What are concepts? How does analysing the concept of a 'concept' help to illuminate the way language works?

Concept is the way humans give the meaning to this physical world. We look at the world and then we think about or analyse the nature of this physical world. In so doing, we gain another perspective and climb to another conceptual level in this world. Then we can transfer this conceptual way of thinking about other contexts and teach it to another generation.

Concept or theory of meaning divides into at least two branches. First, we can look at language as a complex way of communicating with others. We can try to analyse language itself, examining its formulae or symbols in terms of semantics. We can discern how each combination of components in a sentence interact other components of the sentence. For me, this semantic analysing style reminds me of existentialism. Second, we can look at the concepts we use to connect ourselves with the outside world in a fundamental way. Instead of looking at what appears to us when language is used, we can try to learn how certain aspects of language and vocabulary originates and how it is associated with those who invented the language.

This linguistic knowledge is a collection of concepts that gains approval or acceptance in a particular society. We then proceed to teach this collection to others. With knowledge, we can help all people have the same necessary background to be able to communicate with other people in society.

Every concept should have an integral point to communicate for it to have a reason to exist. It is similar to the existential question everybody faces: 'What is the reason I exist?' Concepts, in the same way, need to have purpose or reason for existing. Take, for example, the concept of chaos. If I go to eat my lunch late and, when I arrive at the food court, I see a lot of people queuing in chaos or frustration. I may assign the concept to this situation as an 'irresponsible chaotic situation'. One function of this concept is to remind myself to be on time next time.

We can think about conceptualisation as the mapping method to make this world more meaningful. In other words, it humanises us in the context of our world. Without concepts, we may only communicate with the world and other subjects like primitive stone age Neanderthals. We will see the rock as only a rock, water as only water, sky as only sky. A rock will be only something heavy and hurt when we throw it at somebody else. I think concept is similar to Plato's form theory. Plato used ideal forms to make the world more logical and more abstract beyond its physical nature. It's our nature to reason in this theoretical manner.

If I travel to new country and must spend a week with native people, to begin I will have absolutely no idea how to communicate with them. How do I do it? First of all, I guess, I will use body language for most of the important activities pertaining to my daily needs

such as eating, bathing or sleeping. Then I might start to try to remember important words like 'eat', 'water', 'hello', etc. I only have to remember my brain has the ability to accomplish this easy job.

But, eventually, I will have to move beyond this in my use of concepts. If these native people talk about a 'pole' and they mean the pole that stands in middle of their house but they pray and pay respect to this pole, I can't just remember word 'pole' in their language. I must try to discover its concept, too. Why do they see the pole as something more than just a pole? This is a new concept to me. I have to find its significance. What is the concept of 'pole' for them? How did they create this concept of 'pole'? Understanding the answer to these questions may help me understand how they speak their language and discover if it has some common ground that we all share between our concepts and the creativity of language.

If we believe we all have concepts within us since our birth, then we only need to remind ourselves of it, as Socrates says. So, language may be only a simple tool to interpret concepts in a way that is understandable for everybody. Language itself does not do much without its associated concepts in this world. If we can understand concept or theory of meaning, it will help us understand how we use or build language. Do we use concepts as the core of the overall communication process? Or does language itself generate concepts in the world?

Language is a human invention. Without language, we would be like animals, only able to communicate at a fundamental or basic level. If I operated at such a basic level, when I hurt, I will only be able to shout an indistinct noise from my mouth. We use language to interact more specifically with the world and each other. We look around and perceive everything. We check with other persons to evaluate or confirm the information we receive. Then we go to another level, using logic, analysis, comparisons, and generalisations. We move on to use many other methods of communication according to our brain's ability. If we can understand how we process that second step (conceptualising), we begin to understand how we communicate. Language is an advanced step we have developed to cope with the world.