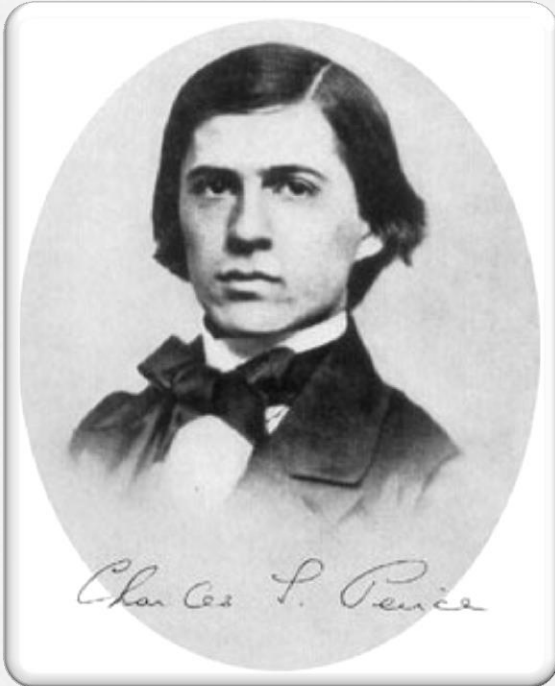


**Charles Sanders Peirce**  
(1839 – 1914)  
*Three trichotomies of  
Signs*

Larkina Darya Alekseevna  
107 group

2018

# Who's Charles Sanders Peirce ?



- o He was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1839.
- o His father was an eminent mathematician and a professor at Harvard University.
- o Charles received a solid education in *experimental sciences, mathematics, logic and philosophy*.
- o When he graduated from Harvard in 1859, he went to work for the Geodetic Survey, where he was employed for 30 years.
- o Sometimes he was a lecturer in various universities, however he never did obtain a tenured position as a university professor, despite his many applications submitted from 1868 to 1895.
- o From 1893 to 1902, he developed his theory of "*Three trichotomies of Signs*".

*/'fə:s(t)nəs/*

# THE FOUNDATIONAL CATEGORIES OF SEMIOTICS

*FIRSTNESS* is a conception of being that is independent of anything else.

- o It is a conception of being in its wholeness or completeness, with no boundaries or parts, and no cause or effect.
- o Firstness belongs to the sphere of possibility; it is experienced within a kind of timelessness.
- o Firstness corresponds to *emotional experience*.

/sə'kɒndnəs/

# THE FOUNDATIONAL CATEGORIES OF SEMIOTICS

**SECONDNESS** is the mode of being that is in relation to something else.

- o This is the category that includes the individual, experience, fact, existence, and action-reaction.
- o Secondness belongs to a certain event occurred at a certain moment, before some other event, which was its consequence.
- o Secondness corresponds to **practical experience**.

/'θɜːdnəs/, /,siːmi'əʊsɪs/

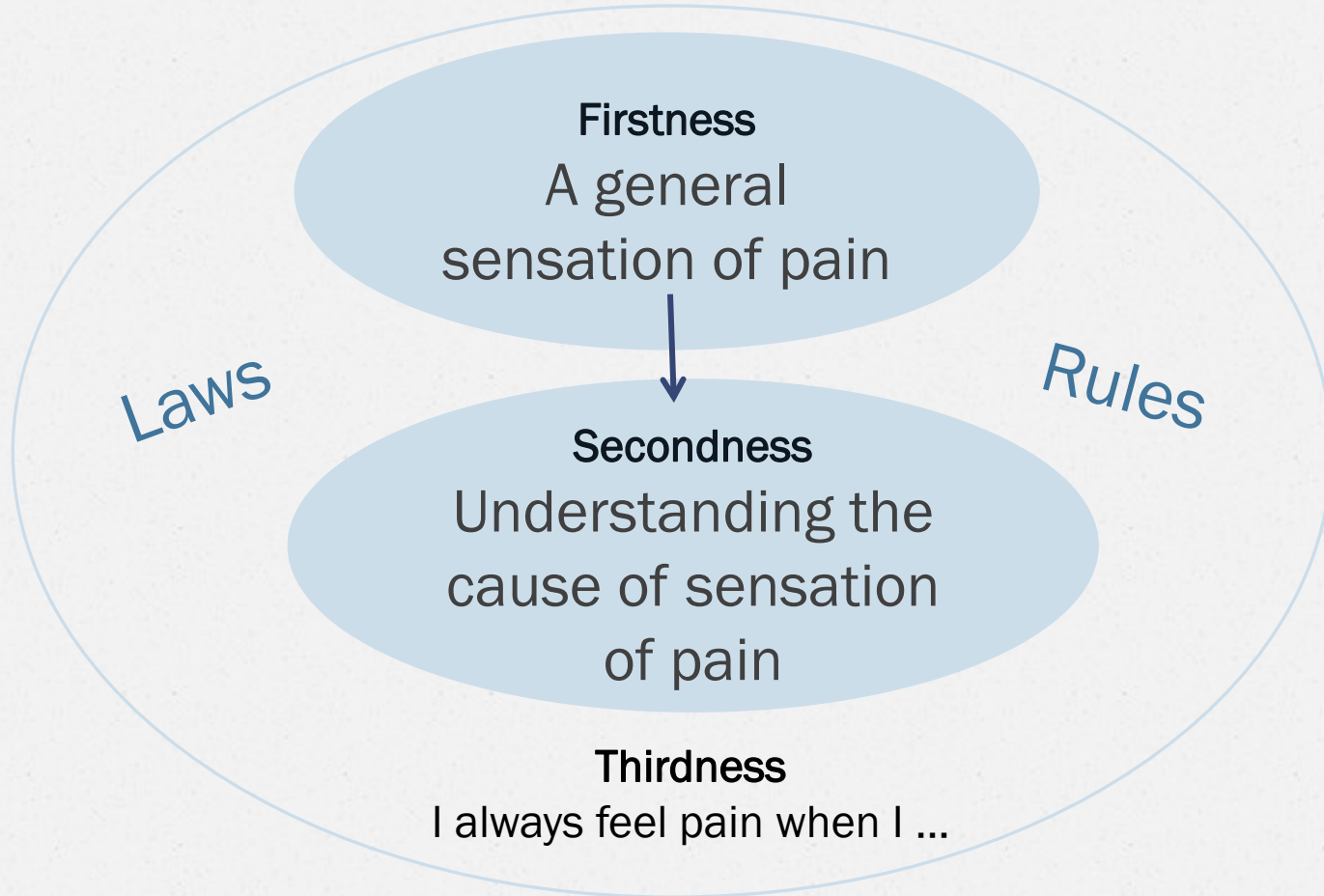
# THE FOUNDATIONAL CATEGORIES OF SEMIOTICS

**THIRDNESS** is the mediator through which a first and a second are brought into relation.

- o Thirdness is the category of thought, language, representation, and the process of **semiosis** (= the process of signification); it makes social communication possible.
- o Thirdness belongs to the domain of rules and laws.
- o Thirdness corresponds to **intellectual experience**.

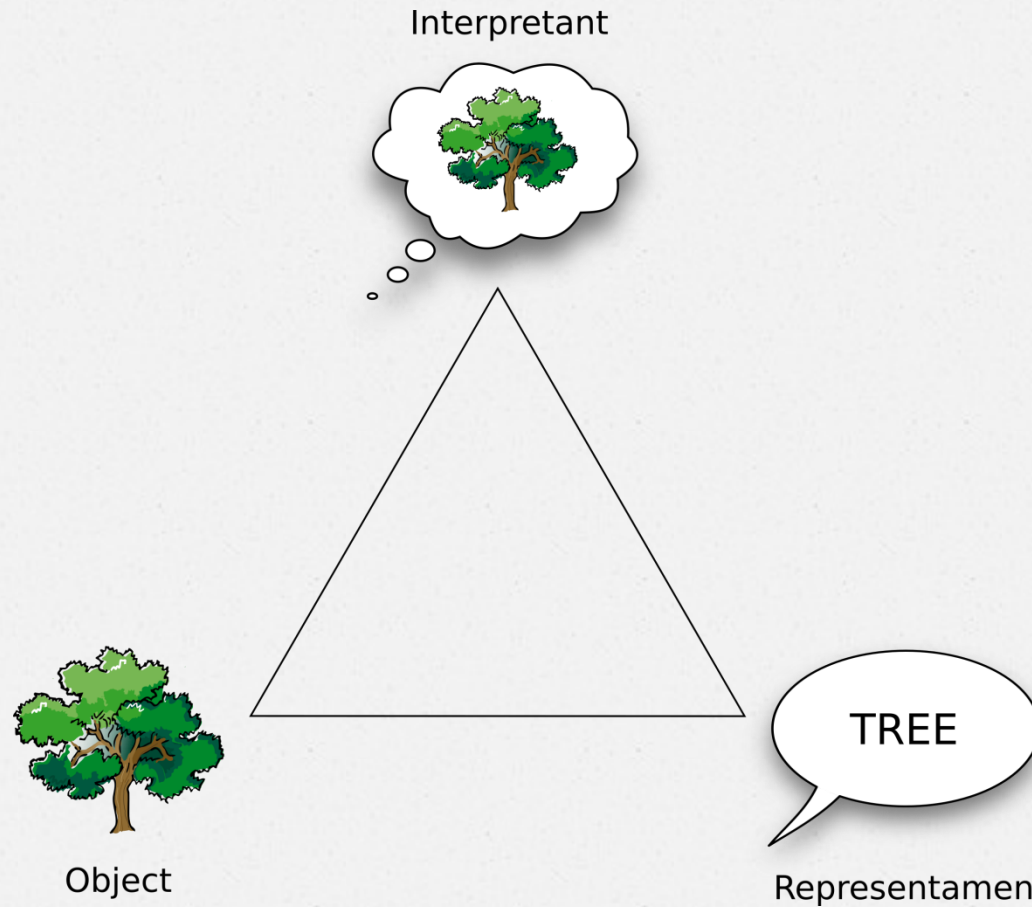
/,si:mi'əʊsɪs/

# THE FOUNDATIONAL CATEGORIES OF SEMIOTICS



/,si:mi'əʊsɪs/, /,reprɪzən'teɪmən/, /əb'dʒekt/, /ɪn'tɜ:prɪtənt/

# THE PROCESS OF SEMIOSIS



/tri'kɒtəmi/, /'kwɒlɪsɪn/, /'sɪnsɪn/, /'lɛdʒɪsɪn/

# Three trichotomies of Signs

## THE FIRST TRICHOTOMY.

*The representamen:*

- o a **qualisign** (firstness) meaning a quality that functions like a sign;
- o a **sinsign** (secondness), meaning a specific spatio-temporal thing or event that functions like a sign;
- o a **legisign** (thirdness), meaning a conventional sign.



/tri'kɒtəmi/, /'ɪk(ə)n/

# Three trichotomies of Signs

## THE SECOND TRICHOTOMY.

*The object:*

### o An icon

The sign resembles the object or is very similar to the object.



/tri'kɒtəmi/, /'sɪmb(ə)l/

# Three trichotomies of Signs

## THE SECOND TRICHOTOMY.

*The object:*

### o A symbol

A sign refers to its object by virtue of a law or a generally accepted rule.



/tri'kɒtəmi/, /'ɪndɛks/

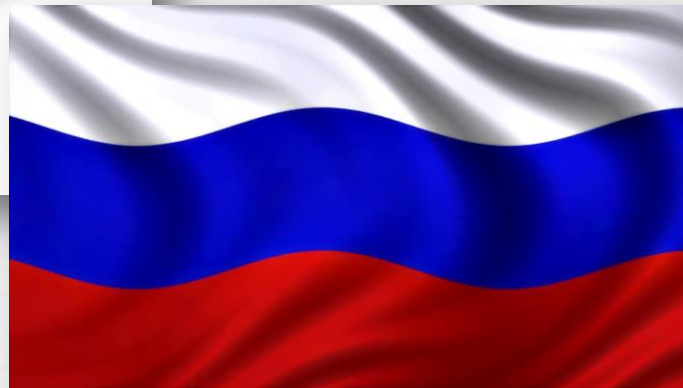
# Three trichotomies of Signs

## THE SECOND TRICHOTOMY.

*The object:*

o **An index**

The sign really is affected by the object.





Icon



Index



Symbol



/rɪ'maɪk/, /ɪn'tɜ:pɪtənt/

# Three trichotomies of Signs

## THE THIRD TRICHOTOMY.

*The interpretant:*

- o The **rhematic** - the relationship between the representamen and object, it does not refer to anything "else" but the qualities of the representamen, which are also the qualities of a whole class of possible objects.
- o The **dicisign's** or **dicent's** functions like a logical proposition, which establishes a relationship between constants (a subject and a predicate).

/ˈɑːɡjʊm(ə)nt/, /dɪˈdʌksɪ(ə)n/, /ɪnˈdʌksɪ(ə)n/, /əbˈdʌksɪn/

# Three trichotomies of Signs

## THE THIRD TRICHOTOMY.

*The interpretant:*

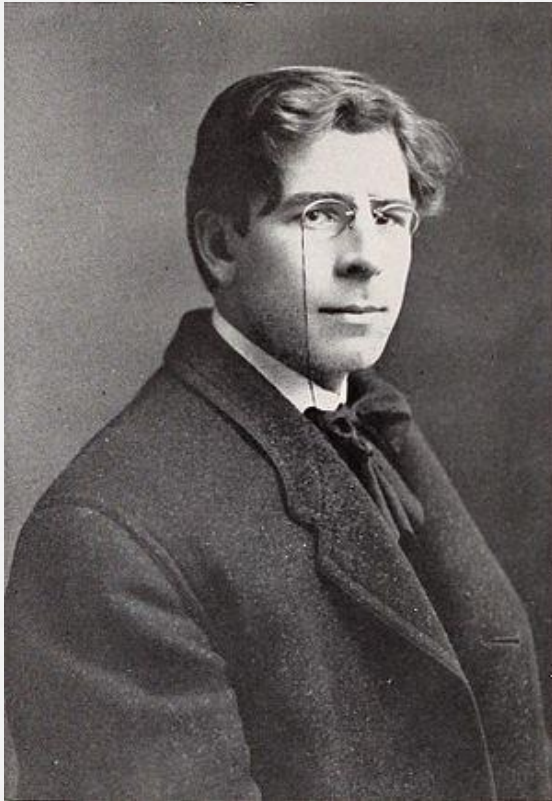
- o The **argument** formulates the rule joining the representamen to its object. However, three kinds of arguments may be distinguished depending on the nature of the rule that binds the representamen to its object. The rule may be:
  - 1) *deduction* (imposed on the facts);
  - 2) *induction* (a result of the facts);
  - 3) *abduction*.



**Charles William  
Morris**

(1901–1979)

# Who's Charles William Morris?



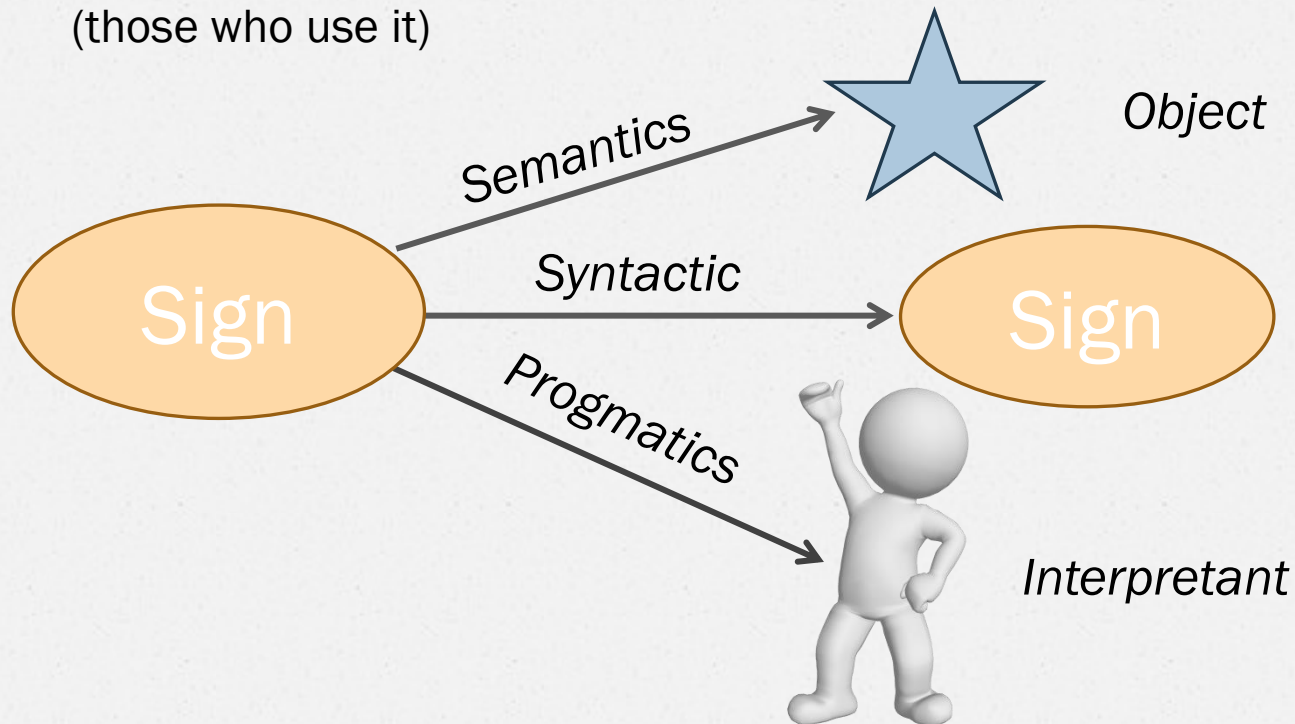
- o He was born May 23, 1901 in Denver (Colorado).
- o He studied at Wisconsin and Northwestern universities, as well as at the University of Chicago with the famous social psychologist John G. Mead (1863-1931). He taught at the University of Chicago (1931-1947) and Harvard (1951-1953).
- o American philosopher, combines the ideas of pragmatism with aspects of logical empiricism. In his main works, going from the provisions of behaviorism, trying to consider the social and biological behavior of people.
- o For the first time he clearly formulated the basic concepts and principles of the new scientific discipline – semiotics.
- o Main works: "Fundamentals of the theory of signs" (1938), "Signs, language and behavior" (1946) and others.



/,si:mi'ɒtiks/, /sin'taktik/, /si'mantiks/, /prag'matiks/

# Semiotics and its key branches

- o **Syntactic** (syntax): the relationship of the signs
- o **Semantics**: the relationship of the sign with the signified subject)
- o **Progmatics**: the relationship of the sign with the interpreter (those who use it)



# Questions for you:

- o What kind of education did Charles Peirce? In what scientific areas?
- o In what time period was Charles Peirce developing his “Three trichotomies of signs”?
- o What is the difference between firstness and thirdness as a category of generality?
- o Can you give an example which will illustrate the difference between the object, the representamen, the interpretant?
- o What three terms does the first trichotomy include?
- o What term includes deduction, induction and abduction?
- o What branches of semiotics do you remember? Can you give your own examples when we use all these branches?

# Resources

1. [https://vuzlit.ru/1799581/triadichnaya\\_model\\_znaka\\_pirsa](https://vuzlit.ru/1799581/triadichnaya_model_znaka_pirsa)
2. <http://www.signosemio.com/peirce/semiotics.asp>
3. <https://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/us/peirce2.htm>
4. [https://studwood.ru/973581/filosofiya/vtoraya\\_trihotomiya](https://studwood.ru/973581/filosofiya/vtoraya_trihotomiya)
5. [http://www.libma.ru/delovaja\\_literatura/semiotika\\_reklamy/p5.php](http://www.libma.ru/delovaja_literatura/semiotika_reklamy/p5.php)
6. <https://cyberpedia.su/3x126bd.html>
7. <http://www.signosemio.com/peirce/index-en.asp>