

# THE KEY FUNCTIONS OF HUMAN LANGUAGE DISCUSSION

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Ferdinand de Saussure /1857-1913/  
admits the Signification function of  
linguistic sign to play a key role in  
language construction.

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One of the most famous and influential opponents of Saussurean standpoint on linguistic system is *Wilhelm von Humboldt /1767-1835/*.

WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT FUNCTION OF  
LANGUAGE – COGNITIVE OR  
COMMUNICATIVE?

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# "DIE SPRACHE IST DAS BILDENDE ORGAN DES GEDANKENS"

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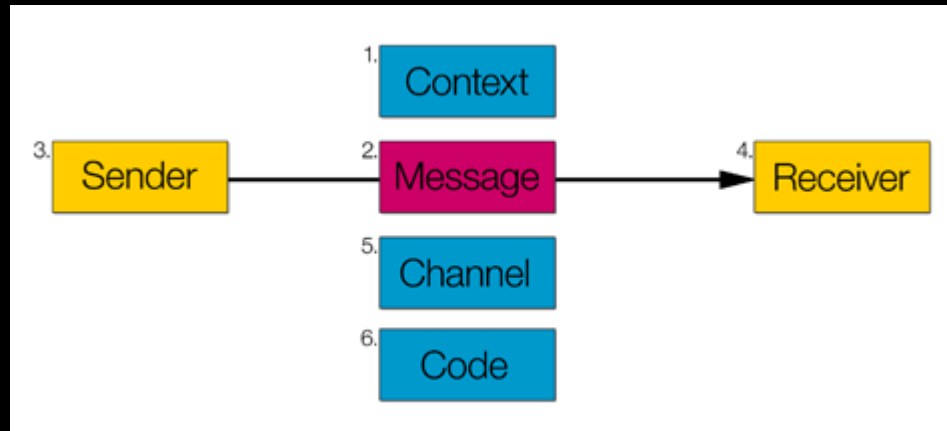
Humboldt, W. von (1988). Schriften zur  
Sprachphilosophie (6. Auflage).  
Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft:  
Darmstadt. S. 426.

# THE KEY FUNCTIONS OF HUMAN LANGUAGE DISCUSSION

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Influenced by the Organon-Model by Karl Bühler and other sources of linguistic research, Roman Jakobson /1896 – 1982/ distinguishes **six communication functions**, each associated with a dimension or factor of the communication process.

# THE KEY FUNCTIONS OF HUMAN LANGUAGE DISCUSSION



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One of the six functions is always the dominant function in a text and usually related to the type of text.



# THE KEY FUNCTIONS OF HUMAN LANGUAGE DISCUSSION

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Meanwhile the communication function is always there. And it is the supra-function of language in action.

# 1. THE REFERENTIAL FUNCTION OF LANGUAGE AND SPEECH

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*AM* |,refə'rensjəl|; *BR* |,rɛfə'rensj(ə)||  
means relating to a referent, in particular  
having the external world rather than a  
text or language as a referent; implies  
Focus on context.

# 1. THE REFERENTIAL FUNCTION OF LANGUAGE AND SPEECH

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Reference or *Bedeutung*, Frege's term for that which an expression designates.

### 3. THE EXPRESSIVE FUNCTION OF LANGUAGE AND SPEECH

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expressive [ɪk'spresɪv] function of speech clearly indicates their feelings or intentions of the speaker.

## 4. THE CONATIVE FUNCTION OF LANGUAGE AND SPEECH

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conative ['kɒnətiɪv] - an adjective, denoting a word or structure that expresses attempted action as opposed to action itself.

## 5. THE PHATIC ['FÆTɪK] FUNCTION OF LANGUAGE AND SPEECH

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is conceived as denoting or relating to language used for general purposes of social interaction, rather than to convey specific information or ask questions.

## 5. THE PHATIC ['FÆTɪk] FUNCTION OF LANGUAGE AND SPEECH

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Utterances such as 'Hello', 'How are you?' and 'Nice morning, isn't it?' are phatic.

PS. Phatic ['fæɪtɪk] etymology: from Greek phat(os) spoken + '-ic'.

# THE LIST OF KEY FUNCTIONS OF HUMAN LANGUAGE DISCUSSION

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1. referential (: contextual information)
2. aesthetic/poetic (: auto-reflection)
3. emotive (: self-expression)



# THE LIST OF KEY FUNCTIONS OF HUMAN LANGUAGE DISCUSSION

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4. conative (: vocative or imperative addressing of receiver)

5. phatic (: checking channel working)

6. metalingual (: checking code working)

# THE KEY FUNCTIONS OF HUMAN LANGUAGE DISCUSSION

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The whole process of text construction maybe viewed as "the projection of the principle of equivalence from the axis of selection to the axis of combination".

# THE KEY FUNCTIONS OF HUMAN LANGUAGE DISCUSSION

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So the process of text construction maybe viewed as a sort of *linearisation of the paradigmatic relationships deep structure.*

ubiquity  
[ju:'bɪkwəti]

# THE KEY FUNCTIONS OF HUMAN LANGUAGE

## DISCUSSION: UBIQUITY OF DEIXIS

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deixis ['deɪksɪs, 'dʌɪksɪs]

deals with things like point of view, status, role, interpersonal distance, patterns of relationship.

# THE KEY FUNCTIONS OF HUMAN LANGUAGE

## DISCUSSION: UBIQUITY OF DEIXIS

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deixis ['deɪksɪs, 'dʌɪksɪs]

comes from Greek verb deiknūnai 'to show';  
literally 'demonstrative force, reference'.

Implies the use of deictic words, forms, or  
expressions (see also shifters).

ubiquity  
[ju:'bɪkwəti]

# THE KEY FUNCTIONS OF HUMAN LANGUAGE

## DISCUSSION: UBIQUITY OF DEIXIS

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"/ signifies "the person who is uttering the present instance of the discourse containing /."  
Émile Benveniste

ubiquity  
[ju:'bɪkwəti]

## THE KEY FUNCTIONS OF HUMAN LANGUAGE DISCUSSION: UBIQUITY OF DEIXIS

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"by introducing the situation of "address," we obtain a symmetrical definition for *you* as "the individual spoken to in the present instance of discourse containing the linguistic instance of *you*."  
Émile Benveniste

# THE ISSUE OF DISTINCTIVE TRAITS OF HUMAN LANGUAGE DISCUSSION

Émile Benveniste (French: [bɛ̃venist])

/1902-1976/

This is a topic for student's presentation.



# SEMIOTICS

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The term derives from the **Greek** σημειωτικός *sēmeiōtikos*, "observant of signs" (from σημείον *sēmeion*, "a sign, a mark")

# SEMIOTICS

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and it was first used in English prior to 1676 y Henry **Stubbes** (spelt *semeiotics*) in a very precise sense to denote the branch of medical science relating to the interpretation of signs.

# SEMIOTICS

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John Locke used the term *sem(e)iotike* in book four, chapter 21 of *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1690). Here he explains how science may be divided into three parts:

# SEMIOTICS

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All that can fall within the compass of human understanding, being either, first, the nature of things, as they are in themselves, their relations, and their manner of operation:

# SEMIOTICS

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or, secondly, that which man himself ought to do, as a rational and voluntary agent, for the attainment of any end, especially happiness:

# SEMIOTICS

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or, thirdly, the ways and means whereby the knowledge of both the one and the other of these is attained and communicated; I think science may be divided properly into these **three sorts**.

# SEMIOTICS

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Charles Sanders Peirce defined what he termed "semiotic" (which he sometimes spelled as "semeiotic") as the "quasi-necessary, or formal doctrine of signs",.

# SEMIOTICS

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which abstracts "what must be the characters of all signs used by ... an intelligence capable of learning by experience", and which is philosophical logic pursued in terms of signs and sign processes.



# SEMIOTICS

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The Peirce scholar and editor Max H. Fisch claimed in 1978 that "semeiotic" was Peirce's own preferred rendering of Locke's σημιωτική

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# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION AND SEMIOTICS

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Many of the ways we communicate with one another are **nonverbal**—without the use of words. A shrug, a roll of the eyes, a wave of the hand, all of these and thousands more subtle and unsubtle body language **memes** communicate information to another person.

# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION AND SEMIOTICS

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Paralinguistics are the aspects of spoken communication that do not involve words. These may add *emphasis or shades of meaning* to what people say. *Some definitions limit this to verbal communication that is not words.*

# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION AND SEMIOTICS

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## Example

Body language, gestures, facial expressions, tone and pitch of voice are all examples of paralinguistic features.

# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION AND SEMIOTICS

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Paralinguistic features of language are extremely important as they can change message completely. Tone and pitch of voice is commonly dealt with at all language levels, but a fuller consideration of paralinguistics is often left to very advanced FLA courses.

# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION AND SEMIOTICS

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- Haptics is about Touch
- Oculesics is about Eye contact
- Chronemics is about Use of time, waiting, pausing
- Olfactics is about Ordour or Smell in Communicative contexts.

# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION AND SEMIOTICS

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Vocalics is about Tone of voice, timbre, volume, speed

Sound symbols: Grunting, mmm, er, ah, uh-huh, mumbling

Silence: Pausing, waiting, secrecy

# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION AND SEMIOTICS

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Posture is about Position of the body, stance

Adornment: Clothing, jewellery, hairstyle

Locomotion: Walking, running, staggering, limping.



# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION AND SEMIOTICS

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**Kinesics (body language)** Body motions such as shrugs, foot tapping, drumming fingers, eye movements such as winking, facial expressions, and gestures.

# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION AND SEMIOTICS

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Just as verbal language is broken up into various categories, there are also **different types of nonverbal communication.**

# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION AND SEMIOTICS

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**Vocalics** are a type of nonverbal communication embedded into speech: the pitch, tone, rate, volume, and timbre of spoken language communicate additional information about the underlying meaning of a group of words.

# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION AND SEMIOTICS

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## Kinesics

The word kinesics comes from the root word kinesis, which means “movement,” and refers to the study of hand, arm, body, and face movements.

# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION AND SEMIOTICS

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Specifically, this section might outline the use of gestures, head movements and posture, eye contact, and facial expressions as nonverbal communication.

# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION AND SEMIOTICS

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There are three main types of gestures: adaptors, emblems, and illustrators. Peter A. Andersen, *Nonverbal Communication: Forms and Functions* (Mountain View, CA: Mayfield, 1999), 36.

# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION AND SEMIOTICS

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**Emblems** are gestures that have a specific agreed-on meaning.

# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION AND SEMIOTICS

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**Emblems** are gestures that have a specific agreed-on meaning.



# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION AND SEMIOTICS

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**Adaptors** are touching behaviors and movements that indicate internal states typically related to arousal or anxiety. Adaptors can be targeted *toward the self, objects, or others.*

# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION AND SEMIOTICS

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Common self-touching behaviors like scratching, twirling hair, or fidgeting with fingers or hands are considered self-adaptors.

# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION AND SEMIOTICS

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**Illustrators** are the most common type of gesture and are used to illustrate the verbal message they accompany. For example, you might use hand gestures to indicate the size or shape of an object.

# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION AND SEMIOTICS

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Personal space is also a form of semiotics that is specific to culture. A person approaching too close to you in Western culture may be felt as a hostile incursion, but in other cultures personal space dimensions are different.

# THE LINGUISTIC SIGN DISCUSSION

More prominent semioticians  
[ ,sɛmiə'tiʃən]

Augustine of Hippo (354–430 A.D.).

Charles William Morris (1901-1979);

Sapir, Edward (1884–1939);

Whorf, Benjamin Lee (1897–1941).

Louis Hjelmslev (1899-1966);

Roman Jakobson (1896-1982);

Roland Barthes (1915-1980);

# THE LINGUISTIC SIGN DISCUSSION

More prominent semioticians

[ ,sɛmiə'tiʃən]

Charles William Morris (1901-1979);

Morris's development of a behavioral theory of signs—i.e., semiotics—is partly due to his desire to unify logical positivism with behavioral empiricism and pragmatism. Morris's union of these three philosophical perspectives eventuated in his claim that symbols have three types of relations:

- to objects,
- to persons, and
- to other symbols.

He called these relations "semantics", "pragmatics", and "syntactics".<sup>1</sup>

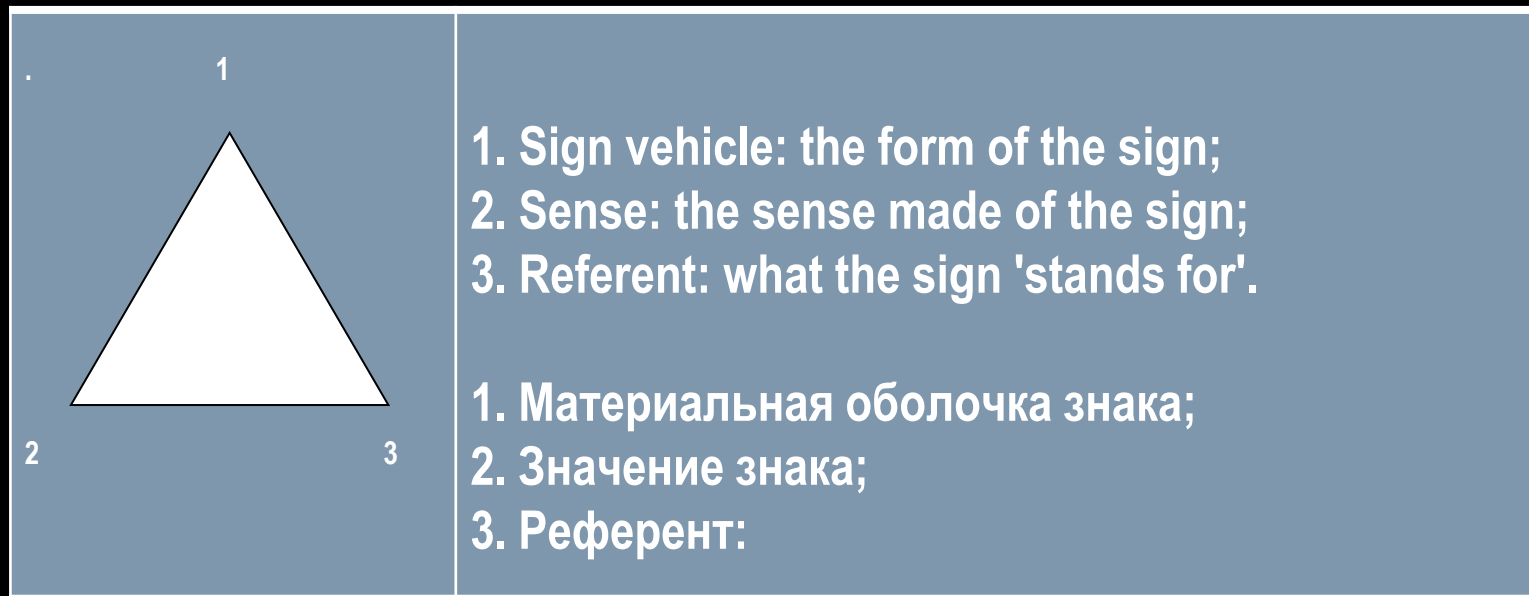
# THE LINGUISTIC SIGN DISCUSSION

A Sign Model by Roland Barthes  
/1915-1980/

Signifier 1	signified 1 (denotation)	
Signifier 2.		signified 2. (connotation)
Sign		

# THE LINGUISTIC SIGN DISCUSSION

A Sign Model by Charles Sanders Peirce  
[pɜ:s] /1839-1914/





Charles William Morris comments on Charles Sanders Peirce concept of Sign and explains that the four components of **semiosis** include:

- (1) the "sign vehicle" (the object or event which functions as a sign),
- (2) the "designatum" (the kind of object or class of objects that the sign designates),

# CHARLES WILLIAM MORRIS

Charles William Morris comments on Charles Sanders Peirce concept of Sign and explains that the four components of semiosis include:

- (3) the "interpretant" (the disposition of an interpreter to initiate a response sequence as a result of perceiving the sign),
- and (4) the "interpreter" (the person for whom the sign vehicle functions as a sign).

# CHARLES WILLIAM MORRIS

Every sign must have a *designatum*, but not every sign must have a *denotatum* (an actually existing object or event that is denoted by the sign). If a sign denotes something, then it has a *denotatum*, as well as a *designatum*. If a sign does not denote anything, then it has a *designatum*, but not any *denotata*. Another way of saying this is that a sign must "designate" something, but does not have to "denote" anything.

# CHARLES WILLIAM MORRIS

Charles William Morris defines a **sign** as *any preparatory stimulus that produces a disposition in the interpreter to respond to something that is not at the moment a stimulus.*

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# CHARLES WILLIAM MORRIS

According to Morris, language is a system of signs that *produce dispositions to social behavior*.

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# CHARLES WILLIAM MORRIS

The modes of signifying of a sign may be

- (1) identificative,
  - (2) designative,
  - (3) appraisive,
  - (4) prescriptive, or
  - (5) formative.
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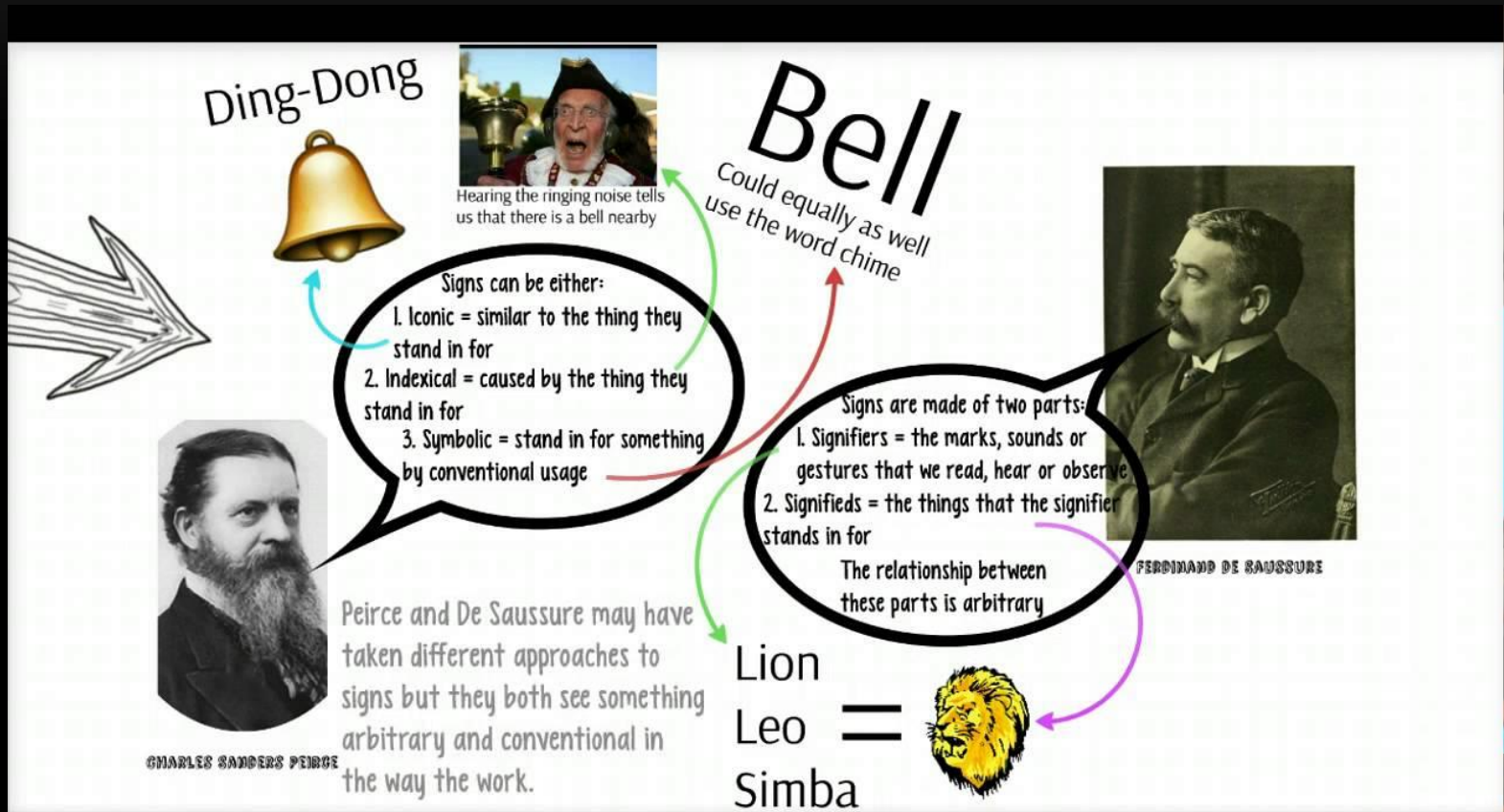
# CHARLES WILLIAM MORRIS

The modes of signifying of a sign may be

The kinds of signs that correspond to these modes of signifying may be called

(1) identifiers, (2) designators, (3) appraisors,  
(4) prescriptors, and (5) formators.

# THE LINGUISTIC SIGN DISCUSSION





# THE LINGUISTIC SIGN DISCUSSION

A Sign Model by Louis Trolle Hjelmslev  
/1899-1966/

A general Model of a sign is ERC.  
E – exponent, R – relation, C – content

So a Model of a meta-lingual sign is  
ER(ERC).

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# THE LINGUISTIC SIGN DISCUSSION

THANKS FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!

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