

Linguistic implications of an Alien Technology

Carl L. DeVito

The goal of the language designed by this author and linguist R. T. Oehrle is to enable two races to exchange precise, quantitative information of mutual interest; e.g., the radii and masses of their planets, the chemical composition of their atmospheres, the thermal characteristics of their central stars, etc. This language is based on an assumed sharing of basic chemistry; i.e., recognition of the elements, the periodic table, the Avogadro number, etc. The presence of artificial artefacts near a planet would demonstrate a knowledge of physical science on the part of the society responsible for them. Our purpose here is to examine how the expressive power of the language can be extended by taking account of this observed knowledge. In doing so we bring attention to a number of potential differences between our science and that of an alien society.