

1. biosphere - The physical environment to which an organism adapts

2. code - The system in which signs are organized and which determines how they relate to each other and can thus be used for representation and communication

3. conative function (of communication) - The effect of the message on the addressee

4. conceptual metaphor - A generalized metaphorical formula that undergirds a specific abstraction

5. conceptual metonym - A generalized metonymical formula that undergirds a specific abstraction

6. connotation - The extended or secondary meaning of a sign; symbolic or mythic meaning of a signifier

7. context - The environment in which signs are produced and messages interpreted

8. conventional sign - A sign made by human ingenuity

9. denotation - The primary, intentional meaning of a sign

10. deconstruction - The view that texts can be deconstructed into a series of differences and, thus, that they do not refer to anything outside of themselves in any "true" fashion

11. diachronic - The study of change in signs and codes over time

12. discursive symbols - Texts that have "detachment" features; Their constituent signs can be considered separately

13. emotive function (of communication) - The addresser's emotional intent in communicating something

14. firstness - The first level of meaning derived from bodily and sensory processes (Peirce)

15. haptics - The study of touching patterns during social interaction

16. gesture - Semiosis and representation by means of the hand, arms, and, to a lesser extent, the head

17. gesticulant - The gesture unit accompanying speech

18. grammar - The whole system and structure of a language or of languages in general

19. hyperreality - An inability of consciousness to distinguish reality from a simulation of reality

20. icon - A sign in which the signifier has a direct (non-arbitrary), simulative connection to its signified or referent

21. image schema - Term that refers to the recurring structures of, or in, our perceptual interactions, bodily experiences, and cognitive operations that portray locations, movements, shapes, and so on, in the mind

22. interpretant - The process of adapting a sign's meaning to personal and social experiences

23. index - A sign in which the signifier has an existential connection to its signified or referent

24. infinite semiosis - idea that interpretants are to count as further signs, and signs are interpretants of earlier signs. Since any sign must determine an interpretant in order to count as a sign, and interpretants are themselves signs, infinite chains of signs seem to become conceptually necessary

25. kinesics - The study of bodily semiosis

26. langue - a language viewed as an abstract system used by a speech community, in contrast to the actual linguistic behavior of individuals

27. metalingual function (of communication) - A communicative function by which the code being used is identified

28. modernism - modern character or quality of thought, expression, or technique

29. myth - A story that aims to explain the origin of life or of the universe in terms of some metaphysical or deistic entity or entities

30. narrative - Something told or written, such as an account, story, or tale

31. natural sign - A sign that is produced by nature (such as a symptom)

32. oculosics - a subcategory of kinesics, is the study of eye movement, eye behavior, gaze, and eye-related nonverbal communication

33. object - What a sign refers to

34. paradigm - a set of linguistic items that form mutually exclusive choices in particular syntactic roles.

35. paradigmatic - A structural relation between signs that keeps them distinct and therefore recognizable

36. parole - the actual linguistic behavior or performance of individuals, in contrast to the linguistic system of a community.

37. phatic function (of communication) - A communicative function by which contact between addresser and addressee is established

38. poetic function (of communication) - A communicative function based on poetic language

39. postmodernism - The world view that all knowledge is relative and human-made, and that there is no purpose to life beyond the immediate and the present

40. poststructuralism - A movement in semiosis countering the structuralist notion that signs encode some aspect of reality

41. presentational symbols - Texts with elements that cannot be detached from without impairing the overall meaning

42. proxemics - A branch of semiotics and anthropology that studies the symbolic structure of the physical space maintained between people

43. referential function (of communication) - A communicative act in which there is a straightforward connection between the act and what it refers to

44. representamen - The physical part of a sign (Peirce)

45. representation - The process by which referents are captured and organized in some way by signs or texts

46. secondness - The second level of meaning derived from relating signs to each other or to other elements (including sign-makers and -users) (Peirce)

47. semiotics - The science that studies signs and their uses in representation

48. semiosphere - The world of signs, codes and texts to be differentiated from the biosphere (the single life-supporting environment)

49. semiosis - The comprehension and production of signs

50. signifying order - the products of human beings and, therefore, subject to being changed constantly by them to suit any new need or demand

51. sign (think something relatively abstract) - Something that stands for something or someone else in some capacity

52. sign (think Peirce) - Our sensory and emotional experiences of the world influence how a sign is constituted and why it is brought into existence in the first place. Signs reflect our experiences

53. sign (think Saussure) - semiology; Since it does not exist yet, one cannot say it will exist. But it has a right to exist

54. signal - An emission or movement that naturally or conventionally triggers some reaction on the part of a receiver

55. signified - That part of a sign that is referred to

56. signifier - That part of a sign that does the referring; the physical part of a sign

57. structuralism - The study of the structures (signs, texts, codes) generated by semiosis

58. symbol - A sign that represents a referent through cultural convention

59. symptom - A bodily sign that stands for some ailment, physical condition, or disease

60. synchronic - The study of signs at a specific point in time (usually the present)

61. syntagm - An orderly combination of interacting signifiers which forms a meaningful whole

62. syntagmatic - A structural relation that guides the combination of signs or parts of signs in a coherent and consistent way

63. text - A “larger sign” put together in terms of a specific code

64. thirdness - The third level of meaning derived from symbolic processes

65. unlimited semiosis - The signified is endlessly commutable -- functioning in its turn as a signifier for a further signified