

“To label or not to label, that is the question...”

Words are a great gift to mankind. They are the foundation of communication, the way we express ourselves and how we pass on information. One of the rules that govern the written and spoken word is the assumption that words have the same meaning to the speaker/writer and the hearer/reader. Without a common frame of reference for language and a consistent meaning of words and phrases, communication can be difficult. Even worse, a totally erroneous message may be given, quite accidentally. For example, when you ask an Australian (or English) person to ‘nurse your baby’ they take it to mean to hold and cuddle the infant. To an American ear of course, this means to breast-feed. It doesn’t take much imagination to work out how that kind of conversation can go awry! This is an example of how inconsistent meanings of words can bring grief as well as laughter.

A lot of the culturally-specific terms have become more global now thanks to the internet and television shows, but there is still major scope for misinterpretation.

Today’s society has been dubbed the ‘*me generation*’ where the rights of the individual have been placed above all others, including the welfare of the country, family or other group. It has also overseen the rise of powerful and effective individuals who have dramatically transformed portions of our society. Like most radical changes, it is a twin-edged sword.

As part of this ‘individualisation’ of society has come the rejection of labels and stereotypes. To be fair, there has been some good come from all of that. A lot of labels were largely gender-based, religious or racially constructed or other kinds of inaccurate and restrictive labels that did no one any good. However, the flip-side to this has been the growing refusal to accept labels of any kind or worse, to redefine them at will and without justification.

The Adult Baby Diaper Lover community has long suffered through the use and mis-use of labels to the extent that they are the foundation of many debates and some vicious arguments. Recent calls to not label each other are well-intentioned and ultimately, a good idea. But are labels intrinsically bad? I would say that they are not bad. On the contrary, labels can be of immense value, as long as they are used appropriately and correctly.

We have labels on our food products. We not only accept them, but we need and demand them. We do not tolerate manufacturers playing loose with labels. In fact, we demand rigid adherence – and so we should.

But where does the use of labels fit in with the ABDL community?

Simply, it fits in **everywhere** because without some labels, communication is difficult and misunderstanding more likely than not.

There will always be trolls who will disagree with every single thing you say, just because you say it. Black is white, pigs give milk and politicians are honest. We’ve all met them, but that is not who I am talking about. I am referring to the average forum poster who largely just wants to communicate and to be understood.

The definitions and labels inside the ABDL community have a lot of variation and frankly, very little common agreement and therein is the actual problem. But what is worse, is the rejection of labels per se. ‘*You can’t label me!*’ we hear often screamed in LARGE CAPS, sometimes in response to a most innocuous and non-negotiable label.

Oops! Did I just say 'non-negotiable'? Yep! 30 years ago the mere idea that calling someone a man or a woman would be considered offensive or 'stereotyping' would be ludicrous. Yet how often are we now treated to the inglorious spectacle of someone shouting loud that '*you can't label me a man!*' when they are in fact, a man. Some boxes and labels are non-negotiable. For the vast, vast majority of people, our gender is synonymous with our physical sexuality. There is a very small number of genuinely transgender people, but it is a small number and that have my personal support. We don't get to change our gender. We are who we are. If you want to wear women's clothes, that makes you a transvestite, not transgender. If you want to wear baby girl's clothes then you are a 'sissy baby', not transgender. These three labels already have strong and powerful definitions.

If we wish to resolve the issue of labels and to enhance friendly communication then we simply MUST accept that a lot of labels exist and that some are not of our making.

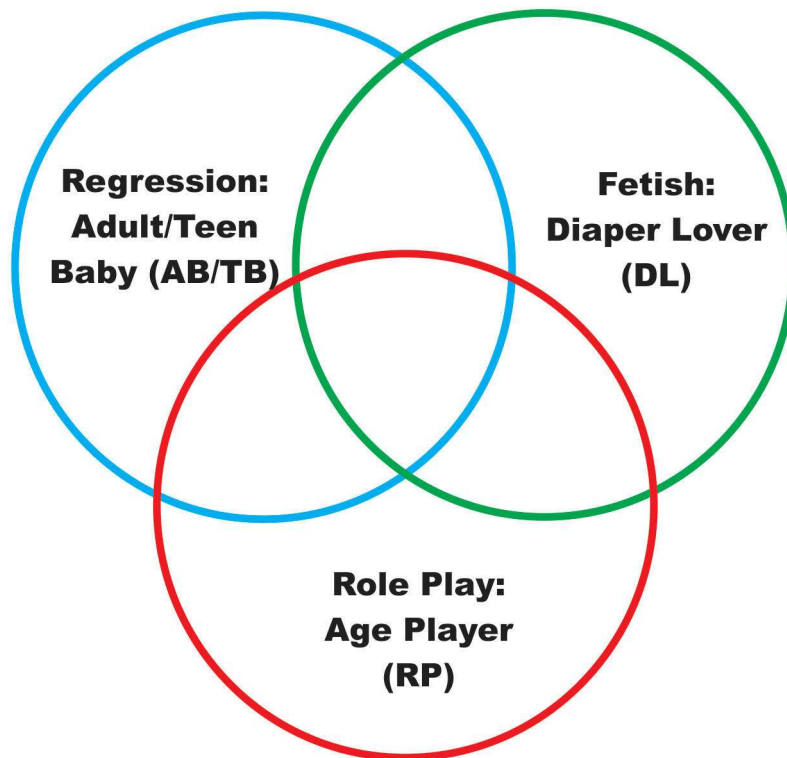
During the writing of our books we have received some very strident criticism, some of it truly vile. But what it has shown up mainly is the almost complete lack of any understanding of the various labels of human behaviour. I have been told that regressive ABs don't actually exist and they are just mental patients. I was told once that ALL ABs are transgender and a whole host of other completely bogus 'definitions'. Unsurprisingly, those kinds of argument only brought dissension and strife.

Outside of the trolls and trouble-makers however is a powerful and genuine drive to answer the age-old question of '**Who am I?**' This is the singular question that has plagued us from the dawn of time and as adult babies, is even more complex. Often the unnecessary arguments about labels is driven by nothing more than a genuine desire to answer this question.

Who am I? Who is going to help me understand this?

In our latest book, I address this question as probably the key one of them all. What is an adult Baby? What is a Diaper Lover? Ask that on any forum and you will get a multitude of answers and little agreement – not from anger, but from a genuine desire to know.

We have posited a three-way definition of what is a typical AD/DL. Except of course that there is NO typical AB/DL. Other than wearing diapers, everything else is up for grabs.



This diagram simply explains the concept that every ABDL has a portion of all three attributes of diaper attraction – Fetish/compulsion, regression and role-play. So if I were to 'label' myself I would be R80:F15:P5 – Regression 80%, Fetish 15% and role Player 5%

It's a messy label I agree, but what it does is this: we can all assume the R/F/P label, but the proportions are all very individual. We get to be both labelled and be utterly individual, all at the same time!

It is a common problem on forum threads to read how two people seem to have no common ground and yet both exist in the ABDL world. Often this is because their experience and their 'personal variation' is very different to the other, while both are clearly ABDL.

There is nothing wrong with labels. In fact, they help us all immensely. The problems come about where we impute **value** to one label over another. A person whose 'label' is largely sexual fetish may reject the worth or even existence of the substantially regressive person. All this is because of a lack of understanding.

The world of the Adult baby and Diaper Lover has enormous personal variation. Rather than use labels to assign value and worth, we should use them to impart information.

WE ARE ALL IN THE SAME
GAME
JUST DIFFERENT **LEVELS.**
DEALING
WITH THE SAME **HELL,**
JUST DIFFERENT **DEVILS.**

Don't be afraid of labels. They can be your friend. Just don't use them as a weapon and don't use them at all if you don't understand them.

Michael Bent

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