

To BE Or Not To BE – The Impact of Language and the Being Verb

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The Being verb, to Be: am, is, are, was, were, will be, with all of its iterations of tense and singular/plural states. This verb is the core of the English language as well as language based thought. Very importantly, this core verb, and its ilk in other languages, sets the stage for the manner in which we humans conceive of reality!

The Being Verb's Basic Claim – This IS That – Definition

“Is” is our most basic word in English! It assumes separation among the “things” it connects, and it asserts stability for these things. “That rock is old, hard, and sharp, and it will last a long time,” is a statement of condition for a thing – a claim based on the assumptions that the rock can be separated from the rest of reality and that it is stable at least in the present. We are so accustomed to accepting these background assumptions that we do not give this kind of statement a second thought.

But none of this is true! In the reality of energy and matter that we now understand applies, every “thing” is fundamentally connected in an infinite web through all micro to macro scales to the point of being ONE “thing” [unification]. Separation is an illusion generated by the fact that our human perception is so extraordinarily limited. We do not perceive the vast extent of the connections – the micro material particles in air/space and especially all those connections created by immaterial energy which we now know makes up at least 70% of reality. Reality is mostly an extraordinarily dense web of energy waves and fields that we do not directly see, hear, feel, or taste. The fact is: we “see” things as separate that are really totally interconnected!

While separation itself is an illusion, this illusion lies doubly at the core of language. First, language differentiates among things and actions and their characteristics by creating separate words [nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs] to stand for these separate things. And secondly, it creates these words by combining separate sounds – represented by letters in writing. As useful and fundamental as all of this may seem, it is built entirely on the illusion of multiple levels of separation which language then imposes on reality. Our primary communication and cognitive tool – LANGUAGE – supports the false principle of separation as fundamental in reality! Language and language based thought capture a reality that does not exist, and the being verb plays a key role in perpetuating this false point of view. Among the being verb options, “IS” is a word with a huge impact, and it is in constant use.

As if this illusion of separation is not enough, it is matched by the illusion of stability. We now know that we exist in a reality that is in a perpetual state of change at every scale. Nothing is stable/fixed whether a thing, an emotion, an idea, an action, an image, a sound, etc. And it is all changing as one “entity.” We cannot separate either things or changes because they are all occurring together and simultaneously. While our science has exposed these basic facts, for the most part it continues to operate within the combined separation and stability illusion [1²]! We recognize that all “things” change, but we treat change as if it is an exception to stability and then attempt to define the rules of how separate “things” change/interact – science. Change or flow in the infinite web of reality is primary, not secondary. So, where is our science based on change as the fundamental phenomenon in our infinitely integrated, but at the same time expanding, reality? What are the basic laws of change itself? These are the core questions that need to inform a radically new paradigm in science. Unfortunately, our language based tool, which is grounded in the principles of separation and stability, works against our achieving this goal!

As humanity explores this essential challenge, we may discover that visual thinking [image based thought] through the intuitive mental mode may contribute significantly to solving our problem. Importantly, the intuitive mental function is associated with the unification states of mind [dream, imagination, inspiration, meditation] and is not confined to the separation and stability assumptions at the core of the material-intellectual-analytical-language based perspective on reality. Paranormal phenomena, which are associated with intuitive states of mind and regarded as miracles in some cultures, are both real and universal in human culture [see: the discipline of parapsychology]. Significantly, these Psi phenomena [telepathy, clairvoyance, precognition, and psychokinesis] violate the very material-analytical reality principles of separation and stability. The fact is that the intuitive and the intellect complement one another to reveal a reality that is much more flexible than the analytical intellect of language based thought conceives. In this regard, it is noteworthy that many of the major “breakthroughs” in science itself have occurred when our elite scientists [e.g. Einstein, Tesla, Edison] thoroughly prepare analytically and then shift to a synthesizing state of mind [the intuitive] where image based inspiration is available to address their focal issue in a radically new way that proves to be fundamentally enlightening.

Humans do have alternative “tools.”

The time has come to rigorously develop and apply them.

Deciding “NOT to **BE**” all the time may be a big part of the answer.

Note: In written language statement, the Being verb is absolutely essential.