

word "subject" is derived through French from the Latin *subjectus*, meaning "thrown beneath," *sub jacere*. To take it in its noun meaning only this gives us first, "subject," meaning "one placed under the authority of another," then as the idea of sovereignty in the state grew it came to mean "one owing allegiance to a sovereign." In a sentence like "I am the unhappy subject of these quarrels" we are getting somewhat further from the original meaning, as also in the phrases "subject under discussion," "subject of a story," etc. It would puzzle us unnecessarily to trace the word into its further developments as a term of grammar, of philosophy, of logic, of music, or of fine arts. Yet all these are but metaphorical extensions of the original elements of which the word is composed. Sometimes a word like this, or its kindred philosophical term "object," is a measure of the knowledge of the world. Volumes have been written to explain what "subject" and "object" in terms of philosophy truly mean, and probably till the end of time volumes will be written which will bring us no nearer to the true solution.

The word "subject" illustrates a very common method of extending the primary meaning of a word or root by *transforming it from a concrete and physical to a spiritual significance*. Thus has arisen the whole body of our intellectual and moral vocabulary, "every word of which this is composed, if we are able to trace its history back to the beginning, can be shown to have signified originally something concrete and apprehensible by the senses. Its present use is the result of a figurative transfer, founded on the recognition of an analogy between a physical and a mental act or product."¹ Thus *abstract* means "drawn off," *concrete* is "grown together," *substantial* is "standing beneath," *spirit* is "breath," *intellect* from a Latin verb meaning "to go between," "to choose;" *right* is Latin *rectus*, "straight," etc., etc. The Latin word *pono*, "to place," is alone responsible for the following words: Pose, poser, position, post, posture, positive, apposite, apposition, component, composure, composer, composition, compost, compound, deponent, deposed, deposition, depository, deposit, depot, exponent, expose, exposition, exposure, imposing, imposts, impostor, imposition, impound, disposable, dispose, disposed, disposition, indisposed,

¹ *Whitney*: "Language and the Study of Language." The list of derivatives from *pono* is also taken from *Whitney*.