

ABOUT US

The Use and Abuse of Language

Language is everywhere,
It brings us together in times of need
And is sculpted into songs
With unique melodies.
Yet language is divisive,
And angry and rude
Like the world that we live in
It is hurt and abused.

From the ableism around
To the common, 'Ladies and Gents,'
This world sees me different
It excludes and torments.

The subtitles are wrong,
Confusing, don't exist.
A constant 'never mind'
Hurtful words off friends' lips.

This part may seem petty,
To those with gendered minds,
But to call me a 'he' or 'she'
Is more pain that I must hide.
A hurt. I can't explain
Other than a tightness inside,
I wince at each small word
That is fine in your mind's eye.

Language is my enemy,
We battle every day,
Yet it is ignorance that I should blame
That is in my way.
Because with the people whom I do love,

ABOUT US

Language is the prize,
We dance and laugh to its song
And my friends are by my side.

Awyr, Commended in the About Us poetry competition