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RELIGION NOW AND THEN, HERE AND THERE: THE ADVENTURES OF AN ABSTRACT CONCEPT AND THE UNIVERSAL LINGUISTIC CHALLENGE OF THE TRANSLATED VAGUE

The term 'religion' refers to a concept which has raised multiple scientific and secular discourses regarding its meaning. Scientists who attempt to study the religious phenomenon, both disciplinary and interdisciplinary, have not reached a commonly accepted specified definition. The term 'religion' has had a long history mainly prior of the sixteenth century which is irrelevant to contemporary usage [1: 269). This statement is quite crucial in order to initiate ourselves to the diversity of a concept in the grounds of its multidimensionality and dynamicity. As an abstract idea it is, it can have a separate meaning for each faithful and social subject in each traditional context. However the problem is even deeper. It is not only how the term 'religion' may be conceptually charged either from the faithful or the scientist, but the tradition of the word itself.

Religion is the official word used in the English language, but what happens semantically in each person's mind when they use this word based on their own linguistic experience and cultural background? The current paper will attempt to examine the meaning of 'religion' as a concept and as a term as well. To do so, an effort will be made in order to briefly follow some of the 'adventures' of the concept of religion and the words used for its description from time to time and space to space. Questions concerning the relevance of language and religion as cultural forms will be also discussed. However the leading question is: Can we use the term religion while not referring to the same thing in the name of language competence in modern science?

Therefore, the main purpose of this article is to present the deeper difficulty of translating abstract concepts which derive from various cultural traditions by using a single universal English word as an urge for satisfying current language competencies.

LITERATURE

1. Smith, J. Z. (1998), 'Religion, religions, religious', in M. Taylor (ed.) *Critical Terms for Religious Studies*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.