

Objects Versus Concepts

Jeffrey J Wolynski

February 24, 2013

Jeffrey.wolynski@yahoo.com

Abstract: A short analysis of the issues with black and white labels in the use of language in a scientific context.

The author of this paper has come across a small cult like following of people who have pointed out the weaknesses of language in scientific settings. Put simply, this following of people believes that everything in the known universe is either a concept or an object. This mindset is flawed for many reasons, but only one reason needs to be issued to obliterate this irrational mindset.

1. For the purposes of communication it is absolutely required that objects have qualities about them abstracted away that way we can talk about them and communicate. For example:

John has a beach ball it is made of a type of plastic. This plastic is also comprised of oil based polymers. The oil based polymers are comprised of oxygen and hydrogen. This can continue in many other regards in the opposite direction as well: The beach ball can be John's property. The beach ball can also be many different colors and sizes, some small some very large! The beach ball can be broken and/or deflated.

These sets of statements for the purposes of communication makes it required that you abstract away the properties of what you are giving definition to. Nobody says this, "hey John, can you grab your property you know, the hydro-carbon based polymer that is soft and malleable that is in the shape of a sphere, but probably isn't because the piece of metal in the shape of a cylinder does not have other types of hydrocarbon based liquids lubricating the inner shaft which possesses the ability to push air omni-directionally, but in this case doesn't really need to because there is....yadda, yadda, yadda".

This kind of irrational, non-communicative jabbering leads to ZERO communication, especially when I can just say, "hey John grab the beach ball and make sure it is inflated". This kind of non-communication is heralded as being "scientific" but is complete non-sense for the purposes of communication. We all can see now that "beach ball" is an abstraction. As any purposeful and rational person knows, an abstraction is a concept. There is only an uncountable set of properties of reality that we consider to be "beach ball"! For the purposes of science, you can make any definition you want, but there is no such thing as "object/concept", because the very abstraction considered to be "object" is nothing but a set of familiar properties that are shared between other people. Communication itself is defining reality so that there is shared meaning. If I say cat, you think dog, then we will not communicate! If I think object and you think concept then the same will follow! An object is nothing but a set of shared familiarities and properties of reality, this is because an object is an abstraction that subtracts the properties of its

surrounding environment and measurable composition and can never exist independent of reality!

Therefore if the reader should come in contact with anybody who claims that there are only two parts to reality, objects and concepts, then you can now correct them. There are only properties to reality that we abstract to allow for effective communication. Any person who abstracts and confuses their abstraction for something “physical” is only meaning to argue with you into oblivion. What is even scarier is if the person decides to reify concepts such as magnetic field lines into ropes or particles, it then simply leads to other unquestioned abstractions rooted in the “ropes/particles” that were created to abstract away their properties as individual units in a completely different context that is not even perceived! The argument as to what is then considered to be “physical” or “non-physical” can last forever! You can argue all day with this failure to effectively communicate because you can give meaning to whatever you think is physical and look at the other persons “reality” as being un-physical.

The object/concept cult is nothing but a type of “newspeak” similar to the efforts and means used by the totalitarian government in the novel *1984*, and is nothing but a re-invention of the wheel mirroring the communication problems of scientific literature as a whole.