

## **Editor's Remarks: Semiotic Approach to the Creation of Universal Networking Language**

We recommend to the readers the paper written by Lin Xunzhun and Zhou Jingzhou( China ) for their employment of semiotic approach to the creation of universal networking language and for calling for joint participation in this huge global project.

Due to various causes including the arbitrariness of natural languages, esp. in their initial stages, their structural irregularity, cultural differences and changes and the peculiarity of their memetic spreading, humans have so far failed in finding a common language although enormous effort has been made.

In the past attempt to build an artificial international language such as *Esperanto*, linguists seemed to construct the vocabulary on the basis of the chief European languages. Unfortunately, *Esperanto* has failed to become an international language. The reasons for *Esperanto's* failure to serve the purpose can be attributed to various causes, of which the lack of semioticians and other scholars including anthropologists, ethnologists' participation in the project might be an important one. In other words, pure linguistic approach to the building of an international language is far from adequate. In short, the role of semioticians and other scholars is not to be slighted.

Apart from political, cultural differences among humans, language barrier remains to be one of the most important barriers in human communication. Globalization calls for the need to overcome such barriers. On the other hand, we realize that to build a really international language is a long-term task and it might take many generations' effort to realize the human dream, and the specific time to reach such purpose can hardly be predicted yet. In spite of the difficulties and obstacles on our way to the building of real international language, we should keep trying, do it step by step and choose to do at first what seems relatively easy.

It seems that to design the common Internet language for the people who do not know the frequently used foreign languages such as English is relatively easy as compared to the complete international language in its true sense of the word.

In the perspective of designing for a globally used Internet language, Lin Xunzhun and Zhou Jingzhou resort to semiotic approach by using icons ( signs, symbols, and other iconic means ) as presented in their paper, an attempt beneficial to humans.

It is believed that Lin Xunzhun and Zhou Jingzhou's achievement has

potential significance for the building of real international language and we really appreciate their perseverance, bravery and wisdom in their attempt, although there is still room for the further improvement of their contribution and there is still a long way to go before their project is made perfect. What is more important, the further improvement of this project relies on the wide participation of global scholars. In the meantime, we call more scholars for joint participation in the building of future international language in general and globally used Internet language in particular.

You are welcome to participate in our discussion and offer your valuable views with regard to the broad prospects of building real international language in general and the following Lin Xunzhun and Zhou Jingzhou's paper in particular.

—Editorial Department