DISCUSSIONS

I

LINGUISTIC SOLIPSISM

This has a reference to the article "Linguistic Solipsism : A Defense" by Md. Abdur Razzaque (IPQ, July, 1995).

In his eagerness to muster support for linguistic solipsism the author has not even spared Wittgenstein of *Philosophical Investigations*. He has quoted only the last lines of the section 243 (and not the page as mentioned in the reference) on the page 213 of the Journal :

> The individual words of this language are to refer to what can only be known to the person speaking to his immediate private sensations. So another person cannot understand his language.

Quoting of these two lines only can easily deceive one into believing that Wittgenstein is in favour of a solipsistic language. This is a complete misunderstanding of Wittgenstein who cannot even dream of supporting a private language. This is too well-known to be justified. Had the author cared to quote fully even the second paragraph of the section 243, it would have been clear to him that in this section Wittgenstein in his usual style is merely posing a thesis of solipsistic language to be nipped in the bud.

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