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Semiotic Vocabulary Words

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 a 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; the symbolic or mythic meaning of a certain signifier (word, image, etc.)
7. Context - The environment (physical and social) in which signs are produced and messages interpreted
8. Conventional Sign – A sign that is made by human ingenuity
9. Denotation- The primary, intentioned meaning of a sign
10. Deconstruction- The view that text can be deconstructed into a series of differences (opposition) and, thus, that they do not refer to anything outside of themselves in any “true” fashion
11. Diachronic - Study of the changing associations between concrete, changeable forms and abstract, unchanging concepts
12. Discursive Symbols - Combination of bits of meanings that flow together.
13. Emotive Function (of communication) – The addresser’s emotional intent in communicating something
14. Firstness – In Peircean theory, the first level of meaning something derived from bodily and sensory processes
15. Haptics – The study of touching patterns during social interaction
16. Gesture – Semiosis and representation by means of the hands, arms, and, to a lesser extent, the head

17. Gesticulant – The gesture unit accompanying speech
18. Grammar- `functional' rather than `formal' in its intellectual origins, approaches, and methods
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- The term used by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson to refer 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 (that is, the sign indicates that something “exists” somewhere in time or space)
24. Infinite Semiosis- The signified is endlessly commutable—functioning in its turn as a signifier for a further signified.
25. Kinesics- The study of bodily semiosis
26. Langue- A system of internalized, shared rules governing a national language's vocabulary, grammar, and sound system
27. Metalingual Function- A communicative function by which the code being used is identified
28. Modernism- a style or movement in the arts that aims to break with classical and traditional forms.
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 symptom)
32. Oculesics- The study of eye movement, eye behavior, gaze, and eye-related nonverbal communication.
33. Object- What a sign refers to

34. Paradigm- A unique collection of signs. With the application of the appropriate rules, compound signs, or syntagms, can be constructed from the paradigm
35. Paradigmatic- A structural relation between signs that keeps them distinct and therefore recognizable
36. Parole - Designates actual oral and written communication by a member or members of a particular speech 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 there is no purpose to life beyond the immediate and the present
40. Poststructuralism – A movement in semiotics countering the structuralist notion that signs encode some aspect of reality
41. Presentational Symbols - They participate in, or are similar to, the thing they symbolize. Often takes form of an image or icon, meaning sacred "image" or "likeness"
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 – In Peircean theory, the physical part of a sign
45. Representation – The process by which referents are captured and organized in some ways by signs or texts
46. Secondness – In Peircean theory, the second level of meaning derived from relating signs to each other or to other elements (including sign-makers and sign-users)
47. Semiotics – The science that studies signs and their users in representation
48. Semiosphere – The world of signs, codes, and text to be differentiated from the biosphere (the physical life-supporting environment)
49. Semiosis – The comprehension and production of signs

50. Signifying order - Aspects of reality or experience that specific cultures deem important, relevant, or useful. Therefore, what signs detect or capture in the world is always but a portion of what is around.
51. Sign (think something relatively abstract) – something that stands for something or someone else in some capacity
52. Sign (think Peirce) - A sign is something that stands in a well-defined kind of relation to two other things, its object and its interpretant sign.
53. Sign (think Saussure) - A sign is composed of the signifier (signifiant), and the signified (signifié). These cannot be conceptualized as separate entities but rather as a mapping from significant differences in sound to potential (correct) differential denotation.
54. Signal – An emission or movement that naturally or conventionally triggers some reaction on the part of the receiver
55. Signified – That part of sign that is referred to
56. Signifier – That part of sign that does the referring; the physical part of sign
57. Structuralism – The study of the structure (signs, text, 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 – In Peircean theory, 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.