

THE CONSTITUTION OF BDTH

Constitutional Edition

P A P E R 16

Language

P O S I T I O N

Language permits human beings to organise, communicate and preserve experience.

BDTH does not regard language as the source of interference.

It examines the relationship between language and the architecture through which experience is interpreted.

LANGUAGE

Language describes.

Architecture organises.

The distinction is significant.

DESCRIPTION

Language provides names for experience.

Naming permits communication.

Comparison.

Learning.

Memory.

Without language, much of organised human life would be impossible.

Its ordinary function is indispensable.

LANGUAGE

SUBSTITUTION

Difficulty arises when description progressively substitutes for direct observation.

Experience becomes increasingly interpreted through inherited vocabulary before it is directly encountered.

The name gradually acquires greater authority than the phenomenon itself.

Observation correspondingly diminishes.

PRECISION

Architectural understanding depends upon linguistic precision.

Different words frequently describe the same phenomenon.

The same word frequently describes different phenomena.

BDTH therefore seeks language that increasingly corresponds with direct observation rather than inherited convention.

LANGUAGE

RECOGNITION

Language is most useful when it faithfully follows observation.

It becomes progressively less useful when observation begins following language.

The distinction is easily overlooked.

Its consequences extend throughout the architecture.

WORKING POSITION

BDTH proceeds from the working position that language should increasingly describe coherent observation rather than organise it.

The phenomenon possesses constitutional priority.

The vocabulary serves the phenomenon.

LANGUAGE

CLOSING POSITION

Words do not constitute experience.

They permit its communication.

Where language faithfully follows observation,
understanding progressively becomes more precise.