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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Re: Abduction - The Issue Of Reality

From: John Rimmer <[magonia@magonia.demon.co.uk](mailto:magonia@magonia.demon.co.uk)>  
Date: Sun, 7 Feb 1999 23:49:11 +0000  
Fwd Date: Mon, 08 Feb 1999 15:29:14 -0500  
Subject: Re: Abduction - The Issue Of Reality

>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[updates@globalserve.net](mailto:updates@globalserve.net)>  
>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark@frontiernet.net](mailto:jkclark@frontiernet.net)>  
>Subject: Re: Abduction - The Issue Of Reality  
>Date: Sun, 07 Feb 99 11:29:03 PST

>Kevin, there is no such thing as "the abduction phenomena."  
>Check your dictionary for the difference between "phenomena" and  
>"phenomenon." There are "abduction phenomena" (missing time,  
>gray aliens, anomalous scars, and the like), and then there is  
>"the abduction phenomenon" (the generic issue we're discussing  
>here).

>Jerry Clark

As Jerry seems to be the self-appointed grammarian-in-chief to the world of ufology, throwing his [sic]s around willy-nilly, let's have a look at this alleged linguistic horror.

Any objection to the phrase "the abduction phenomena" must be based on the assumption that a plural (phenomena) cannot be linked to a singular (abduction). He admits however that there are a number of separate phenomena related to abductions, so how are these to be referred to, in the absence in English of a plural definite article analogous to le/les in French?

Making both words plural, as "the abductions phenomena" would only be valid if we were comparing a number of unrelated forms of abduction, such as criminal kidnappings and abductions in legal custody battles, as well as alleged alien abductions.

I think it is fairly self evident that "the abduction phenomenon" refers to the collectivity of reported experiences of abduction; whereas "the abduction phenomena" refer to the variety of separate phenomena which are reported as individual experiences within that collectivity. So let us discuss the issues (in what has been up to now a singularly well- focussed and well-argued debate by all sides on this list) and avoid making dubious points by displays of pedantry.

Dr. Syntax, alias

--

John Rimmer

[www.magonia.demon.co.uk](http://www.magonia.demon.co.uk)

Abandon hope all ye who press Enter here

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Operated by Errol Bruce-Knapp - ++ 416-696-0304

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