrifice pin-point accuracy or the most efficient way of stating something for fluency so the talk does not drag. Because of this the spoken word often tends toward verbosity.

In the written word one does not have a specific audience unless one is writing a letter or something like that. The audience for writing is abstract and the writer is writing to the world at large. In such a situation the writer must anticipate a general audience instead intuitively sensing a real audience. Usually there is no spontaneity in writing, unless one is writing a Haiku or something similar, but there can be a flow. Good writing is terse and the reader can stop, think and analyze what is being stated. In writing the author has almost absolute control and he can be exact about what is stated and the way it is stated.

We have an organ, the larynx, for speech, we have no organ(s) specifically designed for writing. Writing is an artificial or unnatural activity. We do not speak to each other in the manner that we write, though a lecture often becomes like a conversation if it is done well. For these reasons the speaker in these talks prefers speech over writing though he realizes there is a place for each.

For the above reasons the speaker does not approve, condone, authorize or encourage transcription, nor does he wish to participate in it. If the speaker wanted written products he would have written them himself. On the other hand, the speaker does not prohibit, deny, negate or discourage transcription either, because it is possible that the information in a transcription may be helpful or edifying to the reader. Content in this case is more important than form.

If you are reading this transcription, please remember that you may not be reading exactly what the speaker would have written had he written it. In any form these talks are intended for inspiration to living a better life and means to live it, so enjoy yourself, improve yourself and help the world.