

n_____

This is about any word, and this is just a really good one to illustrate my point.

I was 5 or 6 years old, my favorite cousin abused a nigger younger than us and was no longer my favorite cousin.

At Boy Scout camp I beat up my best friend neighbor for abusing a nigger friend.

Dark skinned people, niggers, that's all it means to me.

Why does that word hurt you?

Why does any word hurt you, or, make you feel good?

There was absolutely no animosity in my use of the "n" word. But the dictionary even tells you "usually taken to be offensive". When I'm forced to use "the n word", Negro, afro-black or whatever I do feel offensive, angry at the powers that created the stigma.

Don't get me wrong, this is no big deal in my psych, it's an extreme example of the effects of a word, to a particular point of view.

A young black man uses it affectionately among friends but will go ballistic if a white boy uses it. Same word, different person, time or situation and the understanding is different. Does anyone get upset by "white boy"? I do if an asshole nigger uses it (operative word, "asshole").

Society SAYS it means this or that and is usually taken this way or that way in a different way to each and every one of us. Every word has some difference of understanding every time it is used due to time and point of view.

I started off with an extreme word so you could see the effect. Most words are commonly enough understood to convey Understanding. They are functional for interaction in a situation, the more commonly involved the more Understanding actually conveyed.

In common situations, "hand me that", "let the cat out", the understanding implied is obvious and we give words the "authority" of Understanding. Giving the word "authority" is the beginning of Misunderstanding.

It's the Yin/Yang of "direction". The Understanding is the positive and switching that power with free will by "authorizing" the word makes the negative Misunderstanding

And so we go through Life, when Misunderstanding becomes dominant we have conflicts.