“The fundamental problem of communication is that of reproducing at one point either exactly or approximately a message selected at another point. Frequently the messages have *meaning*; that is they refer to or are correlated according to some system with certain physical or conceptual entities. These semantic aspects of communication are irrelevant to the engineering problem. The significant aspect is that the actual message is one *selected from a set* of possible messages. The system must be designed to operate for each possible selection, not just the one which will actually be chosen since this is unknown at the time of design.”

-Claude Shannon *The Mathematical Theory of Communication*

This is problematic for a study of human communication for a few reasons

* The fundamental problem of communication is NOT that of reproducing at one point either exactly or approximately a message selected at another point
* The semantics are not irrelevant to the transmission and reconstructing of a message
* There is no explicit set of possible messages