

Titel: II. General Theory, [Uldall] 002-0040

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Anvendt udgave: Louis Hjelmslev og hans kreds

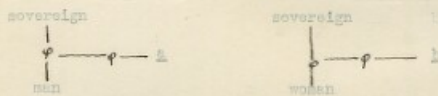
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1.1. By a node is understood a function which is the terminal of more than one function.

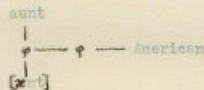
We have rejected the threefold division of the world into "things", "qualities", and "activities" on the grounds that it will not do as a basis for scientific work, however useful and even reasonable it may be in ordinary daily life. For that matter, if Korzybski is right, we should do well to bring even our everyday thinking into harmony with the philosophy of science⁴. We

1. Cf. A Korzybski, *Science and Sanity*, second edition, 1941.

are now faced with the problem of replacing this classification with something better suited to our purpose. A distinction of some sort is clearly needed: analysis leads to the recognition of parts connected by functions, and although we may believe that these parts - or that aspect of them which lends itself to scientific treatment - are made of the same stuff as the functions, it is necessary to have some theoretical means of distinguishing between them. So far, we have talked about functions and functionives, but this distinction is not enough, because a function may be a functionive, i.e. the terminal of another function. Consider, by way of illustration, the variation of the English court ceremonial according as the sovereign is a man or a woman and, to save irrelevant detail, let us say that ceremonial a is used under a king, ceremonial b under a reigning queen. We then have a function between a as one terminal and the function between "sovereign" and "man" as the other, and likewise a function between b as one terminal and the function between "sovereign" and "woman" as the other. Diagrammatically:



It is obvious that the function is not between a and "man" or between b and "woman", because the ceremonial does not vary with a change of sex in other dignitaries, such as Members of Parliament: it is only when the sovereign is a man (i.e. sovereign -> man) that we get a, and it is only when sovereign -> woman that we get b. Again, you hear somebody say [ænt] in a context which makes it clear that he means "aunt", and you say to yourself, "American". Here there is a function between "American" as one terminal and the function between "aunt" and [ænt] as the other:



nor can we regard either [ænt] or "aunt" as a terminal in the function with "American", since [ænt] occurs in other forms of English as a pronunciation of "ant", and "aunt" occurs in other forms of English with the pronunciation [a:nt].