# Article information:

Psychology Has a Language Problem, and It Could Hurt Clients | Psychology Today  
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/intl/blog/thinking-about-kids/202303/psychology-has-a-language-problem-and-it-could-hurt-clients>

# Article summary:

1. Psychologists often use technical words that have a specific meaning in their field, but these words can be misunderstood by clients who interpret them differently in everyday life.

2. Miscommunications due to language usage can have serious implications for clients, such as making important decisions about their treatment or care based on misunderstandings.

3. It is important for psychologists and other professionals to ensure that they are using words in the same way as their clients to avoid confusion and potential harm.

# Article rating:

Appears strongly imbalanced: The article is written in a biased or one-sided way, and the information it provides is not trustworthy enough to be considered a reliable source. You should consult other sources to find reliable information on the presented issues.

# Article analysis:

The article "Psychology Has a Language Problem, and It Could Hurt Clients" by Dr. Peggy Drexler discusses the issue of language usage in psychology and how it can lead to miscommunication and potential harm to clients. While the article raises some valid points about the importance of clear communication in therapy, it also has some biases and limitations that need to be addressed.

One of the main biases in the article is its focus on technical language used by mental health professionals. The author argues that laypeople may not understand technical terms like "attachment" or "post-traumatic stress disorder," which can lead to misunderstandings and hurt feelings. While this is certainly true to some extent, it overlooks the fact that many laypeople are familiar with these terms through popular media or personal experience. Moreover, technical language is often necessary for precise diagnosis and treatment planning, so avoiding it altogether could actually be detrimental to clients.

Another limitation of the article is its narrow focus on individual therapy sessions. The examples given all involve one-on-one interactions between therapists and clients, but there are many other contexts where language usage can be problematic in psychology. For example, research studies may use jargon that is unfamiliar to participants or readers, leading to confusion or misinterpretation of results. Similarly, public discourse about mental health issues often relies on simplistic or stigmatizing language that can perpetuate harmful stereotypes.

The article also makes some unsupported claims about the potential harm caused by language misuse in therapy. For instance, the author suggests that using technical terms like "self-harm" instead of "hurting yourself" could lead clients to feel stigmatized or misunderstood. However, there is little evidence to support this claim, and it ignores the fact that many clients may prefer more precise terminology when discussing sensitive topics like self-injury.

Additionally, the article does not explore counterarguments or alternative perspectives on the issue of language usage in psychology. For example, some experts argue that using everyday language instead of technical jargon can help build rapport with clients and make therapy more accessible. Others suggest that clear communication requires both parties to actively clarify their understanding of each other's words and meanings.

Overall, while the article raises important concerns about language usage in psychology, it oversimplifies a complex issue and presents a somewhat one-sided view of the topic. To fully address this problem, psychologists need to engage in ongoing dialogue with their clients and colleagues about how best to communicate effectively while respecting individual differences in knowledge and experience.

# Topics for further research:

* Language usage in mental health research studies
* Stigmatizing language in public discourse about mental health
* The benefits and drawbacks of using technical language in therapy
* Client preferences for language usage in discussing sensitive topics
* The role of active clarification in effective communication in therapy
* The impact of cultural and linguistic diversity on language usage in psychology.

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/8916625883bc876033f4ddb20bdc5b8f>