

*Balvant Parekh Centre
for General Semantics
and Other Human Sciences*



Balvant Parekh Centre for General Semantics and Other Human Sciences
&
Vikram Deb Autonomous College

National Workshop

Pedagogy of General Semantics as a Mode of Communication

30-31 March 2019

*Venue: Vikram Deb Autonomous College, Koraput
Odisha*

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for General Semantics
and Other Human Sciences*



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In collaboration with

Vikram Deb Autonomous College

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Pedagogy of General Semantics as a Mode of Communication

Concept Note

This Workshop on General Semantics will be directly relevant to the pedagogy of teaching, prevalent amongst the College and University teachers and have a lasting influence on the changing methods of teaching, absolutely necessary keeping with the changing times. With thrust on non-Aristotelian principle of non-identity and Derridean difference, which is common to Alfred Korzybski, the Father of General Semantics, the present pedagogy of teaching solidly anchored on assumptions of certainty will be dislodged, and will be saddled on new paradigms of teaching. Korzybski's strategy of "Structural Differential" will introduce the teachers with the idea, "Map is not the territory." They would be guided to understand that what is represented is not the same that exists outside. Moreover, whatever is represented is not everything. It refers to the "differences" in representation, on the one hand, and the "non-allness" on the other. It will be emphasized as per the parlance of General Semantics that while dealing with a text, Korzybski's "Structural Differential" consisting of the three stages, namely the event level, the object level and the label level are to be dealt with diligence. While dealing with a text in the class-room, the learner is to be guided to pick up the object level experience which is concerned with their sensory experience. The description of the detailed data in the text is more rewarding than paraphrasing of the same which is usually done in the traditional class-rooms. All this pertains to the second level, i.e. object level. In the third stage, the label level, what is important is the abstraction process which leads to evaluation or interpretation. These three levels of Structural Differential do not operate in a linear fashion, but in a jump-on fashion. The other great marker of General Semantics is the admittance of differences both in sensuous grappling of the object and in evaluation or interpretation of the object. As the sensuous responses to an object differ from reader to reader, and the thalamo-cortical evaluation of the object is not something which is given, there will be scope for the reader to submit his/ her independent and different opinion on the object itself.

The other side to the reading strategy of Korzybski's Structural Differential is "time-binding." As a conscious being, Man has been endowed with free will to choose the higher order of abstractions and preserve the same for the future mankind. Like T.S. Eliot, Korzybski, too, says that Man has the capacity to build Tradition which is of course subject to constant transformation, depending on the historical situations and the dictates of Nature. As Time-binder, Man will create literature, sociology, myths and folklore which will be the treasure-trove of abiding peace and sanity for the mankind.

The Workshop will consist of lectures by experts on General Semantics who will relate the theories of General Semantics to the class-room teaching practices and will attempt to introduce the methods of inductive logic rather than the deductive logic of the present times, which makes the students dull and insipid so far as their creativity is concerned. Since it is a Workshop, participants are required to be proactive in the Class Room, ready to engage the teachers in dialogue, and also to answer the questions and quizzes generated in the class room.

(Prepared by E. Raja Rao, Convener of the Workshop)

Program Schedule
Saturday, 30 March 2019

9.30-10.30 am	Inauguration <i>Chair: Rachana Acharya, Principal, Vikram Deb Autonomous College</i>
9.30-9.45 am	Welcome and Introduction to Balvant Parekh Centre for General Semantics and Other Human Sciences Prafulla C. Kar, Director of the Centre
9.45-9.55 am	Releasing the Souvenir
9.55-10.05 am	Remarks by the Convener of the Workshop E. Raja Rao, Former Professor of English, Berhampur University
10.05-10.20 am	Inaugural Address Rachana Acharya, Principal, Vikram Deb Autonomous College
10.20-10.30	Vote of Thanks Niladri Das, Coordinator of the Workshop, Department of English, Vikram Deb Autonomous College
10.30- 10.45 am	Tea Break
10.45 am-12.15 pm	Keynote Address and Discussion <i>Chair: Kalidas Mishra</i> <i>Language of Miscommunication: Identity/ Difference and Mapping the Field of General Semantics</i> Sura P. Rath, University of North Texas at Dallas

12.15 -1.30 pm

Lecture and Discussion

Chair: Sura P. Rath

An Introduction to General Semantics

Prafulla C. Kar

1.30-2.30 pm

Lunch

2.30-4.00 pm

Lecture and Discussion

Chair: Reena Ashem

*Language, Knowledge and Time-Binding:
A General Semantics Approach*

Bini B.S., Academic Fellow, Balvant Parekh Centre
for General Semantics and Other Human Sciences

4.00-4.15 pm

Tea Break

4.15 -5.45 pm

Lecture and Discussion

Chair: Niladrinath Das

Language: A View through Generative Grammar

Reena Ashem, Academic Fellow, Balvant Parekh
Centre for General Semantics and Other Human
Sciences

6.00 pm onwards

Cultural Program

Sunday, 31 March 2019

9.30-10.45 am

Lecture and Discussion

Chair: E. Raja Rao

*Translation, Communication and the Way of
General Semantics*

Kalidas Mishra, Former Professor of English,
Sambalpur University, Odisha

10.45 - 11.00 am

Tea Break

11.00 am-12.15 pm

Lecture and Discussion

Chair: Kalidas Mishra

(a) Structural Differential

Gananath Dash, Former Registrar and Faculty of
English, Fakir Mohan Autonomous University,
Balasore, Odisha

12.15 -1.30 pm

*(b) Structural Differential and Extensional
Devices for Thalamo Cortical Integration*

Bini B.S.

1.30-2.30 pm

Lunch

2.30-3.45 pm

Lecture and Discussion

Chair: Gananath Dash

Communication Pedagogy: Insights from GS

Reena Ashem

3.45-4.00 pm

Tea Break

4.00 -5.15 pm

Lecture and Discussion

Chair: Bini B.S.

*Pedagogy of General Semantics as a Mode of
Communication*

E. Raja Rao

5.15 to 6.00 pm

Open Session and Valedictory

Chair: Prafulla C. Kar

