

Ban abusive language in elections

I would like to present my opinion on a topic of my choosing, which reads as follows: ban abusive language in elections. I'd like to begin by stating a fact, which might have already caught your attention - there has been a steady rise in the amount of swear words that are present in today's politicians' vocabulary. Although it may seem like a matter of little importance, I do not see it as such and I am not in favour of this change. Frankly, I am completely opposed to it. Further, I would like to ponder the reason for this recent development, whether it is a natural progression or an arbitrary act of politicians with hidden ulterior motives or agenda.

To begin with, let's look at the definition of bad language and some recent examples. The Oxford dictionary offers a succinct definition: noun, [uncountable], words that many people find offensive. So not only swear words, but also insults and personal attacks could be among those perceived as bad language. At a rally this month, presidential candidate and former vice president of the United States of America Joe Biden called a voter, who had asked him a question, a 'lying dog-faced pony soldier'. In May 2019 Donald Trump in course of just one rally in Panama City Beach tossed out 10 hells, 3 damns, and a crap. Surprisingly for some, the audience cheered and whooped.

I apologize in advance for the use of profanity, but I believe it is crucial to make my point. At another rally during his 2016 presidential campaign, Trump quoted a supporter calling his Republican rival, Senator Ted Cruz, a pussy.

Never have been the boundaries of language pushed so far. We don't have to look that much further to find other presidents or politicians, who used less than flowery language while they were in office, such as George W. Bush or Harry Truman. But it has to be said that in that time, it was considered a mini-scandal for a president to be caught swearing in public. And also those occasions were few and far between.

Now that you have been shortly briefed on bad language in elections, let's consider why there is such an overabundance of expletives.

Firstly, swear words are incredible attention grabbers. Whether you agree with some politician, or you completely oppose his ideas or don't care at all - the information that he just used some kind of bad language is unavoidable. Even though you may not have cared a whit about it, now you are forced to be acutely aware of the fact. Of course, this way of gathering voters may backfire, and they just might lose their older supporters instead of winning over new ones.

Secondly, colourful words often slip out when we are overemotional and emotionally invested in the topic. Which is why using affectively laden language seems like an effortless way to appear truthful and more convincing.

Furthermore, sometimes is the use of profanity and abusive language meant to camouflage the fact that one doesn't have any good counterarguments. So one starts to verbally abuse his opponent. Which leads nowhere, wastes time better spent in any other way and shames only the speaker, not the person being attacked. Well, at least that is how a rationally thinking being would mayhap perceive it.

You can't argue with the fact that politicians, presidents and presidential candidates are all public figures and figures of authority. What naturally follows, is that they become role models for teenagers and youngsters. Which establishes a precedent of expected behaviour. And, considering the impropriety of some of them, that is something to be feared.

To sum up, there is no doubt in my mind that abusive language in elections should be banned at all costs. I find such displays of emotion crude, disparaging and simply disappointing.