

COMMAND OF THE LANGUAGE

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The fact that human attitudes towards language use are intensely judgmental, even on the most objective, or "scientific" levels, seems relevant to our study of theories of language. Language is unique among other disciplines, because it is both the vessel and the content. The acceptability of the form influences the acceptability of the content. On the cutting edge of linguistics, "Squibs and Discussions" in *Linguistic Inquiry* take their departure from the authors' judgment calls on grammatical usage. I can't think of another science, soft or hard, in which the relationship between a scientist and her/his field is as emotionally charged.