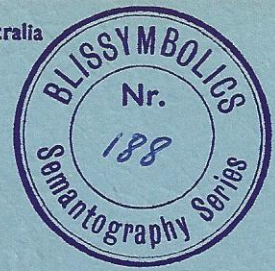


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RELIGION, MYSTICISM & SOCIOLOGY



INDIA AND SEMANTOGRAPHY

Charles K. Bliss

MORADABAD (INDIA)

DARSHANA
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India And Semantography

CHARLES K. BLISS

THE idea "One Country-One people" does not work well, if the country, is divided by many languages. How long will it take for the Government of India to achieve linguistic unity? To answer this question for the future, let's look into the past.

A new language can be introduced by persuasion or by force. The Romans tried persuasion in Spain, Portugal, France, Roumania, etc. The Russians tried force for instance in Lithuania, forbidding the speaking of the native tongue by penalty of death. After 200 years 93 percent of the population still spoke Lithuanian only, not Russian.

The Germans forced German schools into their Polish provinces. The Hungarians forced Hungarian schools into their Slovak, Ukrainian, Roumanian provinces. After half a century it was found that the peasants still spoke their old languages.

Speaking of force and schools, how is it with the millions of boys and girls forced to learn a foreign language? A few gifted pupils excepted—the language teachers everywhere admit utter failure. All we remember is a smattering only.

How is it in countries with freedom of speech and language? In Canada whole provinces speak only French or Ukrainian. In Australia there are German towns. In U. S. A. recruiting posters had to be printed in 26 different languages. What is disturbing is that these foreign settlers came into these countries centuries ago. In Great Britain, people in some villages in Scotland, Wales and Kent still speak Gaelic, Welsh and Kentish. And all this in countries where all children go to school and learn the one and only language.

In illiterate countries with many languages the task is almost impossible. Should the Government of India introduce one school primer in one language into all provinces? It won't work. Primers in different languages will foster disunity even more.

In this almost hopeless case Indian scholars of old have shown a way out. The numerals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 are the old Sanskrit first letters of the number words in Sanskrit. The Sanskrit sound has dis-

appeared, but the idea has remained. These ideographs $1+2=3$ can be read in all languages-without translation.

After the mathematicians, the chemists used Latin letters for chemical ideographs. H_2O means **water** in all languages. This victorious way of bridging all languages made Prof. Basil Hall Chamberlain claim :

"Ideographic writing will surely achieve the final victory over phonetic writing."

This prophecy is ridiculed by western linguists. But they never tried to climb what Lin Yutang called "the second Great Wall of China", its Ideographic writing. True enough, it's archaic and complicated yet it provides an amazing cultural and political unifying factor for people speaking different languages. Sinologists, students of Chinese culture, are unanimous in two amazing assertions. They say that

- (1) The main factor, which in China welded different linguistic groups of people into the largest nation on earth, is the Chinese ideographic script.
- (2) A European nation would have been a reality centuries ago if Europe had an ideographic writing, if Basques and Bulgarians, Frenchmen and Finns, Greek and Germans, Scotsmen and Spaniards had one common bond of communication in being able to read the same book and the same paper, and correspond with each other-though speaking many different languages.

Three hundred years ago the great mathematician Leibnitz got excited about Chinese script, but dismayed about its complexity. He speculated about a simple universal symbolism, pictorial and popular, containing also some sort of mathematical logic, just as everyone can read $1+2=4$ and realize that it contains a lie. But pictorial logical symbols for all meanings in all languages, Linguists and logicians, declared the idea impossible.

The HINDU WEEKLY MAGAZINE of Madras carried in its September 4, 1960 issue an interview by Julie Medlock with Professor Oliver L. Reiser, an eminent logician and philosopher of the University of Pittsburgh U. S. A. Here is the paragraph headed.

WORLD SYMBOLIC LANGUAGE

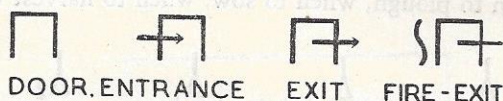
"And for Prof. Reiser whose hobby is admittedly anything new in the field of ideas," it is not surprising that the field of General Semantics has also captured his interest. In his book "Unified Symbolism for World Understanding" he deals with the possibility of one symbolic language for one world, "an epoch-making development which could nullify the long-established barriers set up by separate languages".

The book **Unified Symbolism for World Understanding** by Prof. O. L. Reiser (published by the Semantography publishing Co. at 2 Vicar St. Coogee, Sydney, Australia, postpaid 10 rupees) deals in part with my work Semantography which Prof. Reiser presented in a paper to the American Association for the Advancement of Science. There he said

“Bliss realized the ambition of the great mathematician Leibnitz”

I have tried to apply principals of chemical analysis to the analysis of words. I found that only about 100 symbols representing the “meaning elements” of language are sufficient to express in combination most meanings, even in science. Here below are a few symbols (much enlarged) which can be typed on an ordinary-sized typewriter.

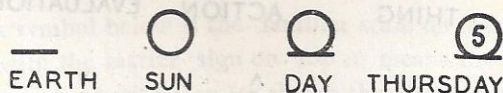
But let it be understood that this “One Writing for One World” should NOT supersede ordinary writing in ordinary languages. It should only be an **auxiliary** tool, to be used where the language barrier must be bridged in science, industry, communication, education, especially education in countries with many languages, for instance.



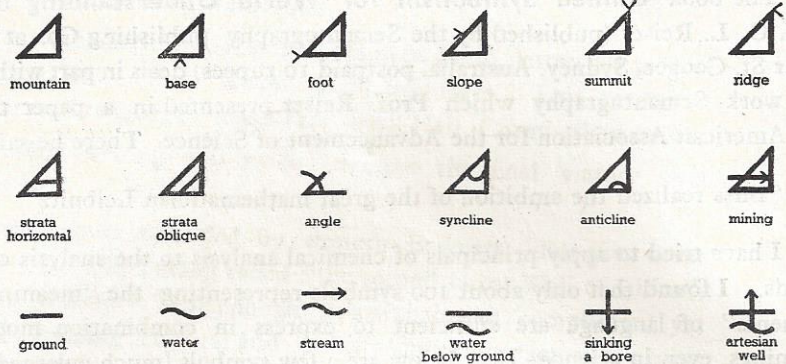
Symbols for public buildings, railways, harbours, airports, cinemas, etc. etc. The wavy outline of a flame indicate Fire.



Symbols for postal communications. The lightning sign is the well known symbol for electricity. A telegram, a cable, is an electrical letter.



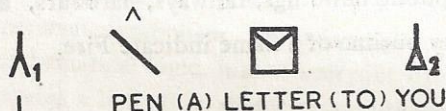
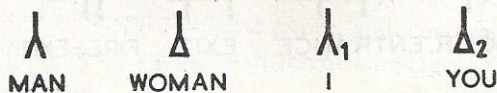
Symbols for calendars, time tables, public notices, agricultural notices, etc.



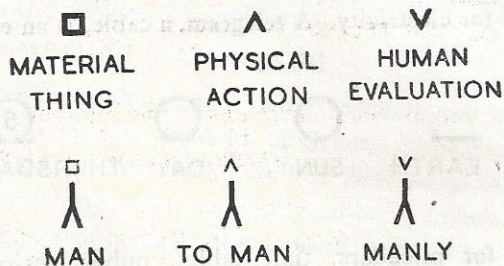
Symbols for Geophysical structures, Geometrical figures.



The knife and the earth line indicate a knife for cutting earth, a plough. Symbols for directions on seed packages for illiterate farmers, telling them when to plough, when to sow, when to harvest etc.



The inclined line represents a pen in writing position. The Action sign on top means "to pen." But the pen symbol is not necessary here. We can put the action sign on top of the letter symbol to get "I letter you", similar to "I cable you"



These are the 3 symbols for the universal "grammar" of Semanto-

graphy. All words can be divided as relating to MATTER meanings (the square indicates structure as in a crystal). ENERGY meanings (the sign is taken from the word A-ctus, action) used for the verb form, and MIND meanings. There is a special symbol for the mind shown later. This symbol V is taken from the word V-alere, and means Value, human evaluation. These 3 symbols work in the following way. The matter symbol on top of the symbol for man (shown above) means the man. The Action symbol on top means the verb "to man", (a ship, a factory, a gun, etc). The Value symbol on top means, the adjective "manly", a human evaluation, which different minds (especially women) may evaluate differently.

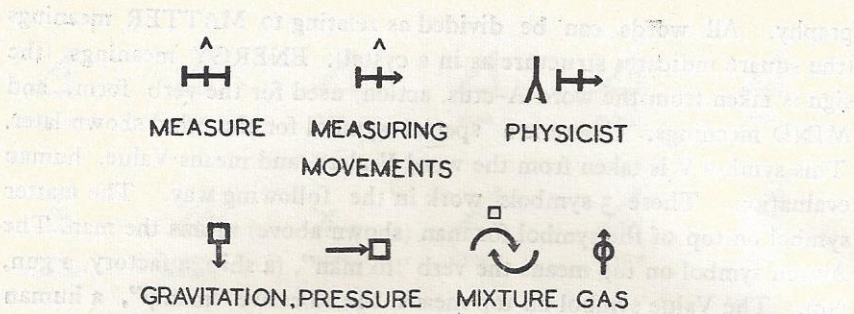


The outline of a retort is an an age-old Symbol for chemistry. ANALYSIS is "analysed" as (1) Chemical (2) Division of (3) Matter.



Symbols for a hotel room.

The first symbol below is the familiar scale on maps, a line divided into units. with the matter sign on top it means the measuring stick, the ruler. With the Action sign (as shown there) it means "to measure". The arrow added means "measuring movements." The man who measures movements, be the gravitational, liquid, gaseous, magnetic or electrical, is a physicist.

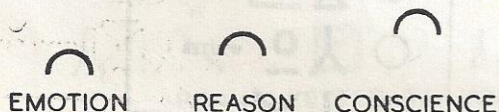


In the second row we see matter falling, and matter being pushed. The curved integrating arrows indicate the action in a mixing machine. The matter sign on top means the material mixture. Gas becomes visible as upward moving bubbles in a liquid.

This latter symbol shows how we can depict invisible things, as for instance thoughts, emotions, reason, conscience.



All thoughts originate in the brain, protected by the visible skull. Using our typewriter we can place the mind symbol on different levels.



Using symbol compounds (not shown here) we can even depict the higher mental state of the mystic and the Ecstasy of nirvana. These researches have taken into account the teachings of the world's great religions, and also the modern theories of psychology and psychiatry. All this opens up a new breath-taking field of practical applications. The symbols of Semantography fulfil the prophecy of Prof. Reiser of expressing.

"A universal ethics which shall transcend races, nations, religions and local cultures."

The psychiatrist Dr. Douglas N. Everingham of Rokhamton, Queensland Australia has used semantographic mind symbols in the treatment of mentally disturbed people. He has Lectured on "Semantics

and Psychiatry" at the Medical Congress 1955 in Sydney. He has appealed to the medical profession in a letter "A Message to Mortals" published in the Medical Journal of Australia (December 6, 1952). Everingham is also the inventor of a new symbolism for organic chemical formulae, his "Carbograms". (For publications on all this see the aforementioned book of Prof. Reiser, also Reiser's monumental work THE INTEGRATION OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE, the Issues No. 92, 85, 86, 87, 164 of the Semantography Series, also the forthcoming book by C. K. Bliss GOD AND YOU AND LOGIC, all available from the Semantography Publishing Co. 2 Vicar Street, Coogee, Sydney, Australia).

This article cannot show these applications of Semantography also not how the symbols can be used in a simple Semantics and logic to demask the disastrous word propaganda of demagogues and dictators. All this has been demonstrated in the 3 large volumes on Semantography which great universities and public libraries have acquired.

What is needed now is that a group of far-sighted men and women of India should form a committee for the experimental study of this **"One Writing for One India"**

Interested readers are invited to write to the Managing Editor.

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