

COMMUNICATION

The importance of definitive consensus on the interpretation of definitions utilized for communication between humans cannot be underestimated.

A sober observation of issues that generate polemics, misunderstandings and confusion, makes clear that such discrepancies frequently arise due to seldom recognized communication obstacles like language ambiguities, but most importantly, by the lack of stated agreement on the implied definitions of the basic terms under discussion or argument.

Perhaps one of the most common and least recognized barriers to intelligible communication is that which each party considers as "obvious", a term that although implying universality of consensus, when examined in practice usually reveals substantial differences.

The ambiguous nature of "obviousness" reflects individual biases and taken-for-granted experiences, a situation that has given rise to the sarcastic definition of "common sense" as "the least common of all senses".

It may not be considered as hyperbole to assert that, in light of the importance and pervasive disregard for predefinition of terms, a significant source of the major conflicts that prevail among human societies is rooted in communication differences about how-to rather than what-to.