

九十八學年度英文創意寫作比賽

甲組第一名：四機二丙李偉綱

Man, Irrational or Rational

It's said that, at least on the bible, man is the only creature gifted with the ability to think rational. But sometimes, or even most of the time, man tends to behave irrationally. I do wonder how such irony could happen and thanks to development of psychology, we now know those behaviors labeled irrational occur for some reasons. The cartoon given shows one kind of those irrational behaviors. It's about a man (an anthropomorphic to be exact) telling us friend that pointing at someone is not polite while that particular person is pointing at us friend. In real life, I've seen many of such situations. Now, allow me to share my analysis on why people do such irony.

First, I think it's about emotion. We know from history that people can lose control if their emotion is triggered. While people shows many varieties of emotional feeling, but it seem angry emotion contributes most in making people losing their control. If people are losing their behavior control, they will exhibit what we called irrational behavior. Thus, resulting in an irony (i.e. what is done contradicts with what is said). Regarding this point, I, myself, have that experience. It happened few years back. That time I was particular in a soccer tournament. For me, a tournament is something to be won, which also means that I have to win at any cost. Such mentality has been instilled in my brain since I was 12. As we know, in sports tournament, physical offense is not permitted. So, my idea is to provoke the opponent so that they lose temper & start the physical offense first. During that soccer tournament, I did provoke them, and the result was not bad. After the watch, many of my opponents came to me with anger on their face, they told me to behave correctly. Not rarely, I also received 2-3 punches. You see that while they told me to behave correctly, their action did the opposite. Such example shows on how anger can make people behave irrationally and do some ironic things.

Second, it's a way to show power. I know this sounds weird, but they really are some people who behave irrationally as a way to show power. As an example for this argument, I don't like people shout at me. So, whenever someone shouts at me, I will just stare at his eyes & shout back at him. Why do I, instead of telling him nicely not to shout at me, do such thing? For me, it's a way to scare him. Most of the people can't hold an eye contact for a long time, they feel intimidated when someone stares at them. And that's exactly what I do. Refer back to the example, when someone shouts at me, I'll stare at his eyes & shout back at him as to scare him off. Well, I do realize that I do an irony by doing such thing, but I have no other way to show my power. So, now we see that irrational behavior is also one way to show power.

Based on the two given arguments, we can conclude that people's irrational behavior is a result of either emotion or purposes. What I mean here is that while some behavior looked irrational, but it's not necessarily caused by losing temper, some of them are done in purpose. So, we know that there are always reasons, whether valid or not, to certain humans.