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COG 444 - Glossary assignment

This is an alphabetically-ordered glossary of commonly used terms in semiotics.

1. biosphere

The context within which a set of organisms interact.

2. code

A system of conventions used to create or understand a text.

3. conative function (of communication)

The function of communication used to address the receiver.

4. conceptual metaphor

A metaphor made between two or more unlike concepts.

5. conceptual metonym

6. connotation

The acquired meaning of a sign.

7. context

The relevant environment.

8. conventional sign

A sign which is not natural.

9. denotation

The dictionary definition.

10. deconstruction

Technique employed by Derrida to explore a text's binary opposite.

11. diachronic

Over time.

12. discursive symbols

A symbol which is textual.

13. emotive function (of communication)

The function of language to convey the feeling of the sender.

14. firstness

The first feeling one gets from a text.

15. haptics

The form of communication through touch.

16. gesture

A movement one makes to convey meaning.

17. gesticulant

Making or tending to make gestures.

18. grammar

A set of rules used for interpreting a text.

19. hyperreality

The advent of a distortion of reality being miscible or indistinguishable from reality.

20. icon

A sign in which the signifier resembles or imitates the signified.

21. image schema

A mental pattern which motivates the formation of metaphor.

22. interpretant

The part of the sign needed to interpret the sign into the object.

23. index

A sign which is a reference.

24. infinite semiosis

The way in which an infinite amount of meaning can be derived from any given sign.

25. kinesics

The study of body movements.

26. langue

The abstract set of all possible utterances in a given sign system.

27. metalingual function (of communication)

The ability of communication to refer to the mode of communication itself.

28. modernism

A school of thought and a system of stylistic choices associated with simple, repeated forms, optimism, and a lack of ornamentation.

29. myth

A symbolic narrative.

30. narrative

A story with a beginning, middle and end.

31. natural sign

A sign not explicitly caused by a human.

32. oculosics

The study of eye movements.

33. object

The signified, in a Peircean definition of a sign.

34. paradigm

A set of mutually exclusive possibilities.

35. paradigmatic

Having to do with a paradigm.

36. parole

A concrete usage or implementation of langue.

37. phatic function (of communication)

The function of communication used to establish or affirm a channel.

38. poetic function (of communication)

The function of language that has final value.

39. postmodernism

A reaction to modernism. Characterized by unusual shapes or designs, high degree of referencing, and pessimism.

40. poststructuralism

A general rejection of structuralism, notably with the thought that well-established structures are not enough to understand human cultures.

41. presentational symbols

A text meant to be viewed without being read.

42. proxemics

The study of human use of space.

43. referential function (of communication)

The ability of communication to refer to something specific.

44. representamen

The encapsulation of the sign, object, and interpretant.

45. representation

A model.

46. secondness

The impression one gets from implicitly or explicitly comparing signs within a text.

47. semiotics

The study of signs and sign systems.

48. semiosphere

The context within which meaning exists.

49. semiosis

The production of meaning.

50. signifying order

The order in which denotative, connotative, and mythical meanings are generated.

51. sign (think something relatively abstract)

Anything that can be used to tell a lie.

52. sign (think Peirce)

Something that refers to an object, whose interpretation is moderated by an interpretant.

53. sign (think Saussure)

A signifier which arbitrarily refers to a signified.

54. signal

A piece of information in motion.

55. signified

The thing to which a sign might refer.

56. signifier

The part of the sign which does the referring.

57. structuralism

The school of thought which holds that human culture can only be understood through the relationship between its components.

58. symbol

A sign which stands for something it does not resemble or imitate.

59. symptom

A natural sign, which indicates something about the host.

60. synchronic

At a single point in time.

61. syntagm

A specific ordering of a set.

62. syntagmatic

Having to do with order.

63. text

A set of signs.

64. thirdness

The impression one gets from a sign due to background information.

65. unlimited semiosis

The way in which an infinite amount of meaning can be derived from any given sign.