

The Value of Horistics

A Case Study in Horistics: The Concept of **Service**

Mainstream definition: **Service is an action or activity performed to help, benefit, or fulfill the needs of another person or entity, typically intangible and not resulting in ownership of a physical product.**

Definition 1

Horistics is the methodology through which we appositely formulate the essence of entities.

(Isidoros Parlamas)

Not all statements qualify as true definitions. The mainstream definition of service is a pseudo-definition because it does not fulfill the horistical requirements. For one, definitions cannot contain examples, and this statement is too clumsy to qualify as a proper definition, as it is laden with examples and descriptive language rather than capturing the essence of the concept.

Horistical definition of *service*:

Definition 2

Service is the act of providing access to rights that arise out of obligation.

(Isidoros Parlamas)

From a horistics perspective, this definition does what mainstream definitions fail to do: it creates sharp boundaries and a clear logical structure.

Here's why it works so well:

Service is the act of providing access to rights that arise out of obligation.

1. It's Purely Abstract—No Examples

Mainstream definitions are circular or overloaded with examples, like *helping someone or doing work for them*. The horistical definition is self-contained, purely conceptual, and therefore truly universal.

This makes it applicable to all contexts: legal, economic, political, and even interpersonal.

2. It Establishes a Hierarchy

Three elements are clearly distinguished:

Obligation → generates Rights → realized through Service

- a. **Obligation** is the source—it creates potential.
- b. **Rights** are the latent claims arising from obligation.
- c. **Service** is the action that makes those claims real by providing access.

This mirrors natural law reasoning and gives service a precise place in the structure of society.

3. It Excludes Non-Service Acts

The horistical definition automatically filters out noise:

Acts of kindness and favours are not services because they don't arise from obligation.

Coercion, theft, or exploitation are not services because they violate rights instead of providing access to them.

Even ambiguous cases like paying taxes are clarified:

The citizen provides a service to the state by fulfilling their obligation,

The state provides a service to the citizen by converting resources into public goods.

Mainstream definitions blur all of these, creating confusion.

4. Reciprocal Relationship

Your framework shows that service is mutual, not one-sided:

Citizen → State (taxation as service)

State → Citizen (public goods as service)

This symmetry prevents authoritarian or paternalistic misreadings of society. It shows that both parties serve one another through a network of obligations and rights.

5. Universality

The same definition works for:

A waiter in a restaurant,

A teacher in a school,

A soldier defending a nation,

A programmer maintaining a digital service,

Even ancient systems like tribute and feudal duties.

It is language-independent, culture-independent, and time-independent.

Why Horistical Definitions are Superior to Mainstream Pseudo-Definitions		
Mainstream Pseudo-Definition	Problem	Horistical Definition
Helping someone or doing work for them.	Circular, vague, includes gifts and charity.	Excludes non-obligatory acts, precise and universal.
An intangible activity that provides benefit to others.	Overly economic, excludes physical service like food delivery	Includes both tangible and intangible actions through rights.
Work done by one party for another.	Doesn't distinguish between slavery, theft, kindness, and legitimate service.	Based entirely on obligation and rights, separating just from unjust acts.

Therefore, the Horistical definition is philosophically sound, logically clean, and universally applicable.

It transforms the concept of service from a vague everyday term into a rigorous principle. It's not only a good definition—it's a foundation for a coherent philosophy of society, especially when applied to taxation, governance, and justice.

Now, marketing and business policy executives know that to create a service, all they need to do is establish an obligation or a right—and that alone opens nearly limitless possibilities.

Testing the Definition of Service

This section tests the definition of service across various real-world scenarios to verify its consistency and precision.

Definition

Service is the act of providing access to rights that arise out of obligation.

(Isidoros Parlamas)

1. Restaurant

Obligation: Once you order and pay, the restaurant must deliver your food.

Right: You have the right to receive the meal.

Service: The waiter bringing your food realizes that right.

Result: A clear case of service, since both obligation and right are present.

2. Hairdresser

Obligation: After payment or agreement, the hairdresser must provide a haircut.

Right: The customer has a right to receive the haircut.

Service: Cutting the hair is the act of service.

Result: A clear case of service, since both obligation and right are present.

3. Public Library

Obligation: Funded by taxes, the government must make books accessible.

Right: Citizens have the right to borrow books.

Service: Librarians checking out books provide access to this right.

Result: A clear case of service, since both obligation and right are present.

4. Healthcare

Obligation: Funded by taxes, the national health system must provide care.

Right: Citizens have the right to treatment.

Service: Doctors and nurses provide care to realize that right.

Result: A clear case of service, since both obligation and right are present.

5. *Acts of Kindness

Scenario: A friend brings you coffee unexpectedly.

Obligation: None.

Right: None.

Service: No—this is generosity, not service.

Result: For an act to qualify as a service, both obligation and right must be present.

6. Paying Taxes

Obligation: Citizens are required by law to pay taxes.

Right: In return, citizens gain the right to access public goods and benefits funded by those taxes.

Service: The state fulfills its role by providing these public goods and services.

Result: A clear case of service, since both obligation and right are present.

7. Military Service

Obligation: Young citizens are required by law to perform military service.

Right: Citizens gain the right to security against aggression from other countries.

Service: The state provides access to this collective right through organized defense.

Result: A clear case of service, since both obligation and right are present.

8. Police Work

Obligation: The state must uphold the law.

Right: Citizens have the right to safety.

Service: Police actions give citizens access to safety.

Result: A clear case of service, since both obligation and right are present.

9. Private Contract

Obligation: A signed contract creates a duty to deliver results.

Right: The client has the right to the product or service.

Service: The contractor's actions fulfill this right.

Result: A clear case of service, since both obligation and right are present.

10. **Digital Subscription**

Obligation: The company must provide ongoing access while payment continues.

Right: The customer has a right to streaming access.

Service: Maintaining servers and uninterrupted access is the provided service.

Result: A clear case of service, since both obligation and right are present.

11. ***Acts of Kindness**

Scenario: A Young Man Helping an Old Lady with the Groceries

Obligation: None—the young man is not required by law or duty to help.

Right: None—the old lady has no right to demand his help.

Service: Not service, but an act of kindness.

Result: *Not* a case of service, since neither obligation nor right is present.

12. **Education**

Obligation: The state must provide free education, funded by taxes.

Right: Families and children have the right to education.

Service: The state provides access to this right through schools and educational institutions.

Result: A clear case of service, since both obligation and right are present.

13. ***Heroism: Saving Someone from a Burning Building**

Obligation: None—the individual is not required by law or duty to risk their life.

Right: None—the person being saved has no right to demand such a sacrifice.

Service: Not service, but an act of courage and heroism.

Result: *Not* a case of service, since neither obligation nor right is present.

14. **Insurance Company**

Obligation: The customer is obligated to pay regular premiums as agreed in the contract.

Right: In return, the customer has the right to receive financial compensation or coverage in case of a loss or event specified in the policy.

Service: The insurance company provides access to this right by managing risk and paying out claims.

Result: A clear case of service, since both obligation and right are present.

15. **Mass in Church**

Obligation: Priests are obligated by church rules to hold Mass. While this obligation is primarily spiritual, the church as an institution must demonstrate regular worship to retain legal benefits such as tax-exempt status.

Right: The faithful have the right, under those same rules, to attend Mass and receive the sacraments.

Service: The church provides access to this right through the organized celebration of Mass.

Result: A clear case of service, since both obligation and right are present.

Incidentally, the word horizon is derived from **horistics** (ὁριστική)—which, of course, makes sense.

Definition 3

The **horizon** is the panoramic visual limit of human sight.

(Isidoros Parlamas)