

Re: what is etymology? (linguistics and biology)

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2006-09/msg01197.html>

- *From:* "Franz Gnaedinger" <frgn@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 25 Sep 2006 23:39:27 -0700
-

Life and language, part 2, what is life?

In the physical sense, life is an organization of matter far from the thermodynamical equilibrium. Not all of matter can turn into living matter, which is why life occurs in single beings. As dissipative structures, living beings need plenty of energy. They solve their energy problem by feeding on each other, or on each other's products, and, in the case of plants, by producing sugar with the help of sunlight. We humans may one day be able to copy photosynthesis on an industrial scale, and perhaps even to produce meat with the help of genetic engineering, thus providing food for an ever increasing human population without killing animals.

Life appears in organized form. We observe bonds everywhere, even between predators and prey. Lions get meat by hunting antelopes, and the populations of antelopes are kept in good health by the lions. According to the now widely accepted weak version of the Gaia hypothesis, life on earth forms a system which created and maintains the biosphere. The strong version even claims that life on earth forms kind of a super-organism.

Language plays a key role in the organization of life. Here again my definition from 1974/75: Language is the means of getting help, support and understanding from those we depend upon in one way or another --- and every means of getting help, support and understanding may be called language, on whatever level of life it occurs.

Regards Franz Gnaedinger www.seshat.ch

Life and language, part 1, what is language?
what is special about human language?
ideas and insights from 1974/75

Language is the means of getting help, support and understanding from those we depend upon in one way or another — and every means of getting help, support and understanding may be called language, on whatever level of life it occurs.

What is special about human life? the use of artificial things. What is special about human language? the use of words that name artificial things and make us see a world full of objects: cup, jar, table, floor, wall, window, garden, fence, road, car, pole, flag ... apple, tree, bird, hill, sky, cloud, wind, light, nature, human being, life, body and soul ... Humans succeeded in building tents, huts and houses, and saw the sky as a giant baldachin, or an overarching vault. If one can form animals in clay, and carve human figurines from wood or stone, one can also name animals and human beings. A statue may be very true to nature and appear most lively, but there will always be something missing when compared with a real human being – what's missing is called life, as if it were a thing of its own. Proportions of a figurine evoke the way organs and members of the living being cooperate, how all elements of life go together, and the word for this cooperation is psyche, soul. Using a band you can tie things together, while the word and joins words, German Bund und (you can find similar words in ancient Greek and in Latin).

Words are sets, while sentences can be understood as overlapping sets, one of them belonging to the word be. Or sentences can be given as equations, which can then be transformed into more specified objects:

overlapping sets: ball be round

Re: what is etymology? (linguistics and biology)

sentence: The ball is round.

equation: the ball – is – a round one

object: the round ball

overlapping sets: ball be rolling

sentence: The ball rolls.

equation: the ball – is – a rolling one

object: the rolling ball

The more things we use, the more specialized our lives become, and the better we have to explain our personal situation before we can hope to get our needs satisfied and our wishes fulfilled. Which is the reason why most of our language describes and explains the world. Nevertheless, all of our language serves needs and wishes.

Glossary of the new Magdalenian words, part 47

Some composites:

AC CA ---- an expanse of land with water (ac) sky (ca), possible name of Goebekli Tepe, southeast Anatolia, Urfa region, north of the Syrian Harran plain, 11 600 – 9 500 BP, represented as a lying H, the horizontal bars meaning earth and sky, the small vertical bar meaning rain, falling from the sky and filling the river beds; Latin aqua for water, Indo-European akka for the earth goddess (Pokorny)

CER MAS ---- divine stag (cer) master (mas); may have become Hermaes, messenger of the gods, alter ego of Homer in the Odyssey

CER PIR ---- divine stag (cer) fire (pir), divine stag protecting the western horizon where the sun sets, and the eastern horizon where the sun rises from; would have become Cerberos guarding the Underworld with fiery breath

CER AC CLE ---- divine stag (cer) expanse of land with water (ac) judge and protector (cle as lateral association to cre for ruler);

Re: what is etymology? (linguistics and biology)

would survive in Heracles

SHA CA UR ---- ruler (sha) sky (ca) color (ur);
may have become Sseyr, Middle Helladic
name of Zeus (Derk Ohlenroth), and English
sky. Sky, in Shakespeare's time, meant cloud.
Clouds, one may say, rule the heavens. When
I pondered this idea last year I saw a big cloud
in the shape of the beautiful profile of a bearded
Greek god pass my window ...

CA UR MAS DAG ---- sky (ca) color (ur) master
(mas) four (dag), ruler of the four (corners of
the) heavens; may have become the supreme
Persian god Ahura-Mazda

BRA MAN ---- right arm (bra) right hand (man);
may have become Brahma who created the
world playing his lyra

SHA CA ---- ruler (sha) sky (ca); may have
become Hebrew Jahve

ABA BRA ---- father (aba) right arm (bra); may
have become Abram, the Lord's right arm,
he who carries out the Lord's will

SA RAA ---- downward (sa) ray of light (raa),
she on whom falls a ray from the heavens;
may have become Sarah

AS RAA ---- upward (as) ray of light (raa);
may have become Asherah, the tree of life
whose branches, pointing upward, represent
heavenly abodes of deities

GHI SHA AC ---- call of a bird (ghi) ruler (sha)
sky (ca), supreme ruler of the Guyenne,
later of Upper Mesopotamia; may survive
in Isaac

SHA AC ---- ruler (sha) expanse of land with
water (ac), a minor ruler; may have become
Jacques Jack Ja'aqob Jacob, also sagan
for the ruler of the province of Judah

AS RAA) ---- upward (as) ray of light (raa)
Lord (clicking L); may be the origin of Jacob's
ladder, the Lord on top of a sun ray, and would
have become Israel, Jacob's byname

Re: what is etymology? (linguistics and biology)

DA PAD ---- away from (da) activity of feet (pad); may be the origin of David: delivered from the paw of the lion, delivered from the paw of the bear, delivered from the hand of Goliath ... Consider the increasing size of lion, cave bear, and towering warrior in arms. David may be an archetypical name, much as Arthur from ARC TYR, he who can take it up with a cave bear.

Asia Minor may have been the place where Magdalenian met Afro-Asiatic, Magdalenian itself being an early northern branch of Afro-Asiatic.

Glossary of the new Magdalenian words, part 45

EID EIS, DIE SIE, IDE ISE, EDI ESI, IED IES, DEI SEI ---- appearances and reality

EID ---- appearances, images; ancient Greek eidos for appearances, idea, notion, concept, imagination, sort, kind, essence, state

EIS ---- reality behind all appearances, ideas and notions, idea of all ideas; ancient Greek eis for the only one

DIE ---- daylight; Latin dies for day

SIE ---- to see, feel, reason, be; Latin siem sum for I am, "cogito ergo sum" (Descartes)

IDE ---- idea; ancient Greek idea for appearance, form, shape, sort, kind, essence, state

ISE ---- equal, what different appearances, notions, ideas and concepts have in common; ancient Greek isos for equal

EDI ---- pleasure of looking at appearances and images; ancient Greek hedonae for pleasure (hedonism)

ESI ---- meditating; ancient Greek haesychazo for I am quiet, still, have it peaceful (...)

IED ---- following appearances, notions and ideas;

Re: what is etymology? (linguistics and biology)

Indo-European iet for to strive, aspire

IES --- trying to find the basic reality behind the ever changing appearances; Indo-European ies for to boil, bubble, well up, foam (Pokorny), appropriate when one considers the steam produced by many a scientific discussion ...

DEI --- logical order and sequence; *dein-caps for by turns (Pokorny)

SEI --- existence of the basic reality behind all the different appearances, notions, ideas and concepts; Latin sei for sic, it is so