

Tuesday, April 19. 2011

## Obama wird systemisch

Der Linguist und Metaphernforscher George Lakoff (Foto: Wikipedia) hat sich begeistert über Barack Obamas jüngste Rede zur Sanierung des US-amerikanischen Haushaltes geäußert. In einem Blog-Artikel feiert er nicht nur die Rückkehr der Moral in die Politik, sondern betont auch, dass Demokraten systemischer denken als Republikaner: "Linguists have discovered that every language studied has direct causation in its grammar, but no language has systemic causation in its grammar. Systemic causation is a harder concept and has to be learned either through socialization or education. Progressives tend to think more readily in terms of systems than conservatives. We see this in the answers to a question like, "What causes crime?" Progressives tend to give answers like economic hardship, or lack of education, or crime-ridden neighborhoods. Conservatives tend more to give an answer like "bad people — lock 'em up, punish 'em." This is a consequence of a lifetime of thinking in terms of social connection (for progressives) and individual responsibility (for conservatives). Thus conservatives did not see the President's plan, which relied on systemic causation, as a plan at all for directly addressing the deficit. Differences in systemic thinking between progressives and conservatives can be seen in issues like global warming and financial reform. Conservatives have not recognized human causes of global warming, partly because they are systemic, not direct. When a huge snowstorm occurred in Washington DC recently, many conservatives saw it as disproving the existence of global warming — "How could warming cause snow?" Similarly, conservatives, thinking in terms of individual responsibility and direct causation, blamed homeowners for foreclosures on their homes, while progressives looked to systemic explanations, seeking reform in the financial system." Zum vollständigen Text...

Posted by Tom Levold in Links at 00:00