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Devices for Inquiry

Two Cultures

In the beginning of the reading Snow identifies the two polar groups, one we have the literary intellectuals and on the other side we have scientists and physical scientists. Snow states that these two groups have a curious distorted image of each other and how they cannot find much common ground; in the other words these two groups are so different that they cannot be worked together. Snow begins talking about how the non-scientists tend to think that the scientists lack of imagination, not much a dreamer and the scientists think that the “intellectuals” are lacking in prediction, and also tie themselves with art and thought. Later for these two cultures, he talks about how they misunderstand each other but he suggests that they should both drop their prodigious and start looking at the chance of working together. This reminds me of the video interview I saw a while with Jonathan Ive; Ive is the Apple’s senior vice president of Design, in the interview Ive stated that although the conflicts between designers and engineers are inevitable but no matter what both of the parties should share the same goal which is to create something that would benefit our society. Back to Snow, he points out the importance how the scientists and the intellectuals should work together but in order to make it happen, the structure of our education system needs to be changed due to its specialization on different category of studies.

In chapter two, Snow begins to talk about the reason for the existence of the two cultures is the industrial revolution. He states, “If we forget the scientific culture, then the

rest of western intellectuals have never tried, wanted, or been able to understand the industrial revolution, much less accept it.”¹ In the other word it means the intellectuals didn’t participate in the industrial revolution at all. And the ones who participated in the industrial revolution are mostly the advanced countries now days. In my opinion, although the industrial revolution affected arts and craft movement because of mass production but it definitely brought prosperity to our world such as medical science, education, and technology.

In scientific revolution, Snow talks about how social status and economic created a gap of separation between the two cultures due to the industrial revolution. The middle class led the new changes due to their knowledge of machines which we can relate this to William Morris, how he stated the rise of middle class were so fast due to mass production during the industrial revolution. Later on he talks about how the rise of middle class has closed the gap between the rich and the poor. But in the end education is the key component to bring the two cultures together and in order to make that happen the structure of the education system has to be changed.

Personally, I think the concerns Snow brought up are outdated. The conflict between scientist and the intellectuals has been solved, otherwise how would technological companies such as Apple and Samsung exist. Like I mentioned earlier about what Ive said, nowadays engineers and designers work closely and both of them share the same goal that is to innovate our society through the inventions. And in terms of

¹ Snow, C. P. "Intellectuals as Natural Luddites." *The Two Cultures and the Scientific Revolution*. New York: Cambridge UP, 1959. 23. Print.

education, our education system has changed over the centuries, now days we have various of options on choosing what we like to study so I think his opinion of the failure of education system is also outdated.