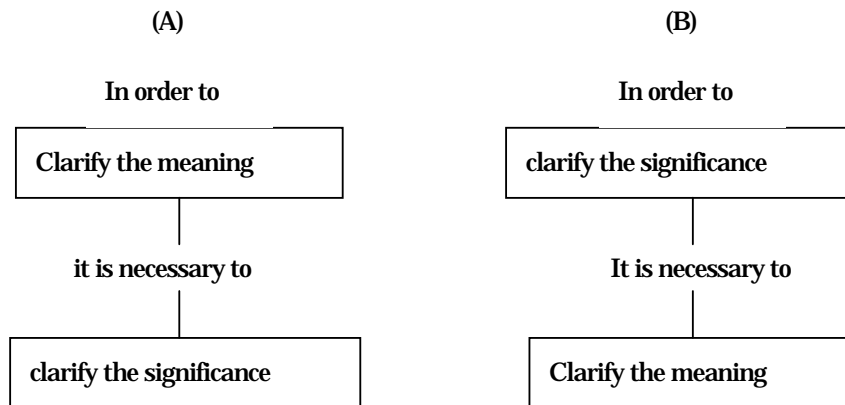


## Episode 2 Using the the PMD Method can be used to investigate language

There are words in casual use which become vague if they are not properly used. For example let us consider "significance" and "meaning."

If we are asked what the difference is between them, we may not be able to immediately reply. A simple way to distinguish them is to create a PMD (Purpose-Measure Diagram).

Following the routine of the PMD Method, we connect the two words according to the structure "In order to do something, it is necessary to do something." That is, we write



If we compare these two expressions, (A) is more apt. As a result, we see that "significance" is the purpose, and "meaning" is the measure. We may try another experiment. We write the words in sentences. For example,

(A) In order to clarify the significance, it is necessary to clarify the meaning

(B) In order to clarify the meaning, it is necessary to clarify the significance

(A) makes sense, but (B) also seems to make sense. The distinction is less clear than in the block diagram. Why is this so? The relevant observations are:

1. The Sentences (A) and (B) are linear, but (A) and (B) show the two-dimensional structure of thought.

2. To obtain the image of (A) and (B) from (A) and (B) requires significant effort.

From the above, we see that the PMD Method connecting cards in an "In order to do what?" - "How to do?" sequence is useful for the study of language. Similar words may be distinguished by determining which is purpose and which is measure using the PMD method as a tool for the analysis of language. If such a

study is developed, it may even lead to the creation of new words. Question: Which is more apt? (The answer is at the end of Episode 3)

