

THE INSTITUTE FOR SEMANTOGRAPHY

A Non-Profit Educational Research Organisation.

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TO THE MEN AND WOMEN

who have asked for my publication

JULIAN HUXLEY AND SEMANTOGRAPHY

Dear Friends,

Sydney 13th December 1953

Thank you for your interest in my work. That you have spent some of your hard-earned money for the writings of an unknown author means very much to me. But it should also mean much to you. Now, you know what it means to you. But I want to tell you that it should mean even more. And here we are - right into what it should mean. What indeed is the significant meaning of all this?

THE MEANING OF MEANING (SEMANTICS)

You might ask right in the beginning: What means Semantics? "Semantics" is a Greek word and means "significant meaning". Now, you might say, why don't you say so? Why, the heck, do we need a new-fangled foreign word which no one understands? Indeed, you are right. But - the trouble is that there are some thousands of languages spoken on this planet and many more dialects. You know what telegram means. And so does anyone else in any other language, because telegram is an international word and international words are formed from Greek and Latin words. Tele means in Greek far off, and gramma, means letter.

During the last 30 years the world has been in a muddle of a special kind and one victim of this muddle was one of the greatest Australians of our time Charles Kingsford Smith. You know of his terrible difficulties. He could not get the contract for airmails and besides, these contracts were not substantial, because letters by airmail were very costly and few people could afford them. Then some unknown man hit on a grand idea - a letter which in itself forms the envelope when folded - the AIRLETTER. As it is with new ideas, they are old ones, and indeed this form is the oldest form of a letter when envelopes were not yet invented. Indeed, the old stamps have been rescued only because of those old letters in attics.

And now the language muddle started. In Anglo-American countries it is AIRLETTER. In Hungarian, which is a Mongolic language, it is REPULO LEVEL. In German, which is a Teutonic language, it is LUFTPOSTLEICHTBRIEF, which literally translated means air-mail-light-letter and so forth, until now the International Postal Union has decided (because of the muddle between letters sent by air in envelope or without) that all countries should print on these airletters the word AEROGamme. Aero means air in Greek and gramma means letter.

So far, so good, or rather so far not so good. As far as "interlinguistic" communication is concerned, international words of Greek and Latin origin are very good. Unfortunately, the highbrows have used the very same device to separate themselves from the people who speak the common language. "They Latin their tongue" cried a rebel philosopher in the fifteenth century, "so that the common people think that they speak by some sort of revelation." And Charles II of England, who founded the Royal Society forbade Cambridge scholars to ooze boredom by reading their papers, and the Royal Society decreed that its members should adhere to

"a close, naked, natural way of speaking, preferring the language of the artisans, countrymen, and merchants before that of wits and scholars."

Alas, all those decrees were all in vain. The highbrow scholar still stalks the university of our day and finds ready imitators, because everyone thinks that such highbrow speech is a sign of the "educated" (whatever that means). Why, for instance did I feel the itch to write in the foregoing paragraph of "interlinguistic" communication? Why could I not write in plain language: Communication between (which means inter in Latin) different languages (from Latin lingua tongue, hence linguistic). Apparently I myself am a victim of words, a victim of the highbrow and in the chapters ahead I will tell you of the terrible and disastrous consequences.



WHO INSTIGATED THE STUDY OF SEMANTICS?

You might not believe it - it was exactly Adolf Hitler and his propaganda chief Dr. Goebbels, the highbrow. The whole world looked on in amazement and horror. How was it possible? A great nation, "das Volk der Dichter und Denker" - the Nation of Poets and Thinkers, one of the most intelligent, literate, hard-working people of this our planet - and gone completely mad - just by the power of words.

I had a special vantage point. In the Gestapo prison in Vienna I was given one book and one book only to read: Adolf Hitler's "Mein Kampf". In the German concentration camps of Dachau and Buchenwald we were forced to listen to every speech of Adolf Hitler. We had to stand assembled in burning sunshine or in rain, or in snow and frost. In every hut in Buchenwald there was a loudspeaker which you could not turn off - and it blared their speeches all the time. And all the time I and the many thousands there were there without knowing why - without any criminal and political charge laid against me and the others, without any hearing or judgement, just because certain words were tagged to us and virtually stitched on our prison garb in symbols which indeed had the same meaning for Germans and Austrians, for Frenchmen and Dutch people and for all the others of all the other people of Europe who fell victim to the semantic madness of the German people.

In Nazi Germany every young boy - and after 1933 it had to be every young boy - was forced to join the Hitler Youth. He was given a dagger on which were engraved the following words BLUT UND EHRE which means "Blood and Honour" (whatever that might mean). On the other side of the blade were engraved the words ERNST ROEHM the commander of the S.A. (In German Sturm Abteilungen - Storm Troopers). Then Hitler ordered the execution of Roehm and hundreds of Hitler's highest officers. Immediately afterwards all Hitler boys had to give up their daggers and immediately afterwards thousands of grinding machines all over Germany were set in motion and ground out the words ERNST ROEHM on millions of daggers. The explanation was given in large placards all over Germany: Roehm and his friends - besides of other evils - were homosexuals. But this was known in Germany for years. The real reason was that Roehm tried to use his Storm Troopers to gain supreme power. This uprising squashed, the German boys were given back their daggers and had another opportunity to think about the meanings BLOOD AND HONOUR.

Now, next time you witness a march-past of the Salvation Army here in Sydney or England or America, look at their banner and get the shock of your life. It carries the words BLOOD AND FIRE. Now, if anyone who does not know anything about the activities of the Salvation Army or the Nazi Army (now underground), would be asked: 'Which slogan would you prefer BLOOD AND FIRE or BLOOD AND HONOUR?' he might very well choose the one with Honour in it, because Fire is a dangerous meaning whereas Honour surely carries no danger. In this particular case - the opposite is true. Many millions of Germans, Russians, Frenchmen, Britons, Americans, Jews and others perished just because of that meaning HONOUR engraved in daggers and in the minds of the German people.

IS THE STUDY OF SEMANTICS NECESSARY?

Just yesterday, I got a letter from a man in a country town in Australia who became very interested in the study of Semantics. He told me that he spoke with the foremost man of the University Department of Tutorial Classes (not New South Wales). My friend writes: "This very profound and able philosopher (of the tutorial classes) does not think that semantics has any place in the realm of thought. He takes the view that there are philosophy and philology - where does semantics fit? This came as something of a shock to me..." Well, here is my answer to my friend.

That able and profound philosopher of the University Department of Tutorial Classes somewhere in Australia is right - right with a terrifying difference. Philology means philos loving and logos speech, discourse. The love of learning. In particular it means the study of literature and language. Why the study of "meaning"? If I want to know the meaning of a word I look up the dictionary. And there it is "Blood" or "Honour" or any other of the half million words which fill the Oxford or Webster Dictionary, and then I know what Blood and Honour means - or do I?

Intrigued by the words "tutorial classes" I started to find out what these words mean. "Tutor" means apparently a teacher and then "to tutor" means, and here we stop - and start to wonder what "to tutor" really means. In Webster's

Dictionary "to tutor" means

- (1) to have the guardianship, tutelage, care of.
- (2) to teach, instruct,
- (3) to treat sternly,
- (4) to pamper, humour, indulge,

Alright, alright, I am not going to rub it in. Let's take the nearest meaning: to teach. Then apparently every class with a teacher and pupils is a "tutorial class" - or is it? Of course, it is not. I rang up one of my friends who is a graduate of Sydney University - and believe it or not, he could not give me an exact definition of what a "tutorial class" really is. One thing however is sure, it's not a dangerous meaning. People won't be let into war by this.

Now to the other word Philosophy. It means the love of wisdom. Now, you must know that in all the universities of the past centuries and in many universities of today, whatever you study (except law, medicine and divinity) be it literature, or language, chemistry or physics, economics or music, etc.etc. when you graduate, you become a Doctor of Philosophy - a lover of wisdom.

However, I will be told that a particular part of the study of philosophy is the study of Logic, the Art of Reasoning, and Logic has been studied for 2500 years since the great Greek philosophers started it. This is true. Then read my chapter on Logic and realize the crime, the gigantic crime which salaried logicians and linguists of the past 2000 years have committed on suffering mankind.

The truth is that it takes centuries, until a new branch of science is added to the curriculum of the universities. The men who pioneered these new sciences were usually laughed to scorn by the salaried philosophers. This is true with every new science, be it anthropology or archeology, chemistry or physics, etc.etc. In every case, not salaried men pioneered these new sciences. They were called Amateurs. This word stems from Latin amator Lover. They were lovers of the search for knowledge. They had to die, usually in bitterness and oblivion, until paid professionals were appointed who started immediately to misinterpret the meaning of Amateur.

Well, do we need to study Semantics? Do we need to clamour for a new branch of science? Well, listen to this:

Commo: "Peace, peace is the only thing which counts."

Non-Commo: "What do you mean by Peace?"

Commo: "Peace on Earth and Goodwill to all Men."

Non-Commo: "Shut up! The peace you mean is the peace of the graveyard."

Commo: "We fight for the Liberation of Mankind."

Non-Commo: "And you mean by that imprisoning millions of people. You do not even allow your people to flee from your countries of peace and liberation. ●

Commo: "You are a capitalist"

Non-Commo: "You know I am a labourer like you."

Commo: "Then you are a victim of bourgeois ideology. You are a victim of that 'latest charlatanery of philosophical idealism, Semantics and its off-spring Semantography."

And this is exactly what the Sydney Communist Review of April 1952 wrote about my work "the latest charlatanery."

And so you see, I am fired on from both sides. For more than 11 years I have approached patiently and politely professors and educators and their institutions in some of the most important countries of the world. I have written hundreds of letters, distributed thousands of brochures and pamphlets (all printed by myself or from my earnings). I have not asked for a job. I asked only for an examination of my work. In every instance - even this was denied to me. I have also approached parsons, priests and rabbis and asked them to realize the value of my work for mankind. I was turned down in every instance. But I am not down. And now after 11 years of approaches to the "uncommon men", approaches which at times brought me into the deepest despair, I approach now for the first time the common men, the people of Australia. I know that I am going to make many enemies. But I have found that I can gain a few friends too. And they, the friends of my work here in Australia, in America, in Great Britain and elsewhere have given me enough courage to carry on. I am pioneering a new idea, and I hope that these writings will help me finding some fellow-pioneers. And I know that if there is a country where I can find pioneers, it is Australia, of which I am now proud to be a citizen.

THE MEANING OF AUSTRALIA

In the 3 lectures (so far allowed to me within Sydney University) I used a saying of the philosophers of old "Ex Oriente Lux", "From the East comes the Light," I translated, "But," I added, "the lights have gone out in the East. The West, the Occident, is the land of the setting sun in more than one way. Let people start to say "Ex Australis Lux" - "From the South comes the Light."

Behind this is a story 2500 years old. It goes back to a small peninsula in Europe, Greece. 16 years ago I stood there on the Acropolis and told my mother and my brother about the glory that was Greece. There, the greatest miracle in the history of mankind happened - the emergence of Greek culture, art, architecture, poetry, drama, science, sport, semantics, government, etc. - unsurpassed till this very day. 8 years later, when I landed on these happy shores I realised that another miracle happened - in our time. This is what I wrote 5 years ago in the closing paragraph of my 3rd book on Semantography (available in Sydney's libraries):

"Here in Australia a miracle has happened in our time. Pioneers with the democratic liberties at heart have created, in the incredibly short time of little more than 150 years, social communities with higher standards of living than anywhere else in the world. And they created all this out of nothing. The country offered at first only starvation. Now, 80% and more of the people live in one family cottages with gardens and comforts. More than 50% own their own homes. The basic wage of a labourer is higher than anywhere else. He and his family can live. As to the civil liberties, they had the eight-hour-day nearly one hundred years ago. The English playwright Geoffrey Thomas said: "Australia has a chance to offer, perhaps the last chance for the human race - the chance to give mankind a new direction altogether."...I know that only here could my thoughts be formed best, in freedom and in peace."

The new direction for mankind is the proof given by the people of Australia and a few other countries, Switzerland for instance, that social communities with high standards and high liberties can be created without the concentration camp and without the firing squad, without Fascism, Nazism, Communism, Falangism, Peronism, Titoism, Huey Longism, MacCarthyism, Bevanism or any other Rightism or Leftism. All those -isms violate the eternal mental laws of Nature which govern a human's mind, and of which you are going to hear a lot in the following pages.

THE MEANING OF BERTRAND RUSSELL'S WORDS

He realized the difficulty which every pioneer of a new idea has. It's not yet a business for publishing business. So he wrote the words that spending money to get my work printed means "performing an important service to Mankind." Since then, I have received a few donations from men and women with vision and have used these sums to have some of my writings typeset or mimeographed. Since then I have received an honour of which I do not know whether any other scholar here has it too. Enlightened librarians of the most important libraries in the United States, and now also in Australia have given a standing order for all my past, present and future writings. Private people too came forward and ordered these my writings, now collected in my Semantography Series. But all this is still a losing proposition. I hope some typists will come forward and help me to type many more of my notes, approaches, controversies, etc. So far, I use up my earnings on Semantography. Working for a living I have no time for drafts and corrections, I type everything directly onto the printing stencil, and beg to excuse all the shortcomings of my writings, a result of my hardpressed time and earnings.

Lastly one word about my approach to Huxley. First, I had to use his language. Only in my final reply ^{did} I gave him a piece of my mind in my language. I don't know yet what man he really is - a conceited highbrow well satisfied with this best of all possible worlds in which he himself is a mighty specimen of evolution - or whether he really is a great man who will realize that another man has made a tiny step forward in the evolution of human thought. It all depends on his future action towards Semantography. And you my friend may be the man or woman who absorbs my work and makes another step forward, thus following the eternal urge which we call God, or Creation, or Evolution and which drives us on to create higher order out of lower order. Keep up your interest in my work and support it and may God (or call it "the creative spirit which is Evolution") bless you. With a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and Goodwill to all men, I am

Yours sincerely
C.K. Bliss
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