

## **MISUSE OF WORDS**

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Utter confusion and, sometimes, ensuing trouble arises because of the wrong use of words.

Someone might say, "I am quite well, but I have a headache!" The word quite means completely, so how can you be completely well if you have a headache.

Here is a commentary from a football match, "That was a wicked ball from Wayne Rooney." How can a football be wicked? Can it be criminal, offensive and immoral, since that is what the word wicked means.

Hitler was wicked. Ian Huntley is wicked.

"This pop group are really cool," said some girls at school. Nonsense. Under the television lights they are sweating profusely. They were very warm and uncomfortable. The word cool means moderately cold, free from heat. And yet some pop groups are called hot!

The word anthem means a setting of words from the Bible for a choir, or a nationalistic song. How come there are pop albums called anthems when they are not anthems?

The word classical means in a restrained, conservative style or in the style of period marked by stability of form, intellectualism and restraint, or serious art or music. How can a pop album be of classical tracks when it is not intellectual and is formless, non serious and unrestrained? How can a car be called a classic?

Can a car be restrained and have a stability of form and be intellectual?

People use words wrongly. The Beatles were said to be fabulous and known as the Fab Four. The word fabulous really means ancient, old and the stuff of legends and fantasy often using mythical animals. It comes from the word fable. As it is merely legend, it is not real. So the Beatles are old, not real and mere fantasy... but because this word has been used wrongly for over 40 years, fabulous now means extremely good.

The word gay means carefree and happy. Now it means homosexual. So if you are a happy person and I call you gay I would be using the word correctly but you, and others, might misunderstand and take offence.

We now have a new word... homophobic. It comes from the word phobia which refers to a severe fear of something like heights or spiders. Such a fear can be devastating, raise blood pressure, cause panic attacks leading someone to rush into a busy street and be knocked down. Surely no one has a fear like that about homosexuals.

One of the most infuriating words is transcendental. It could mean many things. Transcendental meditation is a relaxing and refreshing of the mind in stillness and silence based on Hindu philosophy. So transcendental here means relaxation, stillness and silence. When we come to Liszt's piano studies called Transcendental Studies we have a different meaning of the word for these studies are not still, silent or relaxing. They are technically very difficult to play.

But are they Transcendental Studies? They are studies that need a pianist who has a technique which is beyond the normal and, therefore, the pianist has to be exceptional. It is the execution of the studies that are transcendental and Liszt said so. It is the pianist who is transcendental. The correct title would be Difficult studies for exceptional pianists, but that does not sound very glamorous. The origin of the word transcendental refers to the Divine who is beyond the normal since He is not human but Divine.

You will accuse me of being too literal but language and speech is just that and with these two meanings of transcendental you have opposite meanings!

Literal has to do with the correct and exact meaning of words.

At the Chilcot enquiry into the Iraqi war one witness said that the war was legitimate but not legal. But these two words mean the same!

It is just as crazy as saying, 'Her dress was red but not red!'

The bombing and killing of innocent Iraqis, including children by British or American forces was said to be collateral damage. What an awful expression to use for military incompetence and the obscenity of war. Is it murder, manslaughter, accidental killing or what? Is it not both illegal and criminal?

If I accidentally ran someone over would I be charged with manslaughter or collateral damage?

The same argument applies to friendly fire, a stupid expression if ever there was one. We shot and killed some of our own troops accidentally. It was FRIENDLY fire!

The abuse and misuse of words. The wrong use of words and expressions.

Spiritualists and psychics misuse words and invent others. The word spiritual really refers to belief in Christian doctrine and practice, or belief in religion. Spiritualists now use the word to describe their beliefs. The word has been shanghaied.

Some spiritualists meet in what they call churches. The church means a place of Christian worship. Spiritualists call their meeting places churches to obtain charity status, as do scientologists.

This is deception.

A mosque is a place for Islam worship and a synagogue is a place for Jewish worship. A church is a place for the worship of the Christian God.

Spiritualists say we have a physical body and also an astral body. Astral means of the stars or of the human spirit. What is physical has a body with its vital organs. The spirit does not have a body; it is not physical and so you cannot have an astral body. It is a contradiction.

A girl at school said, "Sir, if a ghost is a spirit that wanders for years and has no physical body how does it survive? How does it eat and drink and how does it pee?"

The word etheric is also used for the astral body. The word etheric does not appear in any of my up-to-date dictionaries. It exists since it is used and in spiritualist books, but it is not a real or accepted word. It is an invention.

The word telepathy really means suffering from afar but is now used to infer communication with the mind alone.

See article on [Telepathy](#).

The awful Betty Shine used the phrase mind waves, another expression not in dictionaries. To analyse this expression it really boils down to magic which is the SUPPOSED power to make things happen, a trick or illusion something meant to deceive as an entertainment.

See article on [Betty Shine](#).

David Icke talks of the earth's energy system something he can unblock. Then why doesn't he? What does he mean? Energy is the capacity for intense activity, forcefulness, the ability to overcome resistance. Icke can unblock resistance. What resistance? He does not explain this and so how are we to understand what he is talking about?

See article about [David Icke](#).

There is the word fantastic which means excellence or large or great in degree or amount.

I am fond of cricket and have heard expressions such as a fantastic shot or a fantastic ball. Can a ball be fantastic? Then there is the expression a fantastic wicket.

Another misused word is masterpiece. The word has two basic meanings namely an outstanding work, or the most outstanding work of an artist or composer. The word masterpiece suggest something which is factual, but it is not. Who is to say which of Valquez's paintings is his best, his masterpiece? Who is to say which works of Beethoven are his masterpieces? Surely it is subjective, based on personal feelings and opinions? Professional musicians cringe when they hear that Elgar's Cello Concerto is a masterpiece. From a technical and coherent point of view, it is poor; from a structural point of view, it is poor; from a thematic point of view, it is poor; from an emotional point of view it is poor being a nauseous self-indulgent wallow. Because something is popular does not make it a good work, let alone a masterpiece. In many quarters this work is positively hated.

I have heard people say that John Lennon was the greatest British composer of the twentieth century and that Johann Strauss wrote any many masterpieces as J S Bach. Really?

Of course, there are new words which are necessary for new and valid concepts. The word dodecaphonic is a correct musical term to describe twelve note or serial music. It certainly is a correct word, and not an invention, and can be explained, whereas astral body is an expression that is contradictory and therefore false.

The use of slang is the misuse of words or the misuse of letters that are used to make words. Often such words describe private parts of the body and/or have sexual meaning distasteful. But why? Why use the f word when copulate is the correct word? Why use the c word when there is a correct word? Why use the word bastard of someone when they were legitimately born? Swear words are the wrong use of the constituent parts of words and why do we use them?

It has been said that swear words are distasteful and are used in distasteful situations or about distasteful subjects. And, it could be said, such words distasteful people come from.

Take the word alien. It really means someone from another state. He is living in California but he was born and raised in Kansas. He is an alien to California. A refugee is an alien in the proper sense of the word. Someone who has fled from a war torn area of Africa and is living in Austria is an alien, a foreigner. Yet the word is now used as someone from outer space, something that exists in science fiction but, as yet, there is no convincing evidence to support the existence of such spacemen. We are told that aliens seeded or started the human race but no evidence exists to support this.

Christians get things wrong. The Trinity is not three persons since God and the Holy Spirit are Spirit Beings. Only Jesus Christ has a body. Only He is a person.

Some churches call christening baptism which can be conducted on a small child. But baptism is the immersion in water of an adult who has accepted Christ as Saviour.

Roman Catholics believe that the bread and wine at Mass really becomes the body and blood of Christ. They refer to the Last Supper when Jesus gave the bread to His disciples and said, "Take and eat; this is My Body," and then passed the wine around and said, "Drink ye all of it for this is My Blood..." But Jesus also said, 'I am the Door'. Does that mean that He blocks an opening or is made of wood with hinges, brackets and handles?

Even Plymouth Brethren get things wrong. Some refer to the bread at the Breaking of Bread service as a loaf. A loaf is what is made from a batch of dough which constitutes the whole bread. Can you imagine the Lord saying, "I am the Loaf of Life".

They also say that when you would a brethren assembly you come into fellowship. The fellowship of any

believer begins at the moment of conversion not when you join a new church of assembly.

Christians refer to fellowship as a cup of coffee and a chat. It is not!

You may ask, 'Does this really matter? '

Yes, it does.

Error and heresy has come largely because of the words use of words.

One day at school, I had to deputise for the geography teacher. I had had some notice and so I went to a bookshop saying that I wanted some books on China for a geography lesson and I would call the next day, which I did. The girl in the shop presented me with some books on porcelain!

I will be told that I have laboured the point and that we all have to accept the modern usage of words. Tony Blair recommended that in school exams we use 'buzz' words. Nelson won a cool victory at Trafalgar. What was the weather like on that day?

There is always the need to be trendy but trendiness does not last long before an alternative trendiness takes its place. Today if a pop song is a few months old it is no longer trendy! It is old. So say teenagers!

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