9. April, 1935

From Harvard Crimson of today on Latin

Volition strong in young men. I have no suggestions to make. All I can do is make clear what role language has played and plays in my life. I will divide the matter in three chapters or tenses.

How far am I the product of an education in language though I am not a linguist or philologist. That means how far were languages a means in my general education. This will show you a continental curriculum.

Second Chapter what is my own present day theory on languages as a cultural instrument. Third chapter what is my hope and expectation of the miracles, language and a readjustment of our attitude towards language can achieve in the future. This disposition itself is a gift of language to me because it is language which hints to such an order of thought by its three tenses of past, present and future.

In English, these three tenses no longer exist grammatically.

I am ready here the value of a fuller language lingers on our horizon.

I. I learned Latin in school and English at home. I never learned any English grammar. I had Latin Grammar for nine years, eight hours every week. In English I know nursery rhymes and nigger songs. In Latin, I learned the heights and depth of "Language" in Capitals.

Latin speech in the Untertertia, seventh grade, Macte Virtute.

Law first in Latin

Classics as the right approach to Sociology and Religion.

Principi Philologiae

II. My theory Modern English and German are a new Latin perhaps. But a tension between languages there must be. Otherwise we are starved and it is not at all true that languages are geographical or ethnological units. Language, speech is a commitment into a current. There is only one language or there are many languages as dialogues go on on earth. The shell of the lobster is not the lobster.

We suffer from a completely pagan and destructive theory on language. Liturgical language, between song and prose, a true medium.

Language a common movement into a direction: The countersense of the arcuate words. Yes and no. To polite in a talk: we wish to take the step together.

The character of slang. A dialect in time instead of in space.

Languages the shears for the sword of the spirit.

Latin more than any other language guarantees the sense for the fullness of language. I know that Sanskrit and Greek and Russian are richer.

But our common bridge into the past is Latin.

Not what the individual needs but what the community must get is decisive.

This my theory is new in some respect because the times have changed. I praise Latin as the Mother of the Western World and as a full language in the grammatical sense. Only in one language that can be studied. It cannot be studied in any modern language.

III. My hopes: Irreverence towards language, taking to writing like taking to drinking. The Newspaperwriters curse and bane of this civilization. Degradation of language. If you teach English grammar as a subject, the result must be disastrous. Shakespear knew the English Latin grammar, but no English grammar whatever.

The approach to speech must be an indirect one in our consciousness. Eugenics will always have the one and only effect to decrease the number of children. Because the effect of consciousness on life is steril...
lication. Indirectly we must conquer ourselves. Our deeper sense of gratitude and shame must be spared. Thinking and thanking should become reconnected. Though thought and thank are two modes of the same situation.

Language is no means to an end. The word is the last thing and the first without which nothing can ripen nor bear fruit. Funeral. The child is not born before it has a name. The man is not dead before he has heard the last word spoken to him and about him.

Mental diseases of over-conscious speech: Communism and Fascism.

The wonders of grammar: Thou, I, it
The grammar of the future: Dual.

The psychology, history, sociology. My own language this evening told you my story of a thou within myself first: I was not the subject or creator or maker of my educator. I was not the object, white sheet, or matter on which it was written. I heard myself called by all these sounds and words and followed them into the maze of thought and action which they conjured up in my heart.

This was my first chapter today.

In the second paragraph I gave you my ego's own theory. Everything was put into the form of my subjective criticism.

The third part dealt with the changes in the world which might follow from the regeneration of language.

The languages are the clothes of man's soul. The mudists in matters of language know nothing about clothes. Man does not wear clothes because he has cold, but because his soul must be veiled; where nothing is veiled nothing can be revealed.