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Glossary of Semiotic Terms

Abstract: This paper represents a correlation of sixty-five semiotic terms in alphabetical order. This paper will help benefit the literal definition of understanding the semiotic terms displayed below. While also gathering various background information from websites, dictionaries, books, etc., around the world's concepts and field of semiotics. Overall, all these sixty-five semiotic terms are important factors when trying to understand the functions of semiotics.

- 1.) Biosphere - Parcel of the planet earth which comprises life-signs. (From Book "Semiosphere Is the Relational Biosphere" Kaie Kotov & Kalevi Kull)
- 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. (Danesi)
- 3.) Conative function (of communication) - A function of language or, more generally, communication, that is focused on, and concerned with influencing the behaviour of the addressee, and thus concerned with persuasion. (Oxford Reference)
- 4.) Conceptual metaphor – Understanding one domain of experience (that is typically abstract) in terms of another (that is typically concrete). (From "Conceptual Metaphor Theory" Zoltan Kovecses)
- 5.) Conceptual metonym – A generalized metonymical formula that undergirds a specific abstraction. (Danesi)
- 6.) Connotation - The various social overtones, cultural implications, or emotional meanings associated with a sign. (From "Semiotics" David Simpson)
- 7.) Context – The environment (physical and social) in which signs are produced and messages interpreted. (Danesi)
- 8.) Conventional Sign - Any of various signs, such as words or symbols, that acquire their function through linguistic custom. (From Dictionary. Com)
- 9.) Denotation - The literal meaning of a sign.
- 10.) Deconstruction - A form of critical analysis of literary texts and philosophical positions that is based on the twin assumptions that there can be no firm referents for language and no adequate grounding for truth claims. (From American Psychological Association)
- 11.) Diachronic - relating to or dealing with phenomena (as of language or culture) as they occur or change over a period of time. (From Merriam-Webster)
- 12.) Discursive Symbols – The symbol of language. (From "Discursive and Presentational Symbols" Paul Welsh)
- 13.) Emotive function - Focuses on the addresser. The addresser's own attitude towards the content of the message is emphasized. (From MIT Media Lab)
- 14.) Firstness – Is about feeling (emotion), as distinct from objective perception, will and thought. (From LinkedIn)

- 15.) Haptics - The use of electronically or mechanically generated movement that a user experiences through the sense of touch as part of an interface (as on a gaming console or smartphone). (From Merriam-Webster)
- 16.) Gesture - A movement that you make with a part of your body, especially your hands, to express emotion or information. (From Collins Dictionary)
- 17.) Gesticulant – Making or tending to make gestures or gesticulations. (From Word Reference)
- 18.) Grammar - Rules of a language governing the sounds, words, sentences, and other elements, as well as their combination and interpretation. (From Britannica)
- 19.) Hyperreality - An image or simulation, or an aggregate of images and simulations, that either distorts the reality it purports to depict or does not in fact depict anything with a real existence at all, but which nonetheless comes to constitute reality. (From Dictionary.com)
- 20.) Icon – A sign in which the signifier has a direct (non-arbitrary) simulative connection to its signified or referent. (Dansi)
- 21.) Image Schema - Dynamic analog representations of spatial relations and movements in space. (From “*On defining image schema*” Jean Mandler & Cristobal Canovas)
- 22.) Interpretant – Derives from the experience with the object, and it is identified only through the sign. (From the Book “*Infinite Semiosis and Resistance*” Kristian Bankov).
- 23.) Index – A sign in which the signifier has an existential connection to its signified or referent (that is, the sign indicates that something “exists” somewhere in time or space). (Dansi)
- 24.) Infinite Semiosis - The signified is endlessly commutable—functioning in its turn as a signifier for a further signified. (From Oxford Reference)
- 25.) Kinesics – The broad field of non-verbal communication solely concerned with the interpretation of nonverbal behaviours that are associated with body movements, gestures, posture, facial expression, and eye contact. (From Ifioque.com)
- 26.) Langue - A language viewed as an abstract system used by a speech community, in contrast to the actual linguistic behavior of individuals. (From Lexico)
- 27.) Metalingual function (of communication) - An utterance in which the addressee gives or ask for information about the code. (From LOGOS)
- 28.) Modernism - A movement in the arts in the first half of the twentieth century that rejected traditional values and techniques and emphasized the importance of individual experience. (From Collins Dictionary)
- 29.) Myth – A traditional or legendary story, usually concerning some being or hero or event, with or without a determinable basis of fact or a natural explanation, especially one that is concerned with deities or demigods and explains some practice, rite, or phenomenon of nature. (From Dictionary. Com)
- 30.) Narrative – A story that connects and explains a carefully selected set of supposedly true events, experiences, or the like, intended to support a particular a viewpoint or thesis: (From Dictionary. Com)

- 31.) Natural Sign – A sign that is produced by nature (such as a symptom). (Danesi)
- 32.) Oculistics -A subcategory of kinesics, the study of eye movement, eye behavior, gaze, and eye-related nonverbal communication. Often used interchangeably with eye contact. (From Boundless.com)
- 33.) Object - A thing that you can see or touch but that is not usually a living animal, plant, or person. (From Cambridge Dictionary)
- 34.) Paradigm - Unique collection of signs. With the application of the appropriate rules, compound signs, or syntagms can be constructed from the paradigm. (From HFCL Tutorial)
- 35.) Paradigmatic – A structural function between signs that keeps them distinct and therefore recognizable. (From Danesi)
- 36.) Parole – A term used by Saussure as the speech of the individual person. (From Britannica)
- 37.) Phatic Function (of communication) - Is verbal or non-verbal communication that has a social function, such as to start a conversation, greet someone, or say goodbye, rather than an informative function. (From Teaching English)
- 38.) Poetic Function (of communication) - Is allocated to the message. Messages convey more than just the content. Rhetorical figures, pitch or loudness. (From MIT Lab).
- 39.) Postmodernism - A movement in architecture and the decorative arts running counter to the practice and influence of the International Style and encouraging the use of elements from historical vernacular styles and often playful illusion, decoration, and complexity. (From Dictionary.com)
- 40.) Poststructuralism - A movement or theory (such as deconstruction) that views the descriptive premise of structuralism as contradicted by reliance on borrowed concepts or differential terms and categories and sees inquiry as inevitably shaped by discursive and interpretive practices. (From Merriam-Webster)
- 41.) Presentational Symbols - One that often takes the form of an image or icon, meaning sacred “image” or “likeness”. (From Weebly)
- 42.) Proxemics - the study of the nature, degree, and effect of the spatial separation individuals naturally maintain (as in various social and interpersonal situations) and of how this separation relates to environmental and cultural factors). (From Merriam-Webster)
- 43.) Referential Function (of communication) - Is what is being spoken of, what is being referred to. A context is necessary from which the object of communication is drawn. (From Mit Lab)
- 44.) Representamin – A term derived from Charles Peirce that refers to the physical sign.
- 45.) Representation – The process by which referents are captured and organized in some way by signs or texts. (Danesi)
- 46.) Secondness - A fundamental category in Peircean philosophy comprising actual facts and expressive of necessity, force, and determination. (From Merriam-Webster)
- 47.) Semiotics – The study of signs and the behaviors of the signs.

- 48.) Semiosphere - Is a semiotic space that is necessary for the existence and functioning of languages and other sign systems. (From "*Semiosphere Is the Relational Biosphere*" Kaie Kotov & Kalevi Kull)
- 49.) Semiosis - An action or process involving the establishment of a relationship between a sign and its object and meaning. (From Collins Dictionary)
- 50.) Signifying Order - Barthes' term for structural levels of signification, meaning, or representation in semiotic systems. (From Oxford Reference)
- 51.) Sign (think something relatively abstract) - Something that stands for something else and can convey meaning.
- 52.) Sign (think Peirce) - The conception of the sign is known as the representamen, object and the interpretant or signified. As the representamen is the representation of the sign, the object is the awareness of the sign and the interpretant of what the sign represents.
- 53.) Sign (think Saussure) - As the combination in which a signal is associated with a signification, we can express this more simply as: the linguistic sign is arbitrary. (From New Learning)
- 54.) Signal – An emission or movement that naturally or conventionally triggers some reaction on the part of a receiver. (From Collins Dictionary)
- 55.) Signified - The object or concept represented by a signifier. (From Collins Dictionary)
- 56.) Signifier - The concretely perceptible component of a sign, as distinct from its conceptual meaning (the signified). (From Oxford Reference)
- 57.) Structuralism – An aspect of study formed of sign, texts, and codes produced from semiosis.
- 58.) Symbol - A word, phrase, image, or the like having a complex of associated meanings and perceived as having inherent value separable from that which is symbolized, as being part of that which is symbolized, and as performing its normal function of standing for or representing that which is symbolized: usually conceived as deriving its meaning chiefly from the structure in which it appears, and generally distinguished from a sign. (From Dictionary.com)
- 59.) Symptom – A bodily sign that stands for some ailment, physical condition, or disease. (From Danesi)
- 60.) Synchronic - Occurring or existing at the same time or having the same period or phase. (From Vocabulary.com)
- 61.) Syntagm – An orderly combination of interacting signifiers which forms a meaningful whole (sometimes called a 'chain'). (From Oxford Reference)
- 62.) Syntagmatic - Pertaining to a relationship among linguistic elements that occur sequentially in the chain of speech or writing. (From Dictionary.com)
- 63.) Text - Text is usually distinguished from non-character encoded data, such as graphic images in the form of bitmaps and program code, which is sometimes referred to as being in "binary" (but is actually in its own computer-readable format). (From WhatIs.com)

64.) Thirdness - The connecting bond between firstness and secondness and expressive of law, generality, purpose, and habit. (From Merriam-Webster)

65.) Unlimited Semiosis - The term coined by Eco to refer to the way in which, for Peirce (via the interpretant), for Barthes (via connotation), for Derrida (via freeplay), and for Lacan (via 'the sliding signified'; *see* slippage of meaning), the signified is endlessly commutable—functioning in its turn as a signifier for a further signified. (From Oxford Reference)