

Re: Racism

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2006-12/msg03358.html>

- *From:* Helmut Richter <hhr-m@xxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 31 Dec 2006 13:43:15 +0100
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On Sun, 30 Dec 2006, Peter T. Daniels wrote:

Scriptsit Brian M. Scott:

No, these days "racism" is a general-purpose curse word that has no denotation; it expresses its user's strongly emotional disapproval of something.

Depends very much on who's using it;

Not any more. As soon as a word has been widely taken into curse use, it becomes virtually impossible to use it in any other way, except perhaps in limited circles, such as scholars who can really agree on using such a word as a term.

While it has certainly started down that road, I don't agree that 'racist' has reached that point. 'Fascist', yes; 'racist', no.

"Fascist" has been rescued from the brink of meaningless opprobrium (which seems to be what Jukka means by "curse") by the Bush administration, which has largely embraced fascism in the classic Mussolini sense of interpenetration of business and government.

The Bush administration uses the word "fascist" in a non-derogatory way to

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describe their policy? This is news to me.

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Helmut Richter

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