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TIME-BINDINGS

An IGS Newsletter

Susan Presby Kodish: Editor
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Submission Guidelines

Please send hard-copy submissions or inquiries to Susan Presby Kodish at: 330 Cordova St. # 178, Pasadena, CA 91101-4654; Fax 626-795-0954. In addition to hard-copy, whenever possible send your article submission via internet by copying your text into the body of an email to: timebindings@aol.com. Email attachments will not be accepted.

Deadlines: Spring—March 1; Summer—June 1; Fall—September 1; Winter—December 1.

PERSPECTIVES

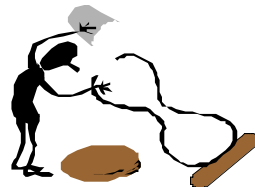
FROM THE EDITOR

In this election year, I recall a story of Bob Pula's. After a general-semantics program some attendees were discussing the upcoming election. All agreed that one candidate seemed the obvious one to vote for. Ah, such lovely concord—but wait, who was the candidate? Each person was thinking of a different one.

'General Semantics' doesn't tell you "the" candidate to vote for. It can, however, help you to make this important decision for yourself. Remember that general semantics works as a general theory of evaluation. Find out what happens when you ponder choices through lenses that include: awareness of your own abstracting process, non-allness, non-absolutism, indexing, dating, consideration of what you don't know, what's new, etc. Also, while noting the basic assumptions guiding your choices, remember and accept graciously—if not happily—that others, coming from different assumptions, will reach different conclusions.

Years ago, a neighbor made a firm decision to vote for Nixon's second presidential term. Six months later, he was lamenting. I won't herein express a political opinion, but I urge you to take a look at the Pula cartoon on page 5. Evaluate and *re-evaluate* carefully before you vote. You'll less likely feel the need to repent later on.

For now,
Susan Presby Kodish



THE FABULOUS MYSTERY OF LANGUAGE

BY LAURA BERTONE

As general-semantics we are trained to become aware of certain uses and dimensions of language most non-general-semantics are not aware of (orders of abstraction, indexing, etc.).

As speakers, writers, language teachers, teachers of foreign languages, translators and interpreters, we are trained to become aware of many other and incredibly varied aspects and dimensions of language (phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic, pragmatic rules, etc.).

As researchers in the language field, we are confronted with other fascinating aspects; for example, language history, the etymological origin of certain words, the reciprocal influences of two or more languages on one another, the spreading of one language over territories and times, the supremacy of certain languages, the dying out of others.

As human beings, even though it is precisely language which sets the human race apart from other forms of life, we do not seem especially aware of the quality and dimensions, of the potential and boundaries, of the usefulness, the preciousness and the uniqueness of the mysterious set of tools and rules we handle every day.

As a not-very-well-known French writer once put it, man becomes human the day he understands the link

Mark Your Calendar**Coming This Year**

- June 14-19: Seminar-Workshop at Alverno College, Milwaukee
- June 25-27: Weekend seminar in Fort Worth
- Sep 25-26: Weekend seminar in Fort Worth
- Dec 28-30: Teaching Development Conference at Institute of General Semantics

GS Organizations

Australian General Semantics Society:
c/o Laurence Cox, Unit 15, "The Commodore," 12-16 Walton Crescent, Abbotsford, 2046, N.S.W., Australia

Institute of General Semantics
P.O. Box 1565
Fort Worth, TX 76101
Phone: 817-886-3746
Email: IGS@timebinding.org

New York Society for General Semantics:
c/o Allen Flagg, 144 East 36th St., New York, NY 10016 Phone: 212-532-8042

San Francisco Society for General Semantics
248 Alma St., San Francisco, CA 94117-4224. Contact Jeremy Klein at 415-724-7131 or lingoframe@aol.com

GS on the Internet

European Society for General Semantics at <http://www.esgs.org> (French, English, Spanish, Italian, German and Polish)

Institute of General Semantics:
<http://www.general-semantics.org>

Gregory Sawin

1950 – 2004

Our friend and colleague, Greg Sawin died on March 12, 2004 after a lengthy illness. He was a tireless worker for general semantics and sincerely worked to live the formulations and promote them. Greg was an Assistant Editor of *ETC.*, editor of the book, *Thinking and Living Skills: General Semantics For Critical Thinking*, and had recently become a member of the IGS Board of Trustees. Those who knew and loved him will miss him dearly.

that binds him to his fellow beings and the link that binds him to the past and future of his own species. That link, made conscious through language and mostly constituted by language itself, can be improved and perfected, as we go through life. This is a bit like those Australian Aboriginals who change their own names according to their own evolution in life. Thus, Tool Maker can become Tribal Elder, Spirit Woman, Composer, or Great Composer.

In this and future issues of *Time-Bindings*, I will focus on those aspects of language that from one or another perspective (as speaker, or interpreter, or researcher) often left me flabbergasted.

Let us begin, as much as seems possible, at the very beginning. As it is quite difficult to firmly establish today what the beginning was, we'll start with something concrete which is not a priori very easy to find either. (What unit shall we take: a word, a sentence, a sign, a phoneme, a sound, a letter?)

We shall follow here one of the first texts, Aristotle's first book of *Metaphysics*, which explains the formation of the world by the fortuitous conjunction of atoms; and Jorge Luis Borges' suggestion that the atoms Aristotle's inference requires be homogeneous. The difference the atoms make comes from the different position, order or shape they may adopt, much as A differs from N because of its shape, AN differs from NA because of the ordering, Z from N because of its position.

Most, if not all, languages function like a game: a number of elements + a number of rules. Let us make the

choice of taking the universal written symbols as a starting point, not the words. The number of such elements is not large—letters, spaces, dots—although the number of letters in the alphabet, as well as other symbols such as accents, diaeresis (two dots on ä and ü as in German), etc., can vary among languages. We can simplify our example by stating that 25 symbols (22 letters, space, dot and comma) in different combinations are enough to express whatever we want to express in any language (some differences granted from the start).

Isn't that fabulous? That the worlds of Shakespeare, Herodotus and Aristotle, Cervantes, Goethe and the Old and New Testaments, have been conceived, described and conveyed through the different combinations of 25 elements? Are we aware of what that represents?

Is language, as Borges would have it, an efficient ordering of the abundance of the world? We invent the names for our experience of reality. We feel a round shape by touching, we see a heap of light at dawn, some tickling fills our mouth with joy and we melt those three heterogeneous things into what we call an orange. (*El tamaño de mi esperanza*. [*The size of my hope*] Buenos Aires, Proa, 1926; Seix Barral, 1993.)

We have accepted, since Ferdinand de Saussure's groundbreaking work, *Cours de Linguistique Générale* (Course on General Linguistics), that what connects a chain of sounds to an object is a sign, and that that connection is arbitrary. This statement seems easy to support. How could we pretend the opposite, considering the number of languages there are and consequently the incredibly different

ways of referring to, for example, a particular piece of food: cheese, queso, fromage, formaggio. These words do not represent anything inherent to the processed milk product. Likewise, nothing in the word “tree” inherently relates with the object “tree.” Yet, in some studies of ancient Hebrew and Sanskrit, where the tracing of the origin of words follows a symbolic path, some clues are given in another direction.

What is the fabulous mystery of language that makes it possible for us to say one thing and mean the opposite, like in irony? Or say one thing and its opposite and rightly pretend that both statements can be true to life? What is the mechanism that enables us to create and understand metaphors and similes? How do we normally identify humor from aggression in everyday conversation?

These are some of the queries and mysteries of language we shall seek to unveil, if you bear with me, in our next issues.

TRY, TRY AGAIN DEPARTMENT

Due to an error by *Time-Bindings'* printer, the photograph below, did not come out quite right in our last edition. So we thought we'd try again.



Nan Wright, Ed Pugh and Claudia Franco Del Castillo at the International Conference

GS AND CHINA PART II

BY WENJIE YAN

[Editor's Note: Part I of “GS and China” appeared in the Winter 2003-2004 issue of *Time-Bindings*. We here continue and conclude with Part II. Part I, *Mao's Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution: A Disaster of Either-Or Thinking*, ended with a section on Mao's rhetoric. The last sentence was, “From a GS point of view, Mao used rhetoric to purposely confuse symbols with people, who, as a result, elevated this confusion to an unprecedented height just for survival.”]

Deng's Economic Reform: A Pragmatic Approach

To a large extent, I believe it was Deng Xiaoping who, succeeding Mao, freed China from Mao's political dogma in the early 1980s. During his reign in China, Deng adopted a pragmatic policy aimed at improving the Chinese economy and quality of life. Understanding political rhetoric alone would not bring food to the table; Deng invented so-called “socialism with Chinese characteristics.” In essence, I believe his creative idea allowed him to introduce a new economic system into the Chinese economy without changing the political nature of China, and thus potentially avoiding another period of political turmoil.

His pragmatic ideologies were reflected in some of his famous remarks. To encourage people to experiment with market-oriented economic ideas, he once said, “Regardless it is a black cat or a white cat, as long as it catches mice it is a good cat.” He also said, “Economic reform in China is full of unknowns; but like wading across a shallow river you guide yourself by staying in contact with pebbles on the bottom.” We can glean from these sayings his

disinterest in political wrangling over which political ideology is superior. It seems to me he cared a lot more about what would work rather than what sounded better; individuals over ideology-induced labels.

Mounting evidence suggests his policy has indeed worked. The Chinese economy has doubled and quadrupled its output over the last decade. Many reliable sources suggest that China is quickly climbing up the world economic totem pole by being one of the few bright spots on an overall bleak economic landscape. From a GS point of view, Deng's thinking reflects what Korzybski, and then Hayakawa and others, would call a “multi-valued orientation” because Deng broke down traditional political-economic categorization and created a new category by combining socialism with capitalism.

The Future of China: Complex and Dynamic

What will the future of China be like? Scholars and pundits are making all sorts of predictions. But generally I think they fall into two camps, doomsayers and threat predictors. Doomsayers believe China will “collapse” within the next five-or-so years; they cite evidence ranging from political crisis to environmental degradation to insurmountable social problems. Threat predictors believe China will continue to grow at a fast pace and it will eventually pose “a serious threat,” both economically and militarily, to the U.S.

Applying GS in my understanding of Chinese situations, I do not buy any of those predictions. I think those pundits are using rhetoric to confuse people. Words like “collapse” and “threat” sound very emotionally pro-

vocative to me. Without careful elaboration, it becomes difficult to determine what exactly they mean in actuality. I do agree the Chinese economy will eventually cool down or even experience some difficulties, which can be true about most economies. Will China pose a threat to the U.S. in the future? Well, I have to say it all depends. How we use language to define ourselves will influence how we act and react toward each other. If we continue to maintain a cold-war mentality and view China as a potential threat, China will eventually turn into our enemy because we make it so.

I do not believe we can accurately predict what China's future will be like. However, I do believe we time-binders have some control over our future through our understanding of the link between our language use, thought, and behavior. Let's shape our future together in a GS way.

THE DOUBTS IN MY HEAD

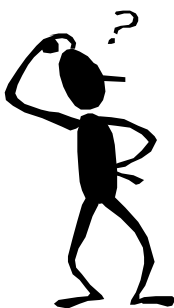
BY ELYSE ST. CLAIR

[Editor's note: Elyse St. Clair wrote this when she was a student in Andrea Johnson's general-semantics course at Alverno College.]

At one point or another, every person has had a second thought—or maybe even a third—about something that was affecting him or her internally. For example, those thoughts might be about going to college, taking that job, or wondering if that person who said she would be right back is on the phone now or not. I believe thoughts and words can change the direction of a person's life.

Without realizing it at the time, I used self-reflexiveness when I had to choose between college and a full-time job after I graduated from high

school. As I reflect upon my past schooling and remember all of the experiences that brought me to my senior year at Alverno College, I have learned that having doubts and concerns about a situation is normal. Hearing that I was not the college type started doubts rolling through my head. According to Maas (2003) self-reflexiveness is “the human ability to pay attention to what we pay attention to by moving to a higher order of abstracting...” (p.313).



As I look back at my decision-making process now, I see that I was using self-reflexiveness and I now realize that I also needed to use self-reflection. I needed to look at what I really wanted to happen in my life. My thought pattern was similar to the “Traffic Light Thinking” diagram (Baldwin, 2002, p. 75). Baldwin's diagram is based on a simple traffic light, and is designed to help us sort out our options. The “red light” section represents a situation that you want to avoid. For me, the “red light” was a full-time job that I realized might lead me nowhere. A “yellow light” means that you have a question about the situation. My question was, “Am I smart enough to get into college and stay with it?” The “green light” section represents something that you want to happen no matter what. In my case, this was that I wanted to better myself.

- **Red light (NOes)** – I did not want a full-time job, yet.
- **Yellow light (Questions)** – Was I smart enough for college?
- **Green light (YESes)** – I wanted to better myself!

The next day, I went to my high school and made an appointment to talk with one of the *other* guidance counselors. Even though I was not aware of it at the time, indexing was an important factor in helping me realize that I could go to college and succeed: I learned that counselor₁ is not counselor₂. Also, just because a previous student might have had a record similar to mine does not mean that we both will have the same experiences or results in college.

According to Maas, “You can have a map, and then you can have a map of a map. And you can have a map of that map, and a map of that map...” (2003, p. 314). Through this entire situation I had many maps of maps. My main map consisted of what I wanted to do—but others' maps of my capabilities influenced me to revise my main map. Also the map of the second counselor made me revise my map again. The most important event that occurred that significantly changed my map was getting accepted to college for the fall of 2000. After studying General Semantics, I became more conscious of the process I used in abstracting my ideas from various maps.

Indexing and self-reflexiveness are tools that can help me understand how I have arrived at this point in my life. Seeing that not every person views the same situation in the same way has given me hope for being successful in college and lessens the doubts that I have had.

Self-reflexiveness helped me to better understand my decision-making process. I also learned that having doubts about going to college is normal. Talking about my concerns with different people helped reduce the doubts. Two valuable lessons I learned from this experience are that no one can tell you what to do in your life and just because one person sees a situation a particular way does not mean that another person will see it the same way. If you truly want to do something, do it. Trying and failing at something that you truly want to do is better than not trying at all.

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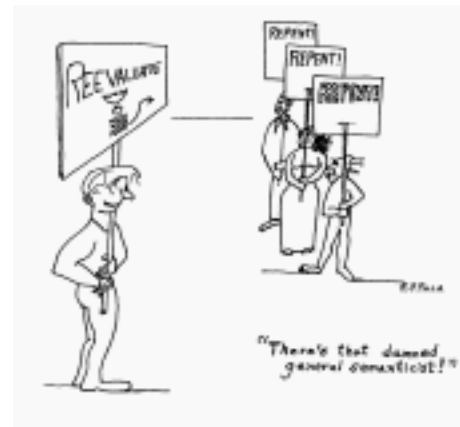
Maas, D. F. (Winter 2003). Reflections on self-reflexiveness in literature. *ETC: A Review of General Semantics* 60 (3): 313-321.

BOB PULA: MEMORIES AND TRIBUTES

[Editor's Note: Following are some responses to news of Bob's death on January 11, 2004, written soon after that sad day. The name of each writer follows the individual pieces.]

Robert P. Pula, our close friend and teacher, died at the age of 75 yesterday (1/11/04) after a bout with double pneumonia. Until his death he remained the world's foremost living general-semantics scholar and one of the most important continuators of Korzybski's work. Bob served as the Institute of General Semantics' lead lecturer for many years. He also edited the *General Semantics Bulletin* from 1977-1985 and served as the Director of the Institute from 1983-

1986. He wrote the "Preface to the Fifth Edition 1993" to Korzybski's *Science and Sanity*. A polymathic poet, painter, pianistic composer, Polka historian, Polish culturalist, cartoonist, writer, editor, and extraordinary teacher (only a short list of his many talents), Bob will be sorely missed by his children, family, students and friends.



Some of his writings in general semantics can be read at the Institute of General Semantics website. I consider his book *A General Semantics Glossary: Pula's Guide to the Perplexed* mandatory reading for anyone who wants to check whether he/she has an accurate understanding of Korzybski's work. Read my review on the Amazon.com website. The loss of Bob, brings home to me and Susan the truth of the general-semantics motto: "The word is not the thing." Words are truly inadequate to express our sadness.

Bruce I. Kodish

I'm saddened to hear of Bob's passing. Like Bruce, I considered him the brightest light in the GS sky.

Steven Lewis

I have just written a letter to Victor Pula, whom I had the pleasure to meet in Las Vegas. As I tell him, I think I will definitely remember Bob as a "force of nature" as we say in

Spanish, for his energy, vitality and joy of living.

Laura Bertone

Bob Pula will remain with us through the mechanism of time-binding. We will miss his wit and charm.

Ralph E. Kenyon

I always enjoyed each meeting with Bob as we greeted each other in Polish. Good humor, good GS, and good teaching. In our last meeting, Bob told me he had been asked to take on another project. He decided against it since he was committed to the projects he had already undertaken. Reason: "I just don't know how much time I have." And we spoke of getting together in the late spring. I cannot believe it now won't happen.

Frank Gastner

Bob has left us a great legacy. I know we will all treasure it. Now five people who strongly influenced me in GS have passed on (Lawrence Inkster, George Doris, Charlotte and Allen Walker Read, and Bob). My resolve didn't need strengthening, but I'm moved to state that I will do my best to carry on my time-binding journey here [Australia], in honor of those who have helped me along the way.

Laurie Cox

I went down to Canton [a Baltimore neighborhood] to the funeral home last night. The streets were cold, windy and deserted, quite a contrast to the scene inside. It was wall-to-wall people, very animated, and it took a while to find where Bob was laid out. I had met Jean at the door, coming down the street from the opposite direction. I spoke to her brother Victor, but could not recognize Ramona, another sister in the

crowd. Bob was still in character. He was there with a copy of *Science and Sanity* in the coffin with him. Draped over the coffin was a banner, which may have been used on some other occasion, which read something like, “Yet another service I render: embarrassing my children.” That, plus the extensive photo display from his life, left me feeling more elated than mournful. This man gave a lot of himself, and I value the experience of having known him.

Cris Hesford

Also from Frank Gastner:

FAREWELL TO BOB

On January 16, 2004, I had the pleasure of attending Bob Pula’s funeral. Yes, the pleasure. For although his untimely death greatly distressed me, the love, respect and fondness demonstrated by those gathered there that day just boiled over.

The Holy Rosary Church itself comes out of another age and culture. The great, 75-year-old, stone edifice stands right at a corner, surrounded by an endless procession of neat, narrow row houses. Inside, the high arched ceiling with its artwork (certainly not painted by Pula) created a sense of respect. The inscriptions on the multitude of stained glass windows were written in Bob’s beloved Polish. The Mass was led by a Polish priest, who said some of his prayers in Polish. It seemed that a large portion of the two or three hundred mourners could follow right along. The eulogies described a friend, a father and a dziadek, now greatly missed. Bob had composed and recorded piano pieces, two of which were played during the service. When the sounds of the piano faded away, the congregation broke out into spontaneous applause.

After the internment at Holy Rosary Cemetery, a luncheon was held in, you guessed it, the Polish Home and Club. The Home, located in Bob’s old neighborhood, stood among many businesses still sporting the names of Polish proprietors. However, a Latino restaurant, club and dance hall stood out starkly across the street. I guess we can say ‘change thinging’.

The luncheon menu demonstrated that the Polish can adapt. Along with cold cuts and hot dishes, the menu featured ‘Maryland crab soup’. I found myself a stranger in a strange town, but soon welcomed by the group at the table I chose. When they found out I had a Polish heritage (they forgave my German name), they sought to have me join the Katyn Memorial Foundation, one of Bob’s many endeavors. One of my tablemates, a remarkable older woman, had served as a lieutenant in the Polish army. It soon became apparent, as much as we viewed Bob as a general-semantics leader, these folks knew him for other things he did. When one of the people at the table asked me just what was this “general semantics” thing that Bob did, and then looked pleased when I cut off the explanation, I realized that our friend Robert had a somewhat compartmentalized life. When folks started speaking about their memories of Bob, I realized I had an opportunity to peer into some compartments I had never seen.

When Bob’s children spoke, I recognized that growing up in a Bob Pula household provided a unique and exciting childhood. Among other things, it seems Bob liked to drive down roads he had never traversed previously, with all the children in tow, sometimes with near disastrous

results. When members of his extended family spoke I found out Bob would also argue with them. One niece said that the nice part came when the words were spent—she felt comfortable saying, “Oh Uncle Bob, you’re full of it!” Bob’s sister said she never knew that growing up with nine people in a small house was crowded—it simply presented ample time for interaction.

And irony of ironies, Bob’s oldest daughter is an ordained Presbyterian minister, married to a Presbyterian minister, who both took part in the service as laymen. Even stranger, I have worked with her husband from time to time for years on the phone. I am blessed. I still have a Pula connection.

On my sympathy card I added, “I think I can speak for all of us who are active in general semantics when I say—Thank you for sharing your father with us.”

Yes, it was a fine wake. It just occurred years too soon.

A follow-up note from Jean Pula:

The family is so pleased that you were able to attend my father’s funeral; I can only guess at the eye opening experience that it was. But that was my father—always presenting an adventure of some kind. My father grew up around the corner from the church. Dad had aunts who were nuns. The Polish Home, where the luncheon was held, is located just 1 and 1/2 blocks from where my father and mother raised us children, five daughters and one son. It is still the family homestead.

An aside from Jean Pula, on reading Frank’s piece about the funeral: My father was well known in the Bal-

timore Polish community as a Polish scholar and musician. He also led the Polonia Choir for many years.

Dad and I had an argument the week before he went into the hospital—over art and local politics. A few days later, he, my brother, and I watched the comedy “Analyze This,” starring Billy Crystal and Robert De Niro. My father had a large collection of comedies, particularly those of the Marx Brothers.



Bob Pula with his 'smoking' pen in Fort Worth, July 2003

W.I.G.O. ("WHAT IS GOING ON")

BY STEVE STOCKDALE,
IGS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We've completed the move to Fort Worth, Texas. Jennifer Carmack, Assistant Executive Director, and I owe many thanks to Paul Johnston and Emily Shomaker in California, and Jeff Mordkowitz and Martha Santer in Brooklyn, for their assistance in consolidating our office operations over the past few months.

Milton Dawes flew in from Montreal to lead our first weekend seminar in Fort Worth on March 12-14. Eight participants from Denver, Atlanta, Louisiana and the Dallas-Fort Worth area enjoyed their exposure to general semantics through Milton's unique presentations.

Our next educational offering will be the seminar-workshop at Alverno College in Milwaukee, WI, from June 14-19. We're pleased to partner with Alverno to again offer this seminar to Alverno students for credit, and to others who want to learn how to apply general semantics to their daily lives. Tuition for IGS members is \$400, or \$350 for returning seminar-workshop participants. For more information contact us at igs@time-binding.org.

We're now offering a choice among four special collections of GS classics on CD as special “thank you” gifts for members who join or renew their IGS memberships at premium levels (\$100 and up):

- Volumes 1-59 (1943-2002) of *ETC* on two CDs in text-searchable Adobe PDF format.
- *General Semantics Bulletin* Nos.1-68 on one CD in PDF format.
- A CD that contains the works of Alfred Korzybski in PDF format, including *Science and Sanity*, *Manhood of Humanity*, *Collected Writings*, *Olivet College Lectures*, and the complete papers from the First and Second American Congresses on GS.
- The commemorative CD from the Twelfth International Conference on GS held last fall in Las Vegas, which contains all the papers from the conference, the *GS Sampler*, over 300 selected articles from the archives of *ETC* and the *GSB*, recent articles by Milton Dawes and Bruce and Susan Kodish, papers from the first two Congresses, and over 400 photos from the archives.

You may also purchase the *ETC* collection for \$69, the *GSB* collection for \$39, or both for \$99, plus shipping/handling of \$3-5. Texas residents add 8.25% sales tax.

We're restructuring our booklist as we implement the new website. Look for a

new catalog of offerings in the online shopping cart and a new printed catalog to be available in late spring.

Moving forward with our office building, we've submitted architectural drawings to the city for zoning and historic commission approval. Barring any unforeseen issues, we should be ready to start renovation and remodeling work in May.



Jennifer Carmack, IGS Assistant Executive Director

ROBERT P. PULA ON CREATIVE SILENCE

“‘Silence’ to this general semanticist suggests, at deepest levels, freedom from the ‘noise’ of my resident symbol system. Silence at this level (when I momentarily, *to some degree*, abstract innocently, without the usually overwhelming impediment of habitual formulations) can put me into a state of receptivity where I very *dynamically allow* new structuring to happen...The extensional devices may be understood as formulations for helping us to achieve silence in the sense just discussed. Let us remain aware that even achieved silence won't ‘show it like it is’—just reduce the impact of accumulated and fresh ‘noise’.”

From “Extensional Devices in Release of Creativity,” *General Semantics Bulletin* 41-42-43, pp. 183—189.

FLAWS

A STORY CONVEYED BY ALLEN FLAGG

A water-bearer in China had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole, which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots of water to his house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After 2 years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the water-bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house." The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them. To all of my friends, have a great day and remember to smell the flowers!



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"Those who doubt that language can influence thinking are unlikely to be vigilant for the effects of language on their own thinking."

— Sydney Lamb