

This is to misunderstand logic. Logic is not analysable in terms of yeses and noes, and the entailment relation resists a truth-functional analysis, and further it is not a symmetrical relation which it would be if it were a matter of identity and non-identity. From 'p entails q' we cannot deduce 'q entails p' but only that 'not-q entails not-p' . . . hardly a paradigm of symmetry.

So what of 'po' and its relation to lateral thought? Firstly it cannot be necessary, since the 1967 book does not use it. Further, for a putative word to reach that exalted status it must possess meaning, and for that it must have a regular (uniform) use in a language and rules governing its use. However, we are told that it can be used indiscriminately to do anything. So we are unable to distinguish a use from an abuse, hence 'po' is meaningless. If

putting 'po' in front of a sentence has the same effect as saying: 'suspend your sense of reality and give freedom to your imagination'; then this may be a helpful, if not new, approach to problem solving, and is unrelated to any thesis about brains. As de Bono says: 'One would hardly set out to explore the intricacies of flight with a model aeroplane made of clay' (p. 36).

However, we should note that new (though well-formed) concepts internalized with new words can affect our habits of mind. For example, the introduction of the notion of zero revolutionized mathematics.

The whole problem as to which habits of mind will expedite the rate of growth of human knowledge still stands in need of much more attention, and if the production of this book leads to such efforts than a useful purpose will have been served.

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NEW LIVES, NEW LANDSCAPES, by Nan Fairbrother. *Architectural Press*, London, 1970. £3.75.

Suddenly pollution, conservation, ecology, urban environment, countryside have become political by-words. They are the medium through which many of the newer forms of democracy will develop; participation in environmental self-determination and control may well prove, in the future, to be central to political struggle. However, there are unscrupulous politicians, scientists and industrialists exploiting the situation and jumping on the bandwagon in order to bolster their guilty consciences or camouflage continuing misdeeds.

In all this it is easy to forget the hard facts of interaction between man's rural and urban artifacts and landscape; or rather that, by and large, these artifacts *are* the landscape. Nan Fairbrother brings to the consideration of this interaction several fresh and vital qualities: a childhood in a two-up, two-down West Riding terrace house in the Depression; long spells of family life in the country; a degree in English and with it a lucid style; and above all a real, warm but unsentimental concern for qualities which she has, clearly, experienced, analysed and evaluated.

She shows how hardly any British landscape today is truly 'natural', although she perhaps underestimates the size of the Highlands, Pennine moors and Northumberland coastal strips which are untouched by Forestry Commission, farming or nuclear submarine projects. Farming, mining and quarrying, afforestation and man-made erosion, industry, roads,

railways and now airports, spoil heaps, housing, electricity lines, tourism and seaside recreation—these have shaped almost the totality of our environmental experience. Some processes have shaped and re-shaped the landscape slowly, imperceptibly over long periods of time; others have been abrupt and usually ill-considered or based on oversimple notions of amenity or land use.

Protection and conservation of the *status quo* cannot succeed; '. . . we *must* disturb it to survive'. Survival is argued first, on economic principles of production, industry and housing. But she is also aware that survival is really about the meaning of lives supported by economic structures, and that it is becoming increasingly difficult to discern this meaning in symbolic form in the chaotic mess which production considerations on the one hand, and conservation on the other, are creating.

Perhaps the worst examples she describes and illustrates (the book has 299 illustrations, mostly excellent and carefully selected photographs) are those where the conflict between human activity and open land has resulted in ill-defined, marginal land with no obvious use or character. Quickly these areas become the dumping grounds of private and public enterprises. They form vast transitional areas between city centres and rural areas; only rarely are imaginative rehabilitation schemes applied. They stand in contrast to the massive industrial landscapes, with their own scale, dynamic and meaning. She has a particularly good descrip-

tion of the London Thames: 'The Seine is a drawing-room river, reliably beautiful but limited and sometimes genteelly dull. The Thames has swept away drawing-rooms, is often ugly but often unbelievably beautiful, a mysterious river, always changing, with the sea-tides flowing in against embankments and sliding back to the ocean over levels of shining mud. The very mud and the riverside squalor are beautiful in their own landscape, the fringe of cranes along the docks (the trees of London's industrial river), the ships and commerce and culture, the old and the new all superimposed to make the intense and unconcerned life of a modern working metropolis. The Seine is beautifully preserved pre-industrial; the Thames has said Yes to everything even when it should have said No, but it has gained by accepting industry and so can our greener landscapes.'

This need for life, richness and complexity in environment applies to all types, and can only be achieved by considering planning as dealing with inter-related activities and their accompanying human experiences, and not as a question of land use.

The ecological approach, in which people, buildings, transport and natural elements are combined into a meaningful visual structure in which the elements mutually support each other economically is an outcome not of planning theory nor of cost-benefit analyses, but of a view of man and nature which is based on relationships. Wordsworth, who is several times quoted, saw this, in spite of the snobbery which made him believe that only the intellectual and culturally élite were open to the power of nature. He expressed the numinous role of forests, dark waters and daffodils; and without the Romantic movement and its revival today we could not hold any view of landscape which was not either sentimental or utilitarian.

Whilst we can agree with Nan Fairbrother's strictures on the hygienic, neatly zoned,

classification approaches of planners today, we must allow ourselves to ask whether her scheme of things is not too shallow and idealistic. She proposes four basic types of landscape: the built-up urban, the green urban, the rural and the man-made wild. But where, in these is there room for the symbols of death, decay, erosion, dereliction? The urban waste lands have inspired Orwell and have made understandable the faithfulness of the Midnight Cowboy. They are a fifth important category which, on a large scale, express much of what poets and painters do on a small; they are the social equivalent of the canker in the rose. Such landscapes have moved us all to understandings no less real than those derived from mountains or back streets. But here we are up against the central dilemma of politics—and planning decisions are of course political decisions, communal value judgments *par excellence*—that of its juxtaposition with poetry. Perhaps a greater tolerance of ambiguity and room for unplanned events is the only appropriate political response; perhaps the very inertia and lack of vitality in our decision-making processes makes it unnecessary to argue this case further.

The author makes the obvious point that a discussion of life in terms of landscape is valid because it is in landscape terms, in visual landscape imagery, that we can often adequately sum up our social, cultural, ecological concepts. The terms Town and Country are loaded with cultural and social concepts; but primarily they evoke visual images. If this is so we shall have to do much more work to understand the concepts involved in environment and the language associated with these concepts. Notions of appropriateness, connotative dimensions, expectations, group and individual differences and language changes will have to be understood in more than a poetic sense before decisions based on landscape concepts can be made.

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