IV-7   Words Hijack Thoughts

To a significant extent the logic to contemplate action is part of words such as may, be, can, would, should, must, and ought. While the indicator words facilitate communication by providing access to intentions, implications and consequences, which may also hijack thought.

Designs and desires of cognitive biases shape all actions including word-smithy. Knowledge of the past is a human construct necessarily burdened by human failings that find their way in mental views through which all constructs have to be expressed, composed, and conceived. It is also the realm of the determinants of the cognitive, linguistic and evolutionary structures.

Indicator words and phrases

For premise: Follows from, is clear from, whereas, for, given that because of, in so far as, as we know, as we can see, as is shown by, supposing that, assuming that, granted that, in the light of the fact, the reason that, as is implied by, based on, owing to, by virtue of the fact, due to, for the reason that, as we know from, follows from, as is implied by …

For conclusions: Therefore, thus, so, hence, as a result, consequently, as a consequence, so we see that, implies that, means that, shows that, proves that, suggests that, demonstrates that, is evidence that, it may be inferred that, it follows that, leads to the conclusion that, one must conclude that …

At the root of the debate is the basis for tentativeness, and its relationship to the prevalent reality. Only through evaluation of such partial (tentative) constructs do we learn to see entities and events in real time. If nothing else, purview of our mental images (conceptions) emerges with place and time. From this perch even the principles of logic, mathematics, and science suffer from biases. Most of our formulations of even the pithy issues change every few generations. With this also change perceptions of reality, its value as the knowledge and information, and its utilitarian potential.

Walk through a Zen-garden. Faithful narrative of an event or happening is often an enjoyable experience. In the context of behaviors, precision of intentions in language communication is often diverted, if not lost, with the differences with which people perceive the flexibility and complexity as the power of words. Yet, even for those not extensively trained, a narrative of language can glide from normative to readily grasped imperative and declarative. Lasting beauty of narratives lies in the staying power that language provides for ideas and thoughts that transcend the time, geographical and cultural boundaries. Although terms may require elaboration through description and explanation, there may not be an explanation for the event or entity. At the very least, much of the necessary information for the perception of such events is lost in the mist of time as we try to capture the order. Some of the elements of narratives are considered below.

Masses of words create an immediate impact. The realm of *anything goes* is cluttered with unknown outcomes and undesirable dead-ends. This can be overwhelming enough that we loose sight of the trees in the forest. The order of singular purpose can substitute the anarchy of organic farming or a late fall garden. Metaphor of garden teaches us about organization,

manipulation and communication of thought. With an appeal to the content, the context of space and time adds to the interest by including considerations of size, height, light, shade, focal point, and season.

It may be an oxymoron, but the purpose of nursing thought with facts is to identify the particulars and relations that are inviolable. Otherwise, in an unknown territory we come across virtually limitless contradictory, incongruent, confusing, confounding, mind-boggling, puzzling and uncertain elements. Boundaries begin to emerge with identified relations between the spaces broken by paths, walls and fences. Since there is no map, an educated guess is all that is needed without having to reinvent wheel at every turn of the path. Exploration of the concept space begins with the consideration of doubtful by entertaining a hypothesis to consider the alternatives, ambiguous and incomplete to explore realms of plausible, probable, feasible and consistent. Achieving constancy of a path *from here to there* is an evolutionary exercise as the frame of mind emerges through plan, write, cool, and revise.

Consistency is a critical element of communication to evolve into conceptualization. With such sensitivities as ideas are expressed the focus remains on an implicit or explicit area in relation to the overall plot. Consider the audience including you yourself who will be living with the construct by examining possible combinations and relations. Arrangements of ideas around a concept may or may not allow much wiggle room for other themes, but it must be possible to include variations on the theme. Even a mundane theme can be of interest if it brings out novel and unexpected.

Through random trials. Works ascribed to Shakespeare could not have come from random hits at a keyboard of even an intelligent

word-processor equipped with a spelling and grammar checker for the proper English usage of the period. By the same token, by himself Shakespeare the bard could not have conceived all the pithy ideas.

Matter of Style. The appeal remains in the focus on the content concomitant to the insights. Style is about deliberate mixing of facts and relations with rhetoric flare if necessary to touch but not overwhelm. Choice of a style with understated focus or with emphasis on a single point comes from the consideration of all relevant factors. The overall presentation can to top-up with the message up-font, or top-down with the message emerging in the end after meditation. Its extent has intrinsic appeal for different reasons just as charms of different gardens peak in different seasons.

Can this be said more simply? It is foolish to make a long prologue and be short in the story itself. One way to deal with complexity is to group ideas. Although not an end in itself, order and simplification are the first steps towards the mastering of the subject. Even for well-defined problems, multiple steps exist between the given information (input) and the solution (output). Additional relevant information and relations often emerge as one move away from the particulars of information at hand towards the solution.

Association and order in regularity. Humans thrive on associations. Insights into cycles and chaotic behaviors have been the breeding ground of the knowledge industry. The life as we know has come to rely on sun to rise and set every day - more or less on time. Sumerian and Egyptian priests noticed a relationship between the position of the sun in the sky and the regularity of the rainy season that flooded the rivers and marked the sowing-season. Long before the facts of astronomy were

known, the pattern was captured in lunar and solar calendars. The insight introduced a predictable order for the economic stability at the dawn of the human civilization. Among other things it was also used to divide the time in to days, weeks, months and years for social and personal interactions even before the invention of clock and calendar.

Causality (Cause-and-effect). Ordering allows for succinct but comprehensible. The information is compressed by alluding to commonalities through laws and models. We can not live without such intertwined notions of causality and generalization. They are ingrained in our thinking, decisions, and actions. Language communication relies on the principle of *let the buyer be beware.*

There are no standards for the placebo or even accountability against snake-oils. Sometimes, the chain of events leads to a particular outcome. Then there are more distant consequences. Consider the constructs: *Captain Cook about to discover New Zealand* or *Voyage of Columbus to America.* These assertions may not sound strange but they are paradoxical because the order, if it ever implied cause and effect, is reversed: What was to follow or discovered defined the prior moment. Consider the implied causality of *You can't judge a book by its cover* against its counterpart *Clothes make the man.* Similarly, *10 billion hamburgers sold* or *everybody has it* does not necessarily make the next one any better for you to buy.

Some assumptions go deep. For thousands years many argued that universe cannot have limits. Here is how Lucretius (50 BCE) reasoned: *If space is bounded, imagine what will happen if one tries to throw a stone past the boundary. Either the stone will cross the boundary or something just beyond the boundary will stop it.* Contrast this to the concept developed in the Ganga-valley: *Space is the boundless nothing, wherein lies the tangible universe with limits.*

Logical and mathematical consequences of these formulations are quite different. Needless to say that many still believe in a five mile high bowl of universe created 5000 years ago.

Synchronicity. Inductive inferences are like *all ravens are black*. They set a stage for independent verification or rationalization of a generalization. In contrast to the Newtonian determinism, Jung's concept of synchronicity purports that *all events in the universe are connected in an acausal way as evidenced by occasional coincidences*. One can not look for a Grand Plan in isolated facts like: *While I talk and a football game is on TV, a sea gull catches a fish in Nile delta, a tree falls in the Siberian wilderness, a woman takes a dip in Ganga*. There would always be accidental events that leave signatures and seem to follow but not fall in a pattern of events with a causal correlate. Are such events worthy of planning a course of decision to act?

Understanding of the causality through the hierarchy of the physical world has emerged from strategies in which function at one level is related to events at another level. It is the crux of the so called structure-function correlation. Events with invariance and consequence assume causality. Philosophers also look for teleology to find meaning in narratives of the occasional. **Asymmetrical universals.** We rarely know entire reality. Often what we know cannot be expressed in a finite space or time. Others may not want to hear even if we desire to do so. Such issues bear on the content and significance evaluation by symmetries. Aesthetics of symmetry comes into play both in reasoning and the physical reality. Sphere, a perfectly symmetrical object, is a Platonic perfection. Adam was created in the image of the perfection itself. Asymmetry is created when Eve was carved from a rib of Adam. In fact, idealized have to be continually deconstructed. Even the ideas about the perfection of

Eve, commonly interpreted as beauty, are ever-changing.

Limits to endless self-replication*.* We know more about the language of computers than out own, presumably because we taught them to do things based on the way we designed computers.   Motto being *it can be done if it can be defined*. For such purposes inputs are controlled, systematized and standardized usually in the form of numbers coded as binary electrical blips. Virtually all social, economic and scientific enterprises have become such number machines and data bases: Not that the data as such is meaningful, but the changes are relative indicators of perturbations.

Room for Doubt