

# Re: Darwin, Evolution, the Animal Kingdom, and Man

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.cognitive/2004-12/0138.html>

---

**From:** Albert (*albertwagner\_at\_cox.net*)

**Date:** 12/05/04

Date: Sat, 04 Dec 2004 21:18:52 -0600

patty wrote:

> *Albert wrote:*

>

>> *Lester Zick wrote:*

>> *<snip>*

>>

>>> *Oh, certainly David's suggesting language be frozen in the present.*

>>

>>

>>

>> *I don't think that is what he is saying at all. I think he is making an argument for certain heuristics, rules of thumb, for the invention of words. Language is indeed a social behaviour. In order to effectively communicate, whether with language, images or artifacts requiring a model to understand, we should always try to leverage meanings from existing, well known, metaphors. E.g. the common roots, prefixes, and suffixes used in current words, common metaphors, etc. Such techniques can extend the language and yet the new user may intuit the likely meaning.*

>>

>>

>

> *Quite so ! But if David meant anything like that, then he expressed himself badly.*

I was just offering David the benefit of the doubt. Perhaps, as Lester says, he doesn't deserve it. Granted, it is out of character for David, whose usenet posts sound like snippets of a doctoral thesis written for a really anal committee.

--

"Don't you see that the whole aim of Newspeak is to narrow the range of thought? In the end we shall make thoughtcrime literally impossible, because there will be no words in which to express it."

-- George Orwell as Syme in "1984"