

Sven Kappeler - Glossary

Abstract

This document contains some of the most important semiotic terms. Each one of the 65 terms is defined in a semiotics sense.

Glossary

1. Biosphere

The environment that animals evolved specifically for

2. Code

Rules that govern the relationship between signs and their relationship to each other

Paradigmatic v Syntagmatic

3. conative function (of communication)

4. conceptual metaphor

Ability humans have to use seemingly unrelated concepts to easily convey ideas, characteristics or behaviors

5. conceptual metonym

6. Connotation

The ideas, feelings, or vibes that are related with a certain word or sign.

[Sunlight: Warmth, Happiness]

7. Context

The stuff surrounding a sign, like the setting or time, that gives it deeper meaning.

8. conventional sign

Words and symbols, any sign made by people, good to help us get a better understanding of the human mind.

9. Denotation

The dictionary definition of a word or sign.

[Sunlight: Light from the sun]

10. Deconstruction

The idea that texts do not have just a single meaning, meaning extracted depends on the reader

11. Diachronic

The study of how language or a specific part of language has evolved throughout time

12. discursive symbols

13. emotive function (of communication)

14. Firstness

The immediate sense of feeling (*emotion*) associated with a sign; once another thought enters the mind firstness is gone. **(Peirce)**

15. Haptics

A form of communication via touch that commonly varies vastly among cultures.

[Handshake]

16. Gesture

Using one's body to attempt to represent or demonstrate something; a more instinctive form of communication compared to language.

[Using your hands to portray steering a car]

17. Gesticulant

A type of gesture that is used in tandem with language to aid in conveying a message

18. Grammar

The structure behind language

19. Hyperreality

A situation when reality and fiction have seamlessly merged together and are indistinguishable

20. Icon

Resembles what is being signified (parallels a referent), commonly a simplified version. **(Peirce)**

[Bike Symbol, Photograph, 

21. image schema

Common metaphors used in language that represent items that can visually.

[This conversation is going in a *circle*]

22. Interpretant

The person listening to someone speak and attempting to understand the idea they are hearing

23. Index

Evidence of a sign due to a relationship it has with another sign. **(Peirce)**

[Footprint (Animal) or Smoke (Fire)]

24. infinite semiosis

The idea that signs are used to define words which are used to define words

25. Kinesics

The study of human's body language

26. Langue

The language systems used by people and shared by a community.

27. metalingual function

28. Modernism

A movement that started in the early 20th century, with common characteristics being optimism, perfection and rationalism.

29. Myth

A fictional story passed down

30. Narrative

A story made to portray a certain aspect of reality

31. natural sign

Signs with no constructed by people but with meaning given to it by nature.

[Rungs on a tree (age)]

32. Oculistics

The study of eye movement, a segment of kinesics

33. Object

The specific thing that a sign refers to

34. Paradigm

A set of different objects, words or symbols of the same type share, associated signifiers, which are all distinct but part of the same category

35. Paradigmatic

The relationship between signs and the replacement of it with other signs.

[Synonyms, Replacing a Dinner Meal (Burger for Tacos)]

36. Parole

A certain individual's use of language.

37. phatic function (of communication)

38. poetic function (of communication)

39. Postmodernism

A movement that came after modernism, associated with pessimism, irrationality and exhaustion.

40. Poststructuralism

A movement that challenges common knowledge, it rejects concepts that we take for granted as truths

41. presentational symbols

42. Proxemics

The study of personal space in terms of social codes

43. referential function (of communication)

44. Representamen

A sign which stands for something else

45. Representation

The use of signs to take the place of something else

46. Secondness

The physical being and relationship of a sign

47. Semiotics

The study of signs and all things related to them including: meaning, origin, relationship, and culture.

48. Semiosphere

The idea that culture plays such an important part in thinking and language that culture be renamed semiosphere.

49. Semiosis

Peoples' innate ability to produce and understand signs

50. signifying order

51. sign (think something relatively abstract)

Anything that represents something

52. sign (think Peirce)

A representamen, something that represents an object.

53. sign (think Saussure)

Something described by signifiers. Signifieds are the concepts people have in their mind about the sign.

54. Signal

A type of sign with no man made meaning behind it produced by the body, however the meaning behind these can be discovered

55. Signified

The mental concept of a sign, commonly thought of due to a signifier.

[Apple, Fruit, Healthy]

56. Signifier

A sign that represents an object or physical being.

[Red, Leaf, Round]

57. Structuralism

A movement that revolved around the idea that the use of language results in meaning.

58. Symbol

A signifier that has no physical relationship to its signified sign, this is something that must be learned through culture.

[Traffic Light, Flag]

59. Symptom

A signifier that the body gives us to represent that the body has an illness or disease, one of the first signs of semiotics.

60. Synchronic

The study of something, part of language, at a certain time

61. Syntagm

A type of relationship that involves the way signs are sequenced together.

62. Syntagmatic

63. Text

A bunch of signs grouped together to represent something bigger, texts can be interpreted by people in completely different ways

64. Thirdness

The coming together of firstness and secondness, the meaning extracted from something.
(Peirce)

65. unlimited semiosis

The idea that signs are used to define words which are used to define words