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Professor Graci: Paper related activity #1: Glossary of Semiotic Terms

Abstract:

The following document contains a glossary of terms with semiotic-oriented definitions. Such terms are organized alphabetically and are numerically labeled 1 – 65.

Task:

Create a **glossary of semiotic terms** by finding/writing definitions that resonate particularly well with you, **and that are more or less consistent with established ideas within the field of semiotics**, for each of the following terms.

1. Biosphere: Places (possibly only on earth) occupied by living organisms.
2. Code: One or more signs that have a specific interpretation, such apply not only to secretive but everyday applications.
3. Conative function (of communication): The effect the communicated message has (or is intended to have) on its recipient.
4. Conceptual metaphor: A cognitive construct meant to enhance the understanding of an idea, conceptual domain, in terms of something else.
5. Conceptual metonym: A generalized metonymical formula which underlies a specific abstraction, such as the idea that the face is the person.
6. Connotation: A subjective definition of a sign, which varies from one person/ group to another.
7. Context: The environment/ situation in which a sign is produced, and message interpreted.
8. Conventional sign: A sign whose interpretation(s) are constructed purely by human beings.
9. Denotation: An objective, descriptive definition of something, used when differentiating between things.
10. Deconstruction: The notion that texts can be divided into a series of oppositions; thus, they do not refer to anything outside of said opposition in any "true" way.
11. Diachronic: The nature in which signs change over time, an example of such being the census.
12. Discursive symbols: A symbol that can be considered separate from the set / location it's in.

13. Emotive function (of communication): The intent of the addresser in an act of communication.
14. Firstness: Peircean theory, the first level of meaning and is derived from feelings and isolated perceptions.
15. Haptics: The study and perception of touching patterns in social situations, involved in nonverbal communication.
16. Gesture: A physical movement with a connotative meaning, include bodily movements and facial expressions.
17. Gesticulant: Gestures which accompany speech.
18. Grammar: The system and structure of language, generally concerned with syntax, morphology, phonology, and semantics.
19. Hyperreality: The perceiving/ perception of simulated representations of the physical world as more real than they actually are such as a virtual reality experience.
20. Icon: A sign in which the signifier has a direct (non-arbitrary), connection to its signified or referent (associated with firstness).
21. Image Schema: A term used by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson that refers to the recurring structures that make of up one's perceptions, bodily experiences, and cognition; specifically, those concerned with locations, movements, shapes, etc.
22. Interpretant: The process of adapting a sign's meaning of signs to personal and social experiences (a component of Peircean signs).
23. Index: A sign in which the signifier has an existential connection to its signified or referent (indicates the existence of something somewhere in time or space).
24. Infinite Semiosis: An early Peircean concept that suggest an infinite number of signs both proceeds and precedes any given sign.
25. Kinesics: The study of body language.
26. Langue: The nature of rules and structures that make a language, ranges from sound (phonemes) to grammatical and semantic systems.
27. Metalingual function: Any message that refers to the code used (the word "noun" is a noun).
28. Modernism: A societal concept which emphasized progress, optimism, rationality, the search for absolute knowledge, and the quest for perfection.

29. Myth: A story which explains some aspect of life, often including metaphorical or deistic entities.
30. Narrative: A pattern found in storytelling based on a series of oppositions which generate plot, character, setting, etc. whose branch of semiotic study is called narratology.
31. Natural sign: A sign that is produced by nature such as a symptom.
32. Oculistics: A subcategory of Kinesics which studies eye movement, behavior, gaze, and other eye-related nonverbal communication.
33. Object: That which a sign refers to and is one of the three components of a Peircean sign.
34. Paradigm: A category of sign which is distinct and recognizable from other types/ varieties of signs.
35. Paradigmatic: The structural relation between signs which ensures each sign is distinct and recognizable.
36. Parole: The actual individual utterance one makes.
37. Phatic function (of communication): Any habitualized communal message designed to establish, acknowledge, or reinforce social relations, such as "Hi, how's it going?"; as suggested by Jakobson.
38. Poetic function (of communication): Any message constructed to deliver meaning ironically or poetically, such as "I like Mike"; as suggested by Jakobson.
39. Postmodernism: A world view that suggests all knowledge is relative and man-made, and therefore there is no purpose/ meaning in life outside of the present.
40. Poststructuralism: A semiotic movement countering the structural notion that signs encode some aspect of reality.
41. Presentational symbols: Symbols perceived as complete units, with more representation than in a purely conventional space,
42. Proxemics: A semiotic and anthropological branch which studies the symbolic structure of the physical space between people.
43. Referential function (of communication): Any message whose primary purpose is to convey information (Main Street is 3 blocks west of here).
44. Representamin: Part of Peircean sign theory, the physical part of the sign.
45. Representation: The process in which referents are captured and organized by signs or texts.

46. Secondness: The second level of meaning in Peircean theory, which is derived from relating signs to each other/ other elements.
47. Semiotics: The study of signs and their representative uses.
48. Semiosphere: The signs, codes, and texts present in the world, separate from the biosphere.
49. Semiosis: The process of comprehending/ producing signs.
50. Signifying order: The conventional order in which signs are arranged and can be changed at any time to suit a need or demand.
51. Sign (think something relatively abstract): Any gesture, sound, or pattern that conveys meaning .
52. Sign (think Peirce): Something which to somebody stands for something else to some capacity, is made of three components (representamen, object, and interpretant).
53. Sign (think Saussure): The whole that results from the association of a given signifier with its signified, composed of an object and an associated concept.
54. Signal: An emission or movement which triggers a natural or convention reaction for receiver.
55. Signified: A component of Saussurean signs; The part/ aspect of a sign that is being referred to.
56. Signifier: A component of Saussurean signs; The part/ aspect of the sign that does the referring (the physical part of a sign).
57. Structuralism: An interpretation of semiotics which focuses on relationships formed between signs, texts, and codes generated by semiotics.
58. Symbol: A Peircean classification of signs that represents a referent in a culturally conventional way; and is associated with thirdness.
59. Symptom: A natural bodily sign signifying some physical or disease related ailment.
60. Synchronic: The study of signs at a specific point in time (usually the present).
61. Syntagm: An ordered combination of interacting signifiers which forms a meaningful whole.
62. Syntagmatic: A structural relation which act as guidelines for how signs are combined in a coherent and consistent way.
63. Text: A "larger sign" that is composed in terms of a specific code.

64. Thirdness: The third level of meaning in Peircean theory, derived from symbolic processes, and is associated with a learned feeling.
65. Unlimited semiosis: A term coined by Eco, to refer the phenomenon of signs as being indefinitely referential to other signs.