

Glossary of Semiotic Terms

Abstract:

This activity contains a glossary of semiotic terms related to the coursework which we have studied so far throughout the semester. This glossary will be necessary for the development of our term paper.

1. biosphere

The biosphere is an environment in which an organism learns to adapt and survive.

2. code

In semiotics, a code is a set of conventions which is used to communicate meaning.

3. conative function (of communication)

A conative function is an aspect of language which is utilized in order to direct a certain response from the addressee. It is a form of persuasion or influence.

4. conceptual metaphor

A conceptual metaphor is the understanding of an idea in terms of another domain. It is a relation between two concepts that are not necessarily directly related, but can be seen in parallel comparisons/

5. conceptual metonym

6. connotation

Connotation is the meaning/definition of a word within a given context.

7. context

A context is the specific circumstances/environment in which an idea is understood. Understanding a sign through a specific domain.

8. conventional sign

A conventional sign is a sign which is dependent on cultural or social understanding, as opposed to a natural sign which understanding is based on no outside forces.

9. denotation

The meaning of a sign which is extracted without any context/ external forces. This is the dictionary definition of immediate meaning.

10. deconstruction

Deconstruction is breaking down a sign in order to understand why or how it was created. It involves taking a larger sign and breaking it down into smaller parts.

11. diachronic

Diachronic is the development of meaning over time, it is looking at data overtime at opposed to in a single snapshot.

12. discursive symbols

Discursive symbols have multiple layers of meaning, it is a recognition of multiple signs which are inter-related to convey multiple meanings.

13. emotive function (of communication)

An emotive function is an expression which does not alter the meaning of a sign, but adds information based on the speaker's internal state. Ex. Emotion behind a statement can emphasize an expression and invoke a feeling of seriousness / sarcasm.

14. firstness

Firstness is a directly perceptual understanding of a sign. It requires no relation and is like a gut feeling / perceptual reaction.

15. haptics

Haptics is the perception of touch. Haptics are a nonverbal communication of signs often seen in technology, motion/vibration responses.

16. gesture

A bodily motion which is used to express an idea or meaning. Gestures are often culturally based signs which convey meaning.

17. gesticulant

Utilizing gestures to convey or emphasize meaning as opposed to verbal expression.

18. grammar

Grammar is a system and structure of a language. It is an analysis of the way in which a language is generated and structured.

19. hyperreality

Hyperreality in semiotics is the inability to distinguish reality from a simulation of reality. Simulations of reality appear more real than reality itself.

20. icon

An icon is a sign which resembles its referent. An icon represents exactly what it stands for.

21. image schema

An image schema is a structure which establishes patterns for understanding visually. It often creates spatial relations. Ex. wireframes

22. interpretant

An interpretant is a sign that refers to an object as another sign. It is also the effect of a sign on someone who reads it.

23. index

A sign which points to an object within its context. Indexicality involves a relationship between an object and its concept.

24. infinite semiosis

Infinite semiosis is the idea that a sign can be endlessly commutable, or derived into another sign infinitely. Signs can be infinitely interpreted in different ways.

25. kinesics

The study of the way in which body movements and gestures serve as nonverbal communication of signs between humans.

26. langue

The view of a language as an abstract system of communication. It is the elements and arrangements of speech and the relationships between them. The rules behind the way a language is arranged/used/

27. metalingual function (of communication)

The ability of a language to talk about its own features. Self-referential language.

28. modernism

Modernism is a form of expression based on a utopian view of human life / society. It is based in order and forward moving progression. Modernism is an attempt to understand and express the true nature of reality.

29. myth

A myth is a perceived cultural reality hidden under layers of signification.

30. Narrative

The semiotic presentation of a series of events semantically related in a temporal and causal way. Types include linguistic, theatrical, pictorial or filmed.

31. natural sign

Natural signs are identified with events occurring in nature, or without an intentional human sender.

32. oculesics

A subcategory of kinesics, which is the study of eye movement and its relationship to nonverbal communication.

33. object

An object is a subject matter of a sign and an interpretant.

34. paradigm

A set of associated signifiers or signifieds which are all members of a given domain. Paradigms are replaceable. Ex(Verbs,Nouns) Parts of speech are replaceable paradigmatically.

35. paradigmatic

36. parole

Parole is the literal utterances of written and spoken language.

37. Phatic Function

Phatic function is a part of communication which reassures a speaker that they are being listened to as well as understood. It is communication used for recognition.

38. Poetic Function

Generally a metaphorical or connotative descriptive sign. Involves self-referentiality, a message talking about itself.

39. Postmodernism

A movement which was a radical reaction to modernism. This art often involves pessimism, chaos, entropy and irony.

40. Poststructuralism

The idea that to understand an object, one must study both the object itself and the systems of knowledge used to produce that object.

41. Presentational Symbols

A type of symbolization which takes the form of an image or icon, they are similar to the thing which they symbolize.

42. Proxemics

A branch of knowledge based in proximity. The distance people feel necessary to set between themselves and others.

43. Referential function

The factors of context and descriptions of a situation, object or mental state.

44. Representamin

A sign which stands to somebody for something in some respect.

45. Representation

The description or portrayal of someone or something in a particular way or within a particular context.

46. Secondness

Secondness involves a relationship with reality. It links a given quality with an object or context.

47. Semiotics

The study of signs, sign processes and symbols and their interpretations.

48. Semiosphere

The semiosphere is a semiotic space which encompasses languages and sign systems. Language and sign systems function within the semiosphere and manipulate it.

49. Semiosis

Any form of activity, conduct, or process that involves signs, including the production of meanings.

50. Signifying Order

The structural levels of signification, meaning and representation within semiotic systems.

51. Sign (abstract)

Something which indicates the presence or occurrence of something else

52. Sign (Peirce)

A sign is something that stands in a well-defined relation to two other things, its object and its interpretant.

53. Sign(Saussure)

Composed of a signifier and the signified.

54. Signal

A signal is a sign that it used to pass information

55. Signified

The concept which a signifier refers to, not the physical object, but the concept behind it

56. Signifier

The signifier is the object itself.

57. Structuralism

Knowledge of nature and human life that is interested in relationships between elements in a conceptual system.

58. Symbol

Represents a concept, but unlike an icon does not resemble what it stands for.

59. Symptom

One of the first representations of sign, a natural sign produced by the body to alert an organism of the presence of an altered physical state within.

60. Synchronic

Concerned with a linguistic system as it exists at a given point in time.

61. Syntagm

An orderly combination of interacting signifiers which form a meaningful whole. "ORDER"

62. Syntagmatic

A sequence of signs, which together create a meaning.

63. Text

An assemblage of smaller signs

64. Thirdness

A fundamental category in Peircean philosophy consisting of firstness and secondness, this involves culture and a learned experience of a sign.

65. Unlimited Semiosis

The idea that signs are endlessly commutable.