

"experiment" Re: Waradpande seems to have destroyed PIE already

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- *From:* "Peter T. Daniels" <grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 3 Dec 2007 07:48:56 -0800 (PST)
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On Dec 3, 2:58 am, Franz Gnaedinger <f...@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Dec 2, 8:08 pm, "Peter T. Daniels" <gramma...@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

[subject changed so as to escape Rindhole's latest bout of trolly]

Please learn the meaning of "experiment."

What dibbuk is riding you? My understanding and use of the word *experimentis* exactly conform with the definition in my Webster's Unabridged. If you want a piece of kitchen etymology I'd say *ex-peri-ment* is a word composed of Latin and Greek, meaning this: being of a mind (*mens mentis*) that likes to step out (*ex*) of the ordinary, the common place and the common sense, the framework of the prevailing theory, and walk around (*peri*) the situation, looking at it from the outside, testing it, observing it from every accessible vantage point, discovering new aspects, gaining new ideas, testing them again, and so on. Apparently you have no understanding of these processes, Lord Textbook, Don Label, Sir Category. You are the mainstreamer *par excellence*.

Ok. A conveniently short way of putting it occurred to me while I was driving through a puddle this morning. (I have to move the car on Mondays and Thursdays, so rather than simply emit pollution by driving around the block, I generally do my errands then.)

An experiment is when one (a scientist, generally) tests a hypothesis by setting up some controlled environment of interest, varying the parameters (one at a time, ideally) by controlled increments, and observing the results. With a good hypothesis, the results will conform to expectations. With an inadequate hypothesis, they won't,

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and the hypothesis will need revising or replacing (and science will
have been done).