

having found the word in the dictionary, it becomes a question as to which one of its significations is the correct one to be used in the present instance, and the result is almost determined by chance. [ Even if one could conceive of a grammar of the utmost simplicity, with an unchangeable signification for each and every word, yet it would certainly be the case that for the person to whom you speak or write, to comprehend your meaning, by the aid of a dictionary, he must have a preliminary knowledge of the grammar of the language and be sufficiently versed in its mode of conveying thought, to be able to distinguish the root words from those altered by grammatical forms. What advantage could be derived from such a language would depend upon the number of people conversant with it, and if there were none, its utility would be represented by Zero. For example, if you are in a railway carriage and you want to find out from your neighbor, "*How long shall we remain at N?*" it seems unnatural to ask him, in order to comprehend you, that he must learn the grammar of your language. In the International Language you can be understood by every one you meet, not only if it be unfamiliar to him, but even if he had never previously heard of its existence. A book written in it can be read by any one without the least preliminary preparation, and without even having read any preface to explain how the vocabulary is to be used; indeed, any person of ordinary education, can read the language at first sight, without even needing a dictionary.

Desiring to write to a Spaniard at Madrid, but not knowing his language, and he being ignorant of yours, you can risk using the International Language, whether it be familiar to him or not, or even if it be totally unheard of; you can do so with the certainty that he cannot possibly fail to comprehend you. [ The complete dictionary of the words necessary for every-day