

“Lots of people appear to me, to be overly focused on making public their sexual orientation, with announcements, and not ‘living by example’, which would maybe reveal society is becoming more accepting. Categorising ourselves, and others, with pronouns, down to a macro level, in the pursuit of being recognized, and representation, seems to fly in the face of those who encourage society not to label ourselves, and others. True acceptance manifests, in my experience, when people are their true selves if they wish, without the need to announce what they are, and if they did, it would barely raise an eyebrow.

We seem obsessed with inclusion and not offending, but even if we’re not offensive, someone will always get offended. That is just an unavoidable consequence of living, and we shouldn’t be wrapping the offended up and protecting them against themselves. They are involved in that too, it’s not all down to us. Some people who habitually protest, I feel wake up not knowing what they are protesting about that day, and feel so empty, that they invent something to fill that void. When in a face to face setting, and people introduce themselves, and others, using pronouns, and defining themselves and their lives through their sexuality, seems at times, too much insight. At times it feels inappropriate. Also, I read someone’s bio, a businessman, that I know personally, and it read very oddly, until I realised the context was the pronouns they were using for themselves. He/They. Unless we remove these potential confusions, messages could be misunderstood or lost, which could be damaging in the climate change world for example.

Representation is great, but making issues out of what ideally should be non-issues can be a distraction. This isn’t semantics, it’s a genuine personal concern and I should be allowed to express that respectfully. The bio I referred to before was confusing as the guy was using he/they to describe himself, when he was a heterosexual man, and without explaining the use of pronouns at the start. It felt insincere and designed to impress about their talents, and respect for others, and came across as overly politically correct. They perhaps assumed this crap would make them look like a good person. It felt though they wanted to appear modern, but only succeeded in showing they maybe had an agenda and potentially trying to cover up other things about themselves by directing our attention where they wanted it to be.

We need clear messaging in daily life to achieve good things, without getting bogged down in this minutiae. Academic and anthropological understanding is maybe the place for all this, not in everyday language. Less is more, and we need to live by example, not using unnecessary filler words generated by some misguided androgynous piece of AI software”.