

seeks to put together certain phenomina. The phenomina are what matters, not the word. As to what the word means, it is bound to change from time to time, because a word is used by people and people's ideas of what is involved in the word change and different people have different ideas of what is meant by a word. The meaning changes from time to time. So the word "let" three or four hundred years ago meant to hinder or to prevent has come today to mean to permit or to allow--the exact opposite. The word has changed its meaning altogether. The word "prevent" which three hundred years ago meant "to come before" so that the Psalmist said that he prevented the dawning of the morning with his prayers today would mean something entirely different and renders that sentence utter nonsense unless we reinterpret the word to mean what it meant then.

(Question) Semantics--(spells it out) I wouldn't really call it science. Perhaps a pseudo-science. It grasped a real ~~truth~~ truth, the truth that words are merely symbols and that the symbols vary as different people have different ideas of what the words mean. Therefore it is altogether reasonable to take any word and make it mean anything whatever that you want it to. There is nothing dishonest whatever in taking the word "black" and making it mean "white" or taking the word "heaven" and making it mean "hell" providing you explain exactly what you mean by it before you use it so that people are not deceived--so that they know that you are using this particular symbol to express certain phenomina, real or imaginary--that they have an idea as nearly as you can give them what you mean by this. Of course, it is very, very difficult to define exactly what you mean. You take the word "table". What is a table? ~~Somebody~~ Somebody says it is four legs with something flat on top. Then you find tables that have three legs or that have five legs or that have one leg. So that is not a satisfactory definition of a table. Somebody else would say it is something that you can put books on. Often I put them in a chair. It is difficult to get a full definition and you would certain objects on which people