

Titel: notes, [Uldall] 008-0010

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Anvendt udgave: Louis Hjelmslev og hans kreds

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French or German or whatever it is. They think that for every word in English there is a corresponding word, a word of the same meaning in each of all the other languages of the earth. ✓

✓ Anyone who has ever tried to translate anything from one language to another will know how hopeless it is to get exactly the same shade of meaning in another language. And that is not surprising if we reflect that even in the speaking of one language the same words call forth different associations. If you say "sunset" to a man from the West Coast of Ireland he will think of the sun dipping into the sea; a man from the east will see before his inner eye the sun sinking behind the hills; another ~~man~~^{will} remember the red sky through the trees of a forest or the glow on a window or a thousand different things according to the sunsets which have impressed themselves most vividly on ~~his~~^{his} memory. A cow, to the London child, is a vague sort of animal with horns, believed to be living in the country. In the country boy the word "cow" brings up a host of associations, memories of his intimate life with the cows on the farm; to the butcher it is a ~~piece~~^{piece} of meat to be divided into so many parts, to the vet an animal given to catching such and such diseases and so on. In addition to what the word ~~means~~ the ideas it actually stands for, it ~~calls~~ calls forward in the speaker and the hearer a host of associations which do not always coincide. The speaker chooses his word from several synonyms ~~among~~ of these associations. On the careful selection of just the right associations rests the success of ~~the~~ writing and speaking. Furthermore language changes from one day to another. I am not thinking of the change in usage from "thou" to "you" or from "forsooth" to "by George" but of the change in meaning of the words which have remained the same. Think of the difference only in a very